



Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



Name: David Giannaula

Law School: University of Texas School of Law

Fellowship: Community Justice Project

Entry 1:

Over the past two weeks I have settled in to my summer internship at the Community Justice Project in Harrisburg, Pa. I have been conducting research on potential Administrative Procedure Act violations by USCIS with the end goal of producing a memorandum on potential litigation strategies that my supervisor can implement. I have also attended meetings with County Assistance Office officials, other non-profits, and community members in order to engage in various forms of advocacy apart from litigation. I am grateful to be learning about new areas of the law while simultaneously working to support low-income Pennsylvanians.

Entry 2:

These past two weeks have been even more exciting here at the Community Justice Project. I have had the opportunity to observe both practice and real depositions, watch a team of three non-profit law offices rapidly coordinate together to prevent a city from wrongfully evicting tenants by using the research my fellow intern and myself came up with, and see the way the executive staff at CJP strategically plan for the path ahead both in terms of litigation strategies and in securing funding. I am excited to see all that will happen in the next two weeks.

Entry 3:

The past two weeks with the Community Justice Project have been more than exciting. Getting to see my fellow intern and my research and writing be used in an actual hearing was surreal. Seeing it be used to win in that hearing was even better! I feel very lucky to be able to substantively contribute to CJP's mission of advocating on behalf of low-income Pennsylvanians.



Entry 4:

Working at the Community Justice Project this summer has provided me with the experience I had been craving throughout my first year of law school. While I enjoyed my studies during the year, the sole reason for my attendance was to use the knowledge and skills I was developing to advocate on behalf of the populations I had been serving in all of my previous roles before law school. This summer I have been able to see how the law can be used as a powerful tool to not only remedy harms already committed, but also to push policies that prevent future harm. I have gotten to file briefs, and draft motions for court, but I have also gotten to be at the table while CJP and its partners advocated for putting more public-benefits money into low-income Pennsylvanians' hands. I am thankful that this summer confirmed for me that I made the right decision by going to law school, and that I am on the right path to create the kind of change I set out to create many years ago.