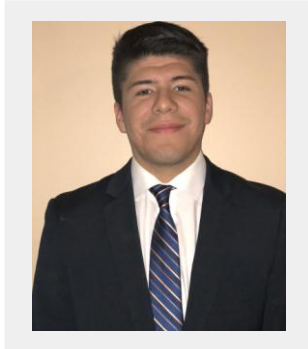




## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Juan C. Ramirez Rodriguez

**Law School:** Rutgers Law School

**EJA Fellowship:** Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project

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

#EJAFellowUpdate Over the past few weeks I have worked with Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project on a National Qualified Representative Program (NQRP) case of a detained individual in removal proceedings. I am assisting my supervising attorney, whom has been appointed as a Qualified Representative, to prepare the supplemental filing and pre-hearing brief. NQRP makes it possible for individuals who have been adjudicated as mentally incompetent to represent themselves in immigration court due to mental illness, to have safeguards in place to ensure that they receive adequate due process.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate This past week my supervising attorney and I have submitted a pre-hearing brief for a NQRP case. The Individual Hearing is set for two weeks from now and I am working on the direct examination of the client as well as the direct examination for a witness in preparation for the hearing.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate Last week I appeared before the Executive Office for Immigration Review on behalf of an NQRP client under the supervision of my supervising attorney at [Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project](#). I did the direct examination of one of the witnesses during the Individual Hearing. Her testimony was helpful to the client's case for immigration relief. It was a great experience and one I am grateful for this summer.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate This week, my final week with [Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project](#), I am assisting in the preparation of a bond hearing submission for the NQRP client. Pending a final decision on their immigration relief applications, it is possible to advocate for their release on bond. I am gathering evidence in preparation for submission to the Immigration Court to show that the client will appear at all scheduled hearings and will not be a danger to the community. Bond hearings are important because it gives individuals who are detained a greater chance of participating in their cases and assisting their attorneys in collecting favorable evidence for their case. It also gets clients out of detention and restores a sense of happiness to them and their loved ones. I have enjoyed my time at Esperanza and have learned so much about a different aspect of immigration law, namely, due process for detained immigrants with mental disabilities. I have always known I want to be an immigrant rights advocate and working with Esperanza has affirmed that commitment. Please consider supporting my work and the work of my peers for [Equal Justice America](#) so that we can continue to provide legal services to those most in need. [Rutgers Law School](#)