



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Christina Angélica Avalos

Law School: UCLA School of Law

EJA Fellowship: ACLU of Southern California

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

Over the past few weeks I have worked with the [ACLU of Southern California](#) to conduct research regarding post-conviction relief strategies for immigrants facing deportation. Considering that the majority of immigrants in detention have prior criminal histories, I am proud to be learning about a burgeoning area of law that could potentially provide relief from deportation for thousands of immigrants.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

This past month at the [ACLU of Southern California](#) has flown by as I've been working with the Immigrants' Rights Project to challenge this administration's ongoing abuses of civil and human rights. I've been helping to ensure that Immigration Judges consider immigrants' ability to pay during their bond hearings and I've been assisting in advocating for the pardon of a noncitizen veteran.

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#)

With only two weeks left to go at the [ACLU of Southern California](#), I've been busy researching the military's permissible involvement in immigrant detention. With the Trump Administration gearing up to move tens of thousands of immigrant families onto military bases, I'm proud to be working with an organization that is ready to challenge each inhumane detention practice that comes along.



Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

In my final weeks at the ACLU of Southern California, I visited the Victorville prison, where many immigrant detainees were initially detained without access to counsel. After the ACLU successfully filed a TRO to allow pro bono counsel to access the prison, I was provided the opportunity to meet with some of the detainees to speak with them about the conditions they have been subject to. One detainee succinctly stated, "they treat us like animals." The inhumane conditions at the Victorville prison was just another reminder of why I came to law school and why I chose to intern with the ACLU, to abolish all immigrant detention.