



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Jessica Dean

Law School: UC Hastings, College of the Law

Internship: Child Care Law Center

Entry 1: June 10, 2019

Today marks five weeks since I finished my first year at @UCHastings and two weeks since I began my internship at the @ChildCareLawCenter in San Francisco as an #EqualJusticeAmericaFellow! I spent my first week at CCLC reading through orientation materials which included studies about the impacts of early child care, breakdowns of the obstacles that stand between low-income families and subsidized child care, and the current legislation CCLC is working on in the hopes of making early child care accessible to all families no matter their income. During my second week, I was given the opportunity to attend the @PathwaystoJustice conference in San Francisco and spent time in workshops such as “Providing Services to LGBTQ Clients” and even “Local to State Advocacy: Equitable Community Engagement in Policy Reform” led by CCLC’s very own Julia Frudden. From working one-on-one with child care providers to researching current and potential legislation, I have already been able to make an impact on the early child care community and cannot wait to see what the rest of my summer at CCLC has in store!



Entry 2: July 3, 2019

As I finish up the first month of my internship with the Child Care Law Center, I cannot begin to wrap my mind around how much I’ve learned and how many people we’ve helped in such a short amount of time. This is a very exciting time at the law center as CCLC is currently working on bill SB 234 which will update the nearly 40-year-old Child Day Care Facilities Act (CDCFA) by requiring local government to treat large child



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care homes the same as small child care homes. SB 234 will clarify that licensed child care homes may operate in apartments and other multifamily units, update CDCFA's housing protections to ensure that family child care providers are not prohibited from living in a home solely because they care for children there, and will establish that child care providers may seek legal redress under the Fair Employment and Housing Act for violations of the CDCFA. A couple of weeks ago, I was given the opportunity to attend lobby visits with the staff attorneys at CCLC and even attended the hearing in which SB 234 was passed through the Assembly Human Services Committee. The work that is being done at CCLC will go on to have a positive impact on entire communities for a long time to come. Another example of the profound work I get to take part in happened today when I got to witness the hearing which will decide the passing of Prop C in San Francisco, which is a commercial rent tax for child care and early education that would impose a new gross receipt tax of 3.5% on rentals of "commercial space" in San Francisco. This tax will raise thousands of dollars for early child care and will increase access to affordable child care in their own neighborhoods for hundreds of families.



Entry 3: July 15, 2019

It feels like I started working with the amazing attorneys at the Child Care Law Center just yesterday and yet, I will only be here for two more weeks. Time has flown by and I have accomplished so much in such a short summer. During my time with CCLC I have been working on writing a memo about the best ways localities can raise funds for early child care and education for low-income families. What began as a simple writing task has brought me the stories of families affected by child care deserts, tough questions in need of even tougher answers, and the brilliant minds of masters in the field of ECE.



SB 234 Keeping Kids Close to Home – Resources

Update and Take Action: SB 234 will not be heard in Assembly Appropriations until after the Legislature's summer recess (July 12-August 9). So you can still [submit your support letter to the Assembly Appropriations Committee!](#) [En Español aquí!](#)

To meet the needs of today's families, SB 234 supports family child care close to home so parents can work and children can thrive, immediately and in the future.

How SB 234 works:

- It equalizes the local permitting process for family child care homes that care for up to 14 children, closing loopholes that have led to an uneven application by cities and burdensome local regulations.
- It clarifies that family child care can operate in all types of residential settings close to where families live, in all communities.
- It updates housing protections for family child care providers so families have the loving, home-like environment they want for their children.

Author: [Senator Nancy Skinner](#)

Cosponsors: Child Care Law Center, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, SEIU California, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930



This week I was given an opportunity to sit down and talk with the Senior Policy Analyst at the San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education about his views on the early child care climate in San Francisco and what can be done to improve it. Throughout my studies and interactions with individuals in need of legal aid regarding their own child care problems, one thing has been constant: the early child care and education system is held up by dozens of programs with even more people running them. It takes a village to fund and run all that supports the families just in San Francisco alone, and it's been within these conversations with others working with early child care that I've realized how powerful a common goal can be. As a support organization for other law programs, CCLC's role is always the same: to support and lift up others in their fight for affordable and accessible early child care for

all. Whether it's as support counsel in the courtroom, co-sponsor of a bill, or answering a family child care provider's legal question, CCLC is constantly working to improve the climate of the early child care system.

Entry 4: July 29, 2019

Many have said that families are the most basic units of our society and that, because of this, how we treat families individually directly reflects how we treat people on a macro scale. This summer at the Child Care Law Center, I've had the unique opportunity to shift how the law treats families as well as give legal support to child care providers and the families they serve. I could not have done any of the great work I've been a part of without the hard work and support from all of the staff at CCLC. From attending social justice conferences to observing assembly hearings in the capital (pictured



below), this entire experience has not only improved my skills as a law student, but will impact me far into the future as I begin my career in the public interest legal field. I'm so grateful to Equal Justice America for giving me the opportunity to work with such great women in the child care law field -- this experience will be one I will surely never forget. And although I'm moving onward, please consider donating to Equal Justice America.