



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:

Name: Jen Kelso

Law School: University of Virginia School of Law

Fellowship: Ayuda (Washington, D.C.)

Entry 1:

June 10, 2019

The first few weeks of my internship with Ayuda in Washington, D.C. have been a whirlwind of activity! Ayuda is a non-profit organization serving the low-income immigrant community of D.C. and the surrounding area, and this summer I am working in the Immigration Program. With Ayuda, I have already observed two hearings and worked with clients on applications for various forms of immigration relief. I'm also learning so much about how immigration policy is shifting right now, and how that has affected our attorneys' work as well as our clients' cases. Given the current uncertainty in immigration policy, it is essential that our attorneys stay up-to-date on all of the latest changes so they can best advise their clients. This can't be easy to do, but it's inspiring to me to see all of Ayuda's staff working so hard to accomplish this. I feel grateful to be able to learn from the Ayuda staff this summer, and to Equal Justice America for their generous support of my summer internship.

Entry 2:

July 2, 2019

After being here for a few weeks, I have found my rhythm at Ayuda. I am working on several different cases with my supervising attorneys, and no two days are alike. I spend a lot of my time meeting with or calling our clients, and preparing their declarations and applications for various forms of immigration relief. I also draft cover letters and complaints, conduct research when my supervising attorneys need it, and have the opportunity to observe hearings both in state court and immigration court. In particular, I have been devoting a lot of my time to U Visa applications (a form of immigration relief available to victims of certain crimes) for two clients. I'm really looking forward to hopefully being able to submit those applications before the end of my summer!



Entry 3: July 22, 2019

The summer is flying by! I now have only two weeks left at my summer internship at Ayuda, and I'm working hard to finish all of my projects before I go. There is a lot I still want to get done before my time is up, but I'm also really proud of what I have been able to complete during my time here. Working with our amazing attorneys and clients has taught me so much and I know I will take forward with me everything I've learned here. I have also loved working alongside my wonderful co-interns! It's really bittersweet as some of the interns have started to leave, but I'm so glad I met such passionate, dedicated, and hard-working law students working for justice this summer.

Entry 4: July 30, 2019

I can't believe it, but I am already wrapping up my last week working at Ayuda. It's really exciting to finish my projects and look back at how much I have been able to work on throughout my time here. I've gotten to work on a variety of immigration cases, including U Visas, asylum, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. One of my favorite projects was preparing the arguments for an affirmative asylum case that my supervisor will be filing later this year. Writing out the legal arguments was a lot more complicated than I had realized it would be, but I really enjoyed thinking through the case and researching the law to support our positions. I'm sad that my time at Ayuda is ending so quickly - it was such a great place to spend the summer. I am so grateful to Equal Justice America for the support that allowed me to be here!