



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Sarah Harris

**Law School:** Stanford Law School

**Fellowship:** Bet Tzedek Legal Services

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### Entry 1:

I am so excited about my work at Bet Tzedek Legal Services this summer! I am just a few weeks in, but already I have had the opportunity to take on responsibility in a client's case and help my department make a positive impact on our client's situation. I work in Holocaust Survivor Services, and my work is closely related to Elder Care Law with a focus on legal services for survivors of the Holocaust. Already, I have been able to work at Bet Tzedek's Elder Abuse Restraining Order Clinic and help older adults in abusive situations with their legal documents under my supervising attorney. I have been able to engage in community outreach as one of two Bet Tzedek representatives at Caregiver Wellness Day, an event by Alzheimer's Los Angeles, and provide information about our services to the caregiver attendees and others. I am so excited for what more the summer has in store, and I am so grateful to be an Equal Justice America Fellow and Bet Tzedek Summer for Justice Law Clerk!

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### Entry 2:

It's been quite a while since my last update! Work has been fast-paced, but I find that I'm learning more and more as my summer at Bet Tzedek Legal Services progresses. As I learn, I'm able to take on new responsibilities and better serve our clients. Engaging with clients is one of my favorite parts of this job! I've been fortunate enough to witness first-hand the independence, strength, resilience, energy, and warmth in our client population – even in the face of the challenges that bring them to us. I've been able to take on substantial responsibility through interacting directly





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with and advocating for another client, with particular focus on my written advocacy skills. I've been able to assist other clients with advance planning documents, and research legal issues impacted by recent changes in the law. I was also able to attend Bet Tzedek's Justice Ball, an event my organization holds to fund their amazing work. I am so grateful to be a Summer Clerk and an Equal Justice America Fellow.



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### Entry 3:

Unfortunately, I am in the last days of my summer working at Bet Tzedek Legal Services as an Equal Justice America Fellow. However, I am so glad that I have been able to be a part of the work that the attorneys and other advocates on my team do for people cost free all year round. Today alone, I was able to hear the stories of three people who needed Elder Abuse Restraining Orders and assist them with their legal documents in our self-help clinic. It goes without saying that getting a restraining order can be a very challenging process emotionally, and the legal steps one should take when seeking one are not the easiest to follow. Words cannot express how much it means to me to have used my skill set in service to these people, even if only for a short time. In addition to working with those in need at the clinic again this week, I've been able to work with more of our clients and conduct legal research. Although it is hard to see my time as a Summer for Justice Clerk coming to an end as I prepare to return to Stanford, I am thrilled to be able to contribute to this organization and make a positive difference, right up until the very end.





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## Entry 4:

The time has come for my final Equal Justice America Fellow update. After an incredible summer at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, I recently began my second year of classes at Stanford Law School. As I reflect on my summer and all I have learned, I am overwhelmed by a feeling of gratitude. My EJA Fellowship and the support of my law school made it possible for me to contribute to a force of good in a world shrouded in inequalities. A force of good so powerful that even while at times understaffed, underfunded, and overworked, many attorneys and other advocates are managing to make a positive difference each and every day. I was able to use my legal skills in assistance to hardworking, passionate supervising attorneys and advocates in service to the community in which I lived. In doing so, I learned so much about the law. For example, I was able to engage in written advocacy and use concise, persuasive, legally sound language to help clients with a variety of legal issues, and I was amazed at the impact of effective written advocacy.

This picture is of few friends and I, all law students who worked at Bet Tzedek this past summer. Well, a picture of our friendship bracelets. In addition to learning more about the law through my work, I also learned more about people. Over the course of the summer, I found that age old lessons came to life and were reaffirmed again and again. Looking back at this picture reminds me of one of those old lessons: When one human helps another, all of humankind is better for it.



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