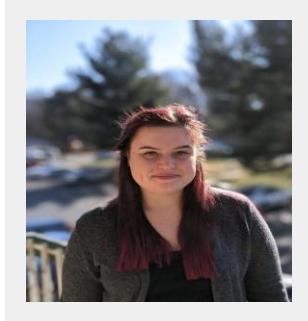




Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Caroline Gillis

Law School: American University Washington
College of Law

Organization: Ayuda

Week of June 15th

Ayuda has been serving immigrants in the Washington, DC area since 1973. Today, Ayuda is active in three areas: immigration law, domestic violence & family law, and language access services. It has been a great learning experience to work with the knowledgeable and passionate attorneys and legal professionals at Ayuda. It is an honor to serve survivors of domestic violence in the DC area.

Week of July 6th

The unique circumstances brought by Coronavirus really test the ways an attorney can advocate for her client. Because of court closures, many legal activities have been on standstill for months. However, there are still ways to advocate for your client, even if it means just being a listening ear. I believe that well-rounded legal advocacy includes making the client feel heard and supported through the non-legal stressors in her life. At Ayuda, along with legal advocacy, I have been happy to serve our clients in whatever ways I can help them during this pandemic.

Week of July 27th

Because of concerns about Coronavirus spreading in prisons and jails, many survivors of domestic and sexual violence are dealing with the reality that their abuser has been released earlier than anticipated. At Ayuda, I have been helping clients draft victim impact statements and learn their rights as survivors of crime, including their rights to be notified about the prosecutor's recommended sentence or early release.



Week of August 10th

This week is my last week working at Ayuda. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve survivors of domestic violence with the amazing attorneys at Ayuda since March. The work we do is so important, and I am honored that our clients have trusted me to handle their legal issues. People say not to bring work home with you, but I do bring my work home because I know what I do affects our clients' lives. I feel the gravity of my work every day, and I am glad I can do some small things to improve the lives of our clients.