



## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Chelsea Blocklin

**Law School:** UC Hastings College of the Law

**EJA Fellowship:** East Bay Community Law Center

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### Entry 1:

**#EJAFellowUpdate** Over the past few weeks I have been working with families and individuals facing eviction in the East Bay. We help low-income tenants to assert their rights and fight to stay in their homes, a fight that is ever more important in this affordable housing crisis.

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### Entry 2:

**#EJAFellowUpdate.** Aside from dealing with the trauma of potentially losing their home, tenants facing eviction are tasked with navigating the complex legal system and defending themselves in court. Landlords are almost always represented by attorneys and the odds are stacked against unrepresented tenants who are often intimidated into entering settlement agreements without being informed of its content or potential consequences. That is why the work of organizations, like the East Bay Community Law Center, that provide legal representation for tenants in unlawful detainer actions is so important. I am very fortunate to be an Equal Justice Fellow this summer and to be working with EBCLC in their Housing Clinic. In my time here, I have seen how having a legal advocate can make a big difference for tenants fighting to keep their homes.

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### Entry 3:

Here with another **#EJAFellowupdate.** [Equal Justice America](#) Last week, we helped a tenant who I met my first week as a summer intern at the East Bay Community Law Center to settle their case and remain in their home! It was a great experience to work with a client from start to finish in their case and I couldn't be more proud that we were able to help the tenant achieve their goal of staying in their home and community.



**Entry 4:**

**#EJAFellowupdate** @EqualJusticeAmerica Over the past summer, I worked as a legal intern at the East Bay Community Law Center in their Housing Practice doing eviction defense. I cannot speak enough about the positive impact this experience has had on me and the valuable legal advocacy skills I learned there. This experience solidified my ambition to work in direct legal services with disparately impacted communities. Previously, I was a tenants' rights organizer in Brooklyn and I can say that the housing crisis in the Bay Area is just as dire as in New York City. That is why it is so crucial to have legal advocates who are fighting alongside tenants to help them keep their homes. I am extremely appreciative of Equal Justice America for supporting me in this experience this summer, and I hope you will consider donating to EJA so that future summer fellows can engage in this important and gratifying work.



August 13, 2018

Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 204  
13540 East Boundary Rd.  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Supervisor Evaluation for Chelsea Blocklin

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this evaluation on behalf of Chelsea Blocklin, a law student at UC Hastings College of the Law. I had the great privilege of supervising Ms. Blocklin this summer at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) in Berkeley, CA. Ms. Blocklin was a student in our housing unit.

During her summer with us, Ms. Blocklin worked on a variety of issues facing low-income tenants in Oakland and Berkeley. The bulk of her work focused on eviction defense and tenant counseling. Under my supervision, Ms. Blocklin represented dozens of tenants in their unlawful detainer proceedings and successfully stopped countless individuals and families from being evicted from their homes. She adeptly handled all aspects of our litigation practice, from initial client interviews and drafting answers to propounding and responding to discovery, drafting motions, negotiating with opposing counsel, and drafting settlement agreements. In addition to litigating active eviction cases, Ms. Blocklin counseled tenants at weekly tenants' rights clinics, wrote demand letters to landlords, and helped EBCLC develop know-your-rights materials for tenants facing harassment and substandard living situations.

The housing crisis and the corresponding spike in homelessness in the Bay Area is an issue of increasing importance and one of the greatest areas of need facing our community. Thanks to Ms. Blocklin's work, countless low income Bay Area residents were able to stay housed this summer and maintain their rent-controlled tenancies. Ms. Blocklin brought a passion to her work that was felt by both clients and co-workers, and truly embodied the type of advocacy that EBCLC hopes to see in future generations of social justice attorneys. She was a pleasure to work with and will be missed.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at [bshabrell@ebclc.org](mailto:bshabrell@ebclc.org) or by phone at (510) 548-4040 x 336.

Best,



Braz Shabrell, Esq.