



## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Rose Hayden

**Law School:** Georgetown University

**Organization:** Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

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### Week of June 15<sup>th</sup>:

This summer, I'm working as an Equal Justice America summer fellow at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) helping protect the basic human rights of unaccompanied refugee and immigrant children in the United States. Please consider donating to Equal Justice, which helps fund law students doing public interest work across the country!

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### Week of July 6<sup>th</sup>:

While the current pandemic has shifted many features of my fellowship (we were completely remote, I haven't met any of my coworkers in public, etc.), one thing I did not predict at the beginning of the summer was how much our clients would be impacted. As Covid-19 raged on, I noticed how worried my supervisor and team were about how the pandemic was affecting their clients and their families. What I love about KIND is that they not only provide legal services, but also offer social services to their clients.

This week, I spent a good amount of time calling clients and trying to determine eligibility for funding from various sources, with the hopes of connecting them to a funding source and being granted some relief. While most of my fellowship has centered around finding legal relief in the form of asylum or Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, I found that helping connect clients to financial relief during the pandemic was also extremely important.

While my fellowship is not exactly how I expected it to be, I still look forward to continuing to adapt and develop new skills during these uncertain times.

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### Week of July 27<sup>th</sup>:

I am now approaching the final weeks of my summer internship working at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) helping protect the basic human rights of unaccompanied refugee and immigrant children in the



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United States. This summer, I have worked on T visa, U visa, asylum, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications for our clients. One of my most rewarding experiences was assisting my supervisor prepare a client for an asylum interview.

Receiving funding through my Equal Justice America summer fellowship has allowed me to continue this work during a time of uncertainty. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America, which helps fund law students doing public interest work across the country!

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## **Week of August 10<sup>th</sup>:**

I just found out that one of the clients with whom I worked closely was granted asylum. Right now, I am taking a week-long course on business and financial basics for lawyers. When my supervisor texted me to tell me the good news, I was on-camera in my Zoom classroom and I started to cry. Reflecting on it now, I hope my professor didn't think that I was moved to tears by his PowerPoint on balance sheets and income statements, but in that moment I didn't care at all—I was overcome by pure joy.

The summer I spent at Kids in Need of Defense was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I came to law school because I wanted to feel empowered to help others. KIND has taught me so much about how to effectively work toward promoting the inherent worth and dignity of vulnerable immigrant children seeking protection. I am also grateful to Equal Justice America for giving me funding, so that I could do public interest work this summer. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America, which helps fund law students like me doing public interest work across the country!