



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Nikaury Payano

Law School: Cornell Law School

Fellowship: Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Services

Entry 1: 6/14/2019

Over the past two weeks, I have been working as a Liz Padilla Fellow at the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (BVLP). This organization provides free legal services to low-income Brooklyn residents. As an intern in BVLP, I have had the opportunity to assume early responsibility. From day one, I conducted client intakes and provided referrals, and by the end of my first week, I had helped a client negotiate and settle her credit card debt. So far, my experience in BVLP has taught me the importance of having legal representation in these types of proceedings. Similarly, I have learned how significant organizations like BVLP are in making the legal system accessible to people who are unable to afford legal representation.

Entry 2: 7/2/2019

Over the past few weeks I have been working at the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (BVLP). Every Thursday, BVLP has a walk-in consumer debt clinic where consumers can speak with lawyers and obtain free information about debt collection. Moreover, through this clinic, we give consumers referrals so that volunteer lawyers assist them in court. In this way, this clinic helps address the needs of unrepresented consumer debt litigants in Kings County. As an intern at BVLP, I have observed how having legal representation can make a difference for these consumers, and I am happy that I am able to help out.

Entry 3: 7/15/2019

My experience working at Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (BVLP) has been very rewarding. BVLP has various programs which were established to tackle unmet legal needs in Kings County.



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Clients are able to seek free legal assistance through our programs which include bankruptcy, uncontested divorce, and 17A Guardianship. As an intern in this organization, I have not only worked with BVLP attorneys but also with the volunteer attorneys that come to the organization to work in one of our programs. This has been a learning experience and I hope I can continue to learn more for the rest of my internship.

Entry 4: 10/14/2019

I enjoyed my experience at Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project. I was able to network with attorneys that work in different practice areas as well as law students from different law schools. This work experience helped me improve my public speaking skills and interpersonal skills. I am thankful for the assistance I received from Equal Justice America and I hope that other students are able to take part in this fellowship as well.