



## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Jennifer Mendoza

**Law School:** University of Washington

**EJA Fellowship:** Southern Poverty Law Center

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

#EJAFellowUpdate Over the past two weeks I have worked with the Southern Poverty Law Center conducting research to aid immigrant families and workers facing discrimination and injustice in the South. I am amazed by the scale of urgent need that goes unmet, sometimes for years, which often times means immigrants are left unaware of their rights and left to fend for themselves in the court system.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate I have been working with the Southern Poverty Law Center to aid on cases dealing with Fourth Amendment claims. It's appalling to see how people are continuously stopped, searched, and detained merely because of their skin color and immigration status in this country.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate I have had the amazing opportunity to do outreach work in rural Georgia through the Southern Poverty Law Center. Many poultry and farm workers live in these towns and face, not only racism, but the constant threat of immigration raids and abuse at work.

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

#EJAFellowUpdate Through the Southern Poverty Law Center, I have had the opportunity to work on ways to ensure that immigrant children and children of immigrants have access to education. Many districts throughout the southeast put forth requirements that make enrolling immigrant children or children of immigrants very difficult, thereby denying them an education that they are entitled as Plyler v. Doe made clear.

August 21, 2018

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road, Building II, Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Over the past eleven weeks, I had the pleasure of supervising law student Jennifer Mendoza, who interned in our office and received a summer fellowship from Equal Justice America. Jennifer was an excellent addition to our summer intern class, and she has a bright future as a public interest attorney.

Jennifer performed legal research, wrote memoranda, participated in outreach to potential clients, and conducted screening intakes of detained immigrants at the Folkston Detention Center during her summer with the Southern Poverty Law Center's Immigrant Justice Project. Jennifer also traveled to Montgomery with the entire intern class to learn more about SPLC and civil rights history, and participated in a series of trainings focused on concrete skills like legal writing, motions, and discovery. During her time at SPLC Jennifer demonstrated a real gift for connecting with clients, and showed initiative by seeking out additional training where she felt she needed it. Jennifer eagerly took on challenging assignments on varied subject matters, and was always open to feedback and suggestions from attorneys she worked with.

We thank Equal Justice America for its commitment to law students like Jennifer who choose to work in the public interest. Please feel free to contact me at [sarah.rich@splcenter.org](mailto:sarah.rich@splcenter.org) or (404) 521-6700 should you need any further information.

Sincerely,



Sarah Rich  
Staff Attorney

CC: Gillian Gillers, Staff Attorney and co-supervisor of summer intern program