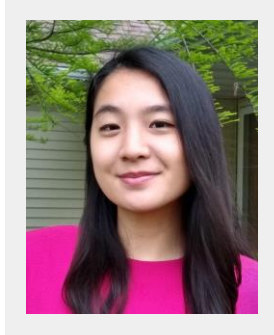




## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Faith Tan

**Law School:** Rutgers Law - Newark

**Organization:** MICA Project

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### Entry 1:

During the first few weeks of my summer internship with the MICA Project, I've had the opportunity to learn about the basics of U.S. immigration law. Through various opinions, briefs, and manuals, I have been examining how immigration law has evolved, and continues to evolve. For example, my first assignment was to revise a brief from a few years ago to be in accordance with recent developments. Additionally, because my internship is based in St. Louis, I have been exploring St. Louis-specific issues and resources.

I am excited to be spending this summer working for an organization doing valuable work and am looking forward to expanding on what I learn this summer as a 2L at Rutgers Law School. In our difficult times, accessible legal representation is especially important. Equal Justice America supports the work of law students around the country providing these legal services.

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### Entry 2:

I have been an intern with the MICA Project for a little over a month and have been writing briefs and developing valuable research and writing skills while working on client cases.

Recently, I've been working on a couple of asylum cases, which has allowed me to learn about the details of asylum law. Reading and communicating each client's story has been difficult- it's tough to swallow the fact that such injustice is so prevalent all across the world and that it occurs regularly to our neighbors in other countries. It's even tougher to realize that due to recent developments, asylum seekers are encountering more and more obstacles to finding safety here in the United States. But the work has also been inspiring. Realizing



that there are people, like the staff at the MICA Project, who are dedicated to being advocates makes the situation seem a little more hopeful. I've enjoyed being a part of such a meaningful organization and look forward to the last month or so of my internship.

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### **Entry 3:**

In the final weeks of my internship, I've been honing the legal research and writing skills I learned during my 1L year as well as expanding on my analytical abilities. I've continued working on several asylum cases, researching recent caselaw, working with clients' affidavits, and writing briefs. I'm currently working on drafting a set of direct examination questions, which is something I've never done before, but as something that could be very useful in my future career, I'm excited to be developing this skill set early on. I also had the opportunity just this morning to sit in on an intake meeting, so I got to see a bit of the administrative side of working in the legal field.

Working with the MICA Project as my first legal internship has been an incredible experience and I've learned a lot about both immigration law practice as well as the importance of accessible legal representation. From the attorneys in the office, I've learned about being an empathetic practitioner and an advocate and I'm grateful for the experience! If you would like to support the work of other law students working public interest internships, you can do so by donating to Equal Justice America.

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### **Entry 4:**

I've finished up my summer with the MICA Project, having spent the last couple of weeks finishing up some briefs, exhibit lists, direct examination questions, and research assignments. While none of the cases I worked on have moved forward yet, it was exciting to see my work product being used in filings and in preparation for court. As a remote internship, my summer experience was a little different from the norm, but I am grateful to have had the opportunity to develop non-legal skills as well. Working solely from home has taught me to be disciplined but flexible, and I've learned more about how to use Zoom than I ever thought I would.

I am exceptionally grateful to the attorneys at the MICA Project for all they've done to make my internship experience educational and rewarding. In addition to learning about the workings of immigration law, I have seen what it means to be a compassionate advocate for your clients and will bring that quality with me to my future career. I loved having the opportunity to apply what I learned during my first year of law school to real-life practice and look forward to carrying what I learned during the summer to my classes during my 2L year at Rutgers Law School.



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