



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Zoya Chakourski

Law School: University of California, Davis

Fellowship: East Bay Community Law Center –
Immigration Unit

Entry 1:

It has now been two weeks since I began work as an Equal Justice America Fellow at the East Bay Community Law Center. This is my first experience working with immigration law and so far it has been both challenging and fulfilling - during the past two weeks I conducted research, worked on case files, engaged in numerous trainings, twice attended court proceedings, and participated in a rally! It is one thing to witness legal developments in the news and another thing entirely to work with and around them. I appreciate this opportunity to learn and serve my community, and look forward to what the rest of the summer will bring!

Entry 2:

It's been another exciting two weeks of working at the East Bay Community Law Center! I have met with clients, conducted research, made calls, attended illuminating trainings, and filed many forms. I've experienced first-hand how time sensitive and changeable immigration law can be, and while this has been frustrating at times, it's also taught me to think on my feet and embrace challenge. I look forward to what the next few weeks will bring!

Entry 3:

I can't believe that it's already been 6 weeks of my work at the East Bay Community Law Center! Since my last EJA Fellow Update I've come to appreciate even more the aggressive pace of practicing in the public interest field as a whole, and especially so in Immigration. Today I have happily finished the case of a client with whom I've been working for the past few weeks, and tomorrow I will be making a trip to the Mesa Verde detention center. I am relieved to see that my work is paying off, and I look forward to the challenges ahead.



Entry 4:

The last few weeks have brought some successes and some sad moments. While immigration law can be frustrating and tough, especially so under the current administration, practicing in this field has helped me develop tenacity, adaptability, and determination. I have learned to take unfortunate developments in stride, and to celebrate successes when they come, no matter how minor they may be. This has been a fruitful and inspiring summer, and I am sure that my capabilities and confidence as a lawyer have grown. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in this field, and for the amazing leadership which the staff at the East Bay Community Law Center have shown me.