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Equal Justice America
Summer 2018 Report

My Summer at the Eviction Defense Collaborative

My experience at the Eviction Defense Collaborative has been one of the most positive experiences I've had in law school! This nonprofit served all San Francisco residents who were about to face eviction, in eviction proceedings, and even provided some help to those who were already ordered evicted by the court.

The organization had a perfect balance of clinical work as well as research and written intensive work for students to practice their skills. During drop-in clinic hours, my fellow volunteers and I talked face-to-face with residents of San Francisco to try and assist them in whatever stage of the eviction process they were currently at. Daily tasks included completing a client intake with a client, preparing filing documents if the client was being sued, and explaining the court-based eviction process.

On the administrative side, students assisted the attorneys who fully represented some clients from the drop-in clinic by engaging in legal research, drafting legal responses to discovery, and observing the eviction calendar at the San Francisco Superior Court. Some students were even asked to present the weekly orientation the organization put on at the court for self-represented litigants facing eviction.

I had the opportunity to engage in all of these tasks during my 10-week summer program with this organization. My highlight of the entire summer was assisting a low-income, middle-aged, Latina woman who was a single mother and resided in her unit for the last 7 years. I first assisted her when she came to the drop-in clinic and needed help preparing an answer to the lawsuit her landlord filed against her. She came back to EDC about 2 weeks later because her landlord filed a motion for summary judgment against her.

Since I had previously worked with her and was one of the few Spanish-speaking volunteers, I had the opportunity to draft an opposition to the motion for summary judgment, under the supervision of an experienced attorney. Although I could not represent her in court, I went to observe her hearing on the motion for summary judgment and was elated when the judge

ruled in our client's favor! Knowing that I directly kept at least one person from losing their home last summer is a truly humbling experience that I will carry with me through the rest of my legal career.

Overall, my experience with the Eviction Defense Collaborative is one that I will never forget. This ability to work with such a marginalized group of society would not have been possible without the funding that Equal Justice America provided to my law school. I cannot thank this organization enough for allowing me to have such a great experience in law school through their funding!