



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Rebecca Ramirez

**Law School:** University of Miami School of Law

**Fellowship:** Human Rights Clinic, University of Miami

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### Entry 1:

I just finished my first week of the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Miami and it was incredibly rewarding. This summer I have the incredible opportunity to conduct research on women's rights in Anglophone countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. I will be working with a partner compiling research that will be the foundation for a judicial colloquium that will be held in Mauritius. The research will focus on women's rights to property, work, rights within the marriage and family and equality rights. The project is composed of three parts: an advocate mapping, a case compendium, and a White Paper. I can't wait to start researching international case law, judges, and progressive initiatives made by NGOs and women's rights advocates.

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### Entry 2:

Work at the clinic is well under way and I have learned so much about jurisdictions in Southern and Eastern Africa. The Clinic has partnered with International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific in order to facilitate a smooth judicial colloquium. My main role at this phase of the project is researching. I am fascinated by customary law and plural legal systems in comparison to the legal system practiced in the United States. The countries I am researching are: Botswana, Burundi, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. I am identifying judges who will be invited to the judicial training by reading their judgments, their published academic articles, and news reports published at the local and national level. I feel a great sense of pride working on a project that will work to further women's rights in countries that are still working toward realizing gender equality.



### **Entry 3:**

My Clinic project requires that we approach the writing components from a human rights framework. In other words, I'm discussing how various countries are upholding human rights standards by framing the analysis around international and regional instruments. Some international instruments include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Regional provisions include the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The end goal of this project is to galvanize members of the judiciary to make judgments that are fair and just towards women. In order to do this, I must present the judges with case briefs on progressive judgments made by their peers. I'm hoping that sharing and publicizing that countries and private actors have an obligation to protect, respect, and fulfill women's rights will have a profound impact on readers.

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### **Entry 4:**

Much of the research on the project has been completed so I am now writing the final products. I have never written for an audience of respected judges and magistrates, especially from countries in Southern and Eastern Africa. It's been a remarkable experience learning how some judges have gone above and beyond to write profound judgments setting precedent requiring that women's right be respected. In this final stage of the project I have finished the judicial mapping and case compendium. I am now writing the White Paper. This piece will be the only one of its kind. In sum, the paper identifies all provisions found in human rights instruments that place obligation on the individual and country to uphold women's rights. The Paper also discusses the cases that are briefed in the case compendium. I feel a huge sense of accomplishment after working on this project. I'm looking forward to the judicial colloquium and learning from all of the wisdom and experience from outstanding African judges.