



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Monica Ramsy (pronouns: she/her)

Law School: University of California, Berkeley

EJA Fellowship: Public Counsel, Immigrants' Rights Project

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Over the past few weeks, I have worked with Public Counsel to support impact litigation efforts and draft asylum declarations for unaccompanied immigrant children. In this virulently anti-immigrant landscape, I feel the urgency and need for the communities I serve now more than ever.

#KeepFamiliesTogether #MigrationIsBeautiful #NoBanNoWall #ImmigrantsMakeAmericaGreat

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

The ever-intensifying violence that is our immigration landscape has only further galvanized my dedication to Public Counsel's immigration justice work. Our Public Counsel team recently participated in a Keep Families Together rally at Los Angeles City Hall, where we called on local Los Angeles political figures to support immigrant communities and immigration justice organizations. I have continued working on impact litigation efforts to protect children eligible for SIJS, developing declarations for children's asylum cases, and creating legal education materials for Administrative Procedure Act (APA) litigation. In this climate of anti-immigrant hatred, I feel humbled and inspired by my colleagues' tireless efforts and by the ongoing resilience of the communities we serve.

#KeepFamiliesFree #NoBanNoWall #ImmigrantsMakeAmericaGreat #MigrationIsBeautiful



Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Despite the sucker-punching tornado that continues to rage on in our new cycles, my time at Public Counsel has continued to provide dynamic learning and growing opportunities. In the impact litigation sphere, I researched new theories for how due process principles might be applied as constitutional safeguards in the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) context. Exploring creative theories that bring constitutional doctrines to life in order to protect highly vulnerable immigrant children has served as a powerful reminder that our Constitution is an organism that lives, breathes—and, most importantly, grows—within in our legal ecosystems. Although immigrant communities remain grossly under-protected under our Constitution, this legal research has only redoubled my commitment to advocating for new ways for constitutional principles to live and grow within the lattice of our immigration laws. In all, I have continued to develop my advocacy toolkit at Public Counsel, and remain ever-impassioned by the work. Thank you, Equal Justice America, for making this summer opportunity possible with the EJA Fellowship.

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

My time at Public Counsel has continued to provide for an eventful, fruitful, and joyful summer! In addition to working on innervating legal research and writing, I recently enjoyed the opportunity to observe community organizing in action by participating in the LA Immigrant Health Access Task Force. Seeing grassroots organizers, policy makers, healthcare providers, and legal advocates come together in this coalition, I was astounded to learn, in new and intimate detail, just how intricately interwoven our immigration and social welfare systems are. What's more, I saw firsthand the power that cross-sectional coalition-building can have in helping advocates and the communities they serve navigate these intricate socio-legal webs. In all, I have continued to develop my advocacy toolkit at Public Counsel, and remain ever-impassioned by the work. Thank you, Equal Justice America, for making this summer opportunity possible with the EJA Fellowship.



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RE: Monica Ramsy, EJA Fellowship Recipient

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben:

My name is Mary Tanagho Ross and I am a staff attorney with Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights project. I was one of Monica Ramsy's supervising attorneys while she was a summer law clerk here.

We feel incredibly lucky to have had Monica in our office this summer. She was a great help providing crucial research and writing for much of our ongoing direct services and appellate advocacy work. Below is a list of some of Monica's work over the summer.

Monica:

- Conducted legal research for Public Counsel's impact litigation efforts, specifically researching new theories for how due process principles might be applied as constitutional safeguards in the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) context
- Drafted asylum declarations for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum
- Developed legal education materials regarding the Administrative Procedure Act (APA)
- Met with numerous clients to develop their asylum cases and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases
- Supported direct action efforts by developing materials and participating in an immigrants' rights rally at Los Angeles City Hall
- Participated in the Los Angeles Immigrant Health Access Task Force, a coalition comprised of grassroots organizers, policy makers, healthcare providers, and legal advocates

It was also a genuine pleasure to work with Monica. She has a wonderful attitude, she is hard working, open to feedback, and eager to support the mission of Public Counsel. Her prior experiences in immigration law have proven useful to our immigration justice advocacy efforts.

We are so grateful to Equal Justice America for providing fellowship funding to social justice oriented law students like Monica. We could not do our work without them. Please reach out if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Mary Tanagho Ross
Public Counsel
Immigrants' Rights Project
Staff Attorney