



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Matt Richardson

**Law School:** UC Hastings

**Fellowship:** Legal Aid at Work

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### Entry 1:

I'm really enjoying my summer at Legal Aid at Work in San Francisco! I've been able to dip my toes into employment law and litigation against employers discriminating because of immigration status and ethnicity, as well as provide some brief direct services.

I am only able to do this work this summer thanks to organizations like Equal Justice America who provide fellowships to law students who believe in public interest work.

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### Entry 2:

Lately, I've been getting more exposure to the nitty gritty of litigation, on a couple of cases dealing with national origin/immigration status discrimination. Shockingly, it's not at all like on TV! I've spent hours going through thousands of pages of discovery, trying to find details here and there that support our client's case, and drafted a protective motion to ensure that our client's private information stays private. Lots of meetings, lots of organization, lots of teamwork. It's really cool to get this behind-the-curtain look.

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### Entry 3:

Hard to believe that this summer is almost over! I feel like I'm just getting started. I have the opportunity to briefly take the lead on a charge before the Immigrant and Employee Rights Section, representing an asylee who was unlawfully required to obtain a multitude of documents to show her work authorization. Employees ALWAYS have the right to choose which documents to present to show work authorization, and an employer can never demand specific documents. It's been really cool to learn more about the law, the administrative



process, interview and fact-find, and prepare a detailed narrative of what our client has been through. I only wish I could stick around to see it through!

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**Entry 4:**

I finished my summer at Legal Aid at Work at a Wage Claim Clinic at the California Labor Commissioner's Office. At these clinics, LAAW staff helps clients fill out claims for unpaid wages and/or retaliation. I never thought I would have to deal with much math again after college, but calculating hours worked, figuring out how much overtime or sick pay or mileage or liquidated damages is owed... the math is intense, and can take hours to finish! At the end of the day, though, it's great to be able to give the finished claim to the client so they can file it then and there. It's an intense but one of the most rewarding things I did this summer, and I'm so thankful to LAAW and to EJA for making this possible!

I am only able to do this work this summer thanks to organizations like Equal Justice America who provide fellowships to law students who believe in public interest work. Please consider donating so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue.