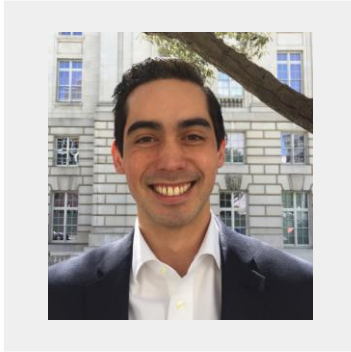




## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Matt Richardson

**Law School:** UC Hastings

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

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### **Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018**

#### [#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

Now in my 3rd week of my summer internship at the East Bay Community Law Center's Clean Slate Practice. Been learning a lot about how unfair, unequal, and harmful the criminal justice system is for poor people, especially of color. People so often get stuck in cycles of debt with courts from something as minor as unpaid parking tickets and lose everything, or are blocked from reentry and from moving forward because they can't work or get their driver's licenses back after a conviction. Clean slate remedies like reducing felonies to misdemeanors and making sure RAP sheet errors are corrected can open up a ton of doors. I'm excited for the rest of the summer, to learn how to serve and advocate for people in these situations.

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### **Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018**

#### [#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

I've been able to do some more in-depth client work lately: finalized a few declarations for a vacatur for a client who needs it for immigration reasons, wrote a motion, and am preparing a 1203.4 dismissal. Doing this direct client work and building relationships makes me happy, and I'm so glad to have the opportunity to do this. Hearing about the harm people undergo even after paying their debts to society is disturbing, but it's great to be able to do the little bit that I can to help. Excited for what the next five weeks brings!



### **Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018**

#### [#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

Entering my last week of my summer internship. I'm sad to have to leave. I've learned so much this summer from my supervisors, my fellow interns, and my clients. I'm grateful to East Bay Community Law Center for this opportunity and to EJA for easing the financial burden. I hope to maintain the connections I've made here, and to continue helping out and volunteering with EBCLC whenever I can. I believe in this work, in EBCLC's philosophy, and I truly feel like I have improved my legal skills and as an ally.

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### **Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018**

#### [#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

My EBCLC summer internship at Clean Slate ended on Friday. I'm proud of the work I've done to help my clients, including advocacy before the Department of Social Services and a school district, to obtain employment to which they should lawfully be entitled. We are not our worst moments or mistakes, and we need to remove the many barriers that exist that keep people with criminal records from finishing their educations, pursuing their vocations, and moving forward. Thanks to EBCLC and EJA for the opportunity to do this work, and for all their support this summer!



July 26, 2018

Emma Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
Building II – Suite 204  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Matthew Richardson, EJA Fellowship Recipient

Dear Ms. Ruben,

I am a lawyer in the Clean Slate Unit of the East Bay Community Law Center, and I supervised Matt Richardson's summer internship here.

It has been a great pleasure to have Matt at our office, and his work here has helped remove barriers for many clients seeking immigration status adjustment or employment. Matt has staffed our weekly Clean Slate Clinic numerous times, conducting initial interviews with clients and providing them with instructions on how to move forward with their cases. He has analyzed RAP sheets and identified appropriate post-conviction relief, including early termination of probation, dismissal, reduction from a felony to a misdemeanor, and arrest sealing. He has prepared the opening documents for clients, and followed up with them when they had questions or concerns about the legal process. For clients with more complicated issues, he has requested and received police reports, transcripts and other documents so that we can properly assess and move forward with their cases.

Besides doing the more traditional Clean Slate work, Matt has worked particularly closely with our immigration unit to identify and petition for specialized Clean Slate solutions for clients who are not US citizens. He has worked with these clients to prepare their declarations in support of relief, he has researched the relevant law in this relatively new area of litigation, and he has written motions arguing for relief from immigration consequences where these clients were not properly advised of the dire consequences that could result from their convictions.

I am grateful that the EJA fellowship made it possible for Matt to work with us this summer. He positively impacted the lives of many people seeking relief from the consequences of their criminal records, and I hope that his time here helped to shape his future as a community and movement lawyer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Kildee", written in a cursive style.

Maureen Kildee  
Staff Attorney and Clinical Supervisor