



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: Kevin Jackson

Law School: University of Virginia

Fellowship: Kids in Need of Defense, Atlanta

Entry 1:

It's been a busy couple of weeks with KIND in Atlanta. I've been able to work on a human trafficking case and some special immigrant juvenile cases. We also called the immigration court hotline to try to locate some children who were separated from their families by the Trump administration. As Father's Day comes up, I can't help but think about the kids who have been taken from their parents. These are excruciatingly difficult times for immigrants to America, but there are still a lot of us working hard to make our country a welcoming place for children and families.

Entry 2:

For the first time ever, I helped do an intake for a one-year-old. She had severe medical issues, but still smiled and laughed and played until she tired herself out. It's an honor to give legal help to these families and fragments of families. It's infuriating that we need to. I've seen so many families who, but for our harsh and broken immigration system, could still be together here. Someday I hope we'll see reform that ends family separation and brings America closer to its ideals. Until then, we'll keep helping everyone we can.

Entry 3:

The rumored ICE raids have caused a lot of anxiety here in Atlanta. I've been compulsively checking the news and social media to see if anything has happened yet. It's been a surprisingly quiet day, but we may still have a long week ahead of us. In the meantime, all we can do is keep helping everyone we can to get immigration relief. I do have one piece of good news about the one-year-old client I mentioned in the last post though! Our social services coordinator was able to find a doctor who offered to help her free of charge--which was a huge relief to everyone here.



Entry 4:

It's hard to believe that there are only two weeks left in this internship. We've been busy drafting some urgent filings recently. I was also able to conduct an intake in Spanish for a kid who had been abused in his home country. We hope to be able to find a pro bono attorney to take on his case soon. Over the summer, I've worked on about eleven kids' cases. Each kid has her or his own story, family, memories, hopes, and dreams. America would be lucky to have any of them. Given the glacial pace of the immigration system, I'm definitely not going to get to see how their cases turn out before I go back to Charlottesville. But I know they're in good hands at the KIND Atlanta office.