



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Keith Onger

Law School: Notre Dame Law School

Fellowship: Bet Tzedek Legal Services

Entry 1: June 7, 2019

As some of you may know, I'm spending my summer in Los Angeles working for Bet Tzedek, a nonprofit and human rights organization that provides legal services and advocacy for marginalized communities victimized by discrimination, poverty, and civil rights abuses. For the last three weeks I've had a blast working in their Small Business Development Program. I've had the opportunity to work on issues in areas such as tax, employment law, commercial leases, and intellectual property law to provide legal support to small business entrepreneurs who seek to build a better future in marginalized and underserved communities. This has been made possible through organizations such as Equal Justice America, who generously selected me as one of their fellows and provided me with the support that has helped make this summer possible.

Entry 2: July 3, 2019

Summer at Bet Tzedek has been going great so far! I've had the chance to work directly with clients on a variety of issues, and take the lead on certain cases regarding one of our client's tax and entity formation problems. In addition to doing legal work, we have also had a chance to interact with the community. Recently, we hosted the New York Times Student Journey's group. I was able to help put together a mock trial where we taught the group about SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) cases. I was able to sit in as the Chief Justice. They made me a name tag which I kept and added to the space where they let the Small Business Development Team work in the office. Next post I promise to include photos of myself instead :)

Entry 3:

Crazy to think that I have only two weeks left here at Bet Tzedek. Time flies when you're having fun! In addition to an ever-growing caseload, I've had the opportunity to get out of the office and participate in more community outreach. I was able to give a presentation in conjunction with community partners in West Hollywood about our services, as well as travel to Torrance for the day and table at a small business contracting



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fair. I was able to also attend one of our largest annual fundraisers, the Justice Ball. The Justice Ball raises a tremendous amount of revenue for our organization while bringing together over 400 young professionals for a night of music all in the name of justice. The event goes a long way to helping us continue to help over 40,000 clients a year. As promised last time, I attached pictures of myself that show I do real things all day. Enjoy!



Entry 4: 8/4/19

I can't believe it's finally over. Today I concluded my tremendous summer at Bet Tzedek. This summer has been an amazing experience that I will never forget. Leaving the office is a bittersweet feeling because though I know I've been able to accomplish a lot, there is still much a lot to be done. For every legal aid attorney in California, there are more than 8,000 eligible clients who need assistance. In the small business program, we were able to help clients start companies, navigate growth, and avoid pitfalls. I couldn't think of a better way to spend my first summer than helping people get on their own two feet and use entrepreneurship as a path out of poverty. I will always cherish not only the good work we got to do in the city, but the great people I got to do it with. I consider myself truly blessed to have been part of an organization that made me excited to get to work every morning. Thank you, Equal Justice America. Thank you, Bet Tzedek Legal Services. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue.