Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:

Name: Diana Rosen
Law School: New York University
Fellowship: Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Entry 1:

I've just wrapped up my third week as a legal intern at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) in Tacoma, Washington. About half of my time is dedicated to the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) department, which provides Know Your Rights presentations and one-on-one meetings with pro se detainees in deportation proceedings at the Northwest Detention Center. Today I did a mock presentation with several attorneys at the office, and I'll be giving the presentations at the detention center starting next week. I also go to the one-on-one sessions once a week to do intakes with detainees who haven't met with anyone from NWIRP. The purpose of the intakes is to screen detainees for potential forms of relief. Unfortunately, we can't represent every detainee, but we can provide general information about the removal process and available defenses. The other half of my time is dedicated to an individual client who I am representing in his final hearing in July. Our pre-hearing statement is due in a couple of weeks, so I've been keeping very busy.

Entry 2:

I'm almost done with my 5th week interning at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP), supported by my Equal Justice America Fellowship. Last week I gave my first Know Your Rights presentation at the Northwest Detention Center. The presentation is 45 minutes long and usually in Spanish. It covers what people detained at the NWDC can expect in court, the bond process, common defenses to removal, and the difference between voluntary departure and deportation. Last week a NWIRP staff member observed my presentation, but as of this week I'm giving them on my own. It's hard to believe how much I've learned in just a month.

My individual case is also really coming along. All of our documents are due to the court at the end of next week, and I filed my first motion in the case (the first motion I've ever filed!) early last week. I've been meeting with my client regularly to prepare his declaration as well. Once we file everything with the court, we'll have a couple more weeks until the actual hearing.

Entry 3:

I can't believe I'm already in my 7th week of my internship at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP). I finally submitted my pre-hearing statement and evidence packet to the court last Friday. All together the submission was around 500 pages! This week and next I'll be working with my client to prepare him for direct and cross examination at his individual hearing. There's a mumps outbreak at the detention center, which makes visiting my client even more difficult. He's in a quarantined unit, so it can take over an hour for the guards to bring him down for a visit. I've also continued the rest of my legal orientation program work, giving Know Your Rights presentations and doing intake interviews with people at the Northwest Detention Center.

Entry 4:

I only have two weeks left interning at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP). My client's individual hearing was last Friday and the immigration judge granted asylum! My client was immediately released from immigration detention and reunited with his family. Soon he will be able to apply to become a lawful permanent resident.

I'm transitioning into working on some new short-term projects now that my direct representation case has wrapped up. This week I'm working on research for an appeal a staff attorney is filing with the Board of Immigration Appeals. The research is crim-imm focused, looking into whether convictions under a Washington state criminal statute can render a permanent resident removable. Next week I will be helping on a policy project, drafting a proposed piece of state legislation regarding immigration detention. My legal orientation programming work at the detention center will continue throughout the end of my internship as well.

Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue.