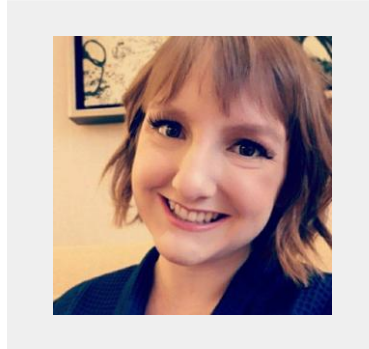




## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Alexandra Boyer

**Law School:** Duquesne University School of Law

**EJA Fellowship:** Jewish Family Community Service  
Legal Immigration Service, Pittsburgh PA

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

#EJAFellowUpdate

On June 3rd, my host organization, JFCS Immigration Legal Services, held a Citizenship Day where legal permanent residents could apply to become U.S. citizens. In the picture, I'm helping a boy paint an "I <3 U.S.A." coloring page while his family was applying for citizenship. So far, I've assisted many low-income people and refugees file to become citizens or get permanent resident status. The workload is arduous and the immigration process is rapidly changing, but we remain committed to our goal of providing quality legal representation.



Thank you, Equal Justice America, for supporting my legal work this summer before my 3L year at Duquesne University School of Law!



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

#EJAFellowUpdate

Most of the refugees who became citizens at today's naturalization ceremony did their applications through the agency where I work. Although I couldn't stay the whole time because I had more naturalization applications to file, I'm happy that the Bhutanese community here is growing and flourishing.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate

The past 2 weeks in immigration law have been tumultuous. As #july4th approaches, I've been thinking a lot about what it means to be an American. In the past month, I've helped a family from Aleppo, Syria get their green cards and countless Bhutanese refugees get citizenship, but I've also had to break very hard news to families from Guatemala and Afghanistan.

The most heartbreaking and powerless I've felt so far was standing in the grocery store buying candy for the migrant children we represent to entertain them while we were in court. Such a small act didn't feel like enough, but it was really appreciated.

Yet, America is still a beacon of hope. I see it in so many clients' faces, in their smiles and their tears.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate

On Monday, I attended juvenile immigration court here in Pittsburgh. Since we do not have an immigration court here, the hearings were conducted via Skype with a judge in Philadelphia. This video shows a proceeding like the ones I saw on Monday:

<https://www.facebook.com/NowThisPolitics/videos/2140140159350796/>