



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



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Law School: Temple University Beasley School of Law

Fellowship: HIAS Pennsylvania

Entry 1:



I hope we never, ever have to run again.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve at HIAS Pennsylvania this summer. I have been working with the Youth Team, serving unaccompanied minors in removal proceedings. Over the next few weeks, I'll be sharing what we're up to at HIAS and what I'm learning. But to start, I wanted to share this poster with you, as it sets the tone for the work I'll be doing all summer.

Entry 2:

I had the opportunity to travel to Newark, New Jersey with a client today. I translated in her asylum interview. I am amazed by the bravery each child has. To qualify for asylum, you essentially must have gone through unspeakable things. Of course, to get asylum status, you have to retell your story – again, and again, and again. I am so grateful to be able to be a part of HIAS Pennsylvania this summer, because I get to meet the attorneys who help people tell their stories in an immigration system that is foreign to them – linguistically and culturally. I am also grateful to be able to meet and speak with so many people who are seeking asylum in our country – their stories humble and inspire me.



Entry 3:

I would like to take a minute to talk about the attorneys I work with. Everyone knows law school is stress-inducing– and the life of an attorney can be one of never-ending stressors. Working in immigration law means you hear a lot of sad stories – and quite frankly, the need is too great to actually be able to help every person who needs an advocate...something that could no doubt be discouraging. However, I can only hope to be so fortunate in my legal career so as to always find myself surrounded by the kind of colleagues you encounter at HIAS Pennsylvania. The attorneys and staff at HIAS are so encouraging. They are incredibly smart. They are extremely hardworking. They are upbeat. They are inspirational. They are superheroes. And, they are *hilarious*. They keep the atmosphere collegiate and light –they know how to keep each other smiling while they work on heart-wrenching cases. I think this type of atmosphere is the secret to perseverance.

Entry 4:

I wanted to take the opportunity to let EJA and their supporters know just what their fellowship allowed me to do. After I finished my internship at HIAS, I had the opportunity to travel to the US-Mexico border to volunteer. I went to McAllen, Texas and volunteered with organizations on the front lines. I helped out at the Humanitarian Respite Center and also Team Brownsville. The Respite Center is part of the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. They serve the most immediate needs of asylum seekers after they are released from immigration processing centers on the border. The Respite Center allows people to have their immediate needs met as they continue on their journey – often to reunite with friends and family in the United States. They can shower, get a warm meal, get hygiene products, diapers, formula...you name it. The Respite Center helps them get their bus tickets. Team Brownsville is a very grass-roots type project. They cook meals and wheel them over in wagons to people stuck on the border in the midst of the “Remain in Mexico” policy.

I was grateful to be able to lend a hand – something I would not have been financially able to do without your generous fellowship!

I do not pretend to have the answers to any of the big policy questions we face right now. But, I wanted to be a witness to what is going on during our generation – and to speak to the humanity and the goodness I see in the people who serve at the border, and the hope that immigrants carry with them as they journey on towards a future where they can live safely.