



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Catherine Kang

Law School: UCLA Law

Fellowship: Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance

Entry 1:

As many of you already know, I am working at Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (@KIWA) for the summer, and from the very beginning, I was thrown headfirst into labor and employment law and hit the ground running. From the first day, I was doing legal research and working on wage calculations (there's a lot more math involved than I was hoping); by the second week, I was attending a hearing at the Labor Commissioner's office in DTLA and holding clinic interviews in Korean with immigrant workers. It's been exciting to see how different things we've learned in 1L come together in unexpected ways, and being able to connect with real people reminds me why I decided to go to law school in the first place.

This week, KIWA is holding its 27th Anniversary Dinner, where California Supreme Justice Goodwin Liu will be the keynote speaker. Since it's a small organization, and everybody does a little bit of everything, I've also been helping to design the program book for this event. Some of you may know that graphic design is....my passion! It's been a great experience working here so far, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the summer!

Entry 2:

I can't believe it's already been so long since I started interning at KIWA! Where does the time go? And yet, around the Fourth of July, I started to really think about the work that I've been doing with KIWA and the work that KIWA does with the Koreatown community. When it comes to the law, there are so many barriers in the way for people to truly achieve justice.

For example, I recently went to a mediation for a case that KIWA was co-counseling on. This case had been going on for two and a half years. The mediation started at 9:30 in the morning and was still going when the time my supervisor and I left at 6:00 in the evening. Especially since most of our clients at KIWA do not speak



English very well, if at all, I couldn't imagine what it must have felt like for our clients, sitting in that room, aware that important things are happening but unable to have a voice.

Entry 3:

It's my last week at KIWA and I'm spending the week wrapping up things on my end and reminiscing about how quickly the summer went by! I'm a little disappointed I won't be here long enough to see how a lot of the cases end; after working with them on their cases so much, I'm kind of attached to seeing how it all turns out. I need some closure! Although, litigation can last for years--if I'm feeling impatient, I can't imagine how the workers are feeling, particularly those who have had cases pending for years now. Still, it's inspirational to see how much has actually been done through the last 9 weeks or so. I think the most interesting thing I've learned during this summer is how complex and evolving California labor and employment law is. I've spoken to a few other labor & employment attorneys, and they've agreed that CA is "the wild West" for this legal field. If you're interested in seeing what KIWA does, on the more non-legal, more organizing side, there's been a great write-up on the LA Times of one of the movements.

Entry 4:

Hello everyone, and welcome to my last update for the summer! Today was the first day I've had classes for my 2L year and I thought I would use this opportunity to reflect back on my summer experience. I actually went back last Thursday for one final free clinic, and it was hectic as usual. I think it was a great way to wrap up my summer, getting so directly involved in the community.

This summer has been a really eye-opening experience, and I have definitely learned so much about labor & employment law and the way the legal field actually works in practice. Thank you to KIWA for hosting me and to Equal Justice America for helping me to support my work this summer!

Even though I'm moving forward and returning to law school now, please consider donating to Equal Justice America so that the work of my peers may continue.