

Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Maya Flores

Law School: DePaul University College of Law

Organization: Beyond Legal Aid

Week of June 15th

This summer, I am excited to be working at Beyond Legal Aid (formerly CALA) where I will help Community Members with a broad range of issues including immigration and asylum as well as family and housing law matters. My work is funded thanks to DePaul University College of Law and Equal Justice America.

Week of July 6th

Despite the ongoing pandemic, Community Members' lives continue to move forward. I am honored to be able to help those in Chicago and nearby recover lost wages, apply for U visas, or obtain a divorce. Thanks to Equal Justice America, DePaul University, and the attorneys at Beyond Legal Aid I am re-discovering my passion for working with Community Members and learning about areas of law I have never considered before.

Week of July 27th

Last week I wrapped up my internship with Beyond Legal Aid (formerly CALA). Working at BLA this summer provided a unique opportunity to manage my own caseload and gain exposure to various types of law. Initially, I sought out BLA because I was interested in immigration work. After my first week there, I realized this internship would be more than filling out forms and responding to requests for evidence. My supervisor, Perla Tirado, pushed me to explore and learn about employment, family, and asylum law. I am thankful for Perla for taking me under her wing this



summer and providing me with ample learning opportunities. This internship exceeded my expectations and I would not have been able to take it without the funding provided by DePaul University College of Law and Equal Justice America. Thank you all!

Week of August 10th

Since finishing up my internship with Beyond Legal Aid (formerly CALA), I have been reflecting on everything I learned this summer as well as the importance of legal aid. Many of the community members I interviewed experienced job loss and instability due to the pandemic. Luckily, organizations that provide free or low-cost legal services, like BLA, are there to help CMs fight their wrongful terminations or navigate unemployment, especially at a time when everyone is extra vulnerable. I encourage everyone to get involved with a legal aid organization at some point, either through pro bono work or as a profession.

A final thank you to DePaul University College of Law and Equal Justice America for funding my work this summer. If you would like to support future legal aid interns, consider making a donation to EJA.