



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Priscila Abraham

**Law School:** Rutgers Law School

**Fellowship:** Legal Intern at The Legal Aid Society -  
Immigration Law Unit

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### Entry 1: June 9, 2019

I am a proud rising 3L at Rutgers Law School-Newark. I will be starting my third week at The Legal Aid Society of NYC tomorrow morning. My first two weeks were mostly comprised of informative training sessions by practicing Legal Aid attorneys that included interactive discussions about how to best interview potentially traumatized clients and understanding the emerging legal framework of crimmigration. Legal Aid is New York's oldest defense-oriented legal organization and it has been great to get to know the amazing attorneys who fight for New York's immigrants every day.

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### Entry 2: June 25, 2019

My work with The Legal Aid Society's NYIFUP unit has picked up. I have drafted motions, conducted research for briefs, and completed case summary memorandums. I also went to two Master Calendar Hearings last week where the Immigration Judges' contradictory reactions to the Bergen County Jail's mumps outbreak were concerning. It made me realize how judge-specific a ruling could be on determining the lives of thousands of immigrants passing through our immigration courts daily. I have learned that all I have the power to control, as a legal advocate, is to provide my clients the best possible representation and learn how to navigate the diverse personalities and politics occupying all levels of immigration courts.

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### Entry 3:

My summer internship with The Legal Aid Society is a little past its mid-way point. Being supervised by a NYIFUP attorney has continued to bring new and interesting daily challenges and rewards. I was able to lead an



intake for a potential child client last week and might be appearing in immigration court next week!  
Tomorrow, I will be participating in a Shadow Day through Legal Aid's association for attorneys of color, ACLA, where interns are able to meet with and observe the work of attorneys in other practices. I have come to appreciate how Legal Aid encourages attorneys and interns alike to explore all of their interests in lawyering for the public interest.

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**Entry 4:**

This summer has flown by and I cannot believe I only have two more weeks at The Legal Aid Society's Immigration Law Unit. I have really enjoyed my summer assisting detained immigrants in need of removal defense. I have worked on a variety of cases, in multiple points of a case from conducting initial intake at detention centers to drafting motions to change of venue upon a bond grant, and even writing memos on whether clients have a grounds for post-conviction relief or appeal in a criminal case based on an immigration consequence of a conviction. My experience has solidified my commitment to expanding the rights of incarcerated and detained immigrants.