



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



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Law School: Fordham School of Law

Organization: Lincoln Square Legal Services

Week of June 15th

Today is Juneteenth, an incredibly important day in our nation's history. In present times it is clear that there is still injustice in our country when it comes to race. It is vitally important to stand up for all people's rights. This is why I find it so meaningful to assist people who feel bogged down by systems that have a history of oppression. Many people feel that government systems set them up to fail. I have recently learned the power of knowledge. Many clients were unaware of the IRS portal created to streamline stimulus payments during the pandemic. Simply by helping them login to that site – they were able to access money they were entitled to. Every step counts. Please consider donating to causes that support equality.

Week of July 6th

Taxes have been in the news a lot lately, especially in light of COVID-19, economic impact payments, and the recent updates regarding President Trump's returns. While many people lament the taxing system, I am grateful for Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (such as the one at @FordhamLawNYC) that shed light on the complexities of our taxing system. It is a blessing to help our clients better understand why they have an issue and assist them in resolving that issue in a positive manner.

Week of July 27th

It's now the last week of July which means the current supplementary unemployment benefits are set to expire at the end of this week. Many of our clients have been laid off or furloughed due to COVID-19 and currently receive unemployment and the supplementary \$600 each week. Hopefully as the country



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begins to reopen, our clients will be able to return to work. However, for the time being, our clients are in a difficult financial position on a day to day basis. It is nerve-wracking trying to figure out how to pay your daily living expenses and resolve prior tax disputes. I am grateful to lift at least one burden for our clients.

Week of August 10th

As the summer comes to a close I find myself thinking about the future and what that means for my clients. Next tax season promises to be a complicated and grueling one for many people. A time that many of our clients already dread will be met with even greater disdain as they tackle the ramifications of stimulus payments, unemployment, and changes use of personal savings throughout 2020 just to stay afloat. Hopefully they will seek guidance where necessary and not be met with huge liabilities. It has been very rewarding assisting in whatever way I could throughout these summer months.