



## Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



**Name:** Rachel Chazin-Gray

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

**EJA Fellowship:** Bay Area Legal Aid

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

Over the last few weeks, I have worked with Bay Area Legal Aid to help support women in their VAWA and U Visa applications. Particularly after Session's decision, we must continue to fight for immigrants and HUMAN rights. **#EJAFellowUpdate**

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

Did you see Bay Area Legal Aid's table at the Pride Parade this weekend?! I was so proud to be part of this festive and important weekend with such a fabulous organization. ALSO check out the DHS's bulletins for important information for families affected by family separation practice and zero tolerance policy: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2018/06/23/fact-sheet-zero-tolerance-prosecution-and-family-reunification>. **#EJAFellowUpdate**

Thanks to the help from [Equal Justice America](#) for the opportunity.

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

Interesting article about homelessness in Silicon Valley with a quote from Bay Legal staff! Bay Legal supports many underserved communities in [various] fields of the law.

<https://www.equaltimes.org/homeless-in-silicon-valley-how-the#.W00YpdJKiUk>

**#EJAFellowUpdate**



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

**#EJAFellowUpdate**

As I wind down my time at Bay Area Legal Aid, I am so grateful to have spent the last few months working in the Family Law and Domestic Violence Unit, and particularly focusing on the intersection with Immigration law. This summer, I have assisted clients from all around the world to create a safe and stable life for themselves and their families in the U.S.- free from domestic violence and the fear of deportation.



# BAY AREA LEGAL AID

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

September 5, 2018

Emma Ruben  
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*via U.S. Mail and E-Mail*

RE: *Rachel Chazin-Gray*

Dear Ms. Ruben:

I am a staff attorney in Bay Area Legal Aid's domestic violence prevention unit in the San Francisco office. I had the pleasure of supervising Rachel Chazin-Gray this summer.

Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal) is the largest provider of free legal services to low income residents of the San Francisco Bay Area. Domestic violence prevention is one of its principal priorities throughout the seven counties it serves. BayLegal's services are designed to stop abuse and enable survivors to build safe, stable lives for themselves and their children. BayLegal offers free legal assistance in obtaining restraining orders, divorces, support orders, safe child custody and visitation orders, and some humanitarian immigration relief. Over the past forty years, BayLegal and its predecessor organizations have represented tens of thousands of domestic violence survivors. BayLegal also operates or supervises restraining order clinics in San Mateo, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties. In 2016 alone, BayLegal helped 9,400 survivors of domestic violence and their children to escape abuse and gain independence, relying on the domestic violence restraining orders and other forms of relief that BayLegal helped obtain.

Rachel did an incredible job this summer working directly with our domestic violence survivors. She was able to gather information directly from the client and conducted intakes in a way that allowed the survivor to feel safe and supported. Further, Rachel not only prepared incredibly well-written and articulate memorandum, but she also chose a topic that was new to the office and therefore no templates or drafts were available to her to use as a reference while she drafted her memorandum. Finally, Rachel had an in-depth understanding of immigration law – far above

her peers. In fact, we relied on Rachel to identify solutions for our immigration cases. Aside from her qualities as a law student and future attorney, Rachel was also a pleasure to work alongside. She is smart, kind, and energetic and was always excited to take on a new task no matter how daunting or small. In sum, she has all of the skills that will make her a successful advocate in the future.

I thank Equal Justice America for providing the fellowship funding to make it possible for someone like Rachel to provide support to organizations like BayLegal so that clients can get the support they need to escape abuse and gain independence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information. I can be reached at [fkoozman@baylegal.org](mailto:fkoozman@baylegal.org) or 415-982-1300, ext 6351.

Regards,



Fawn Jade Koopman