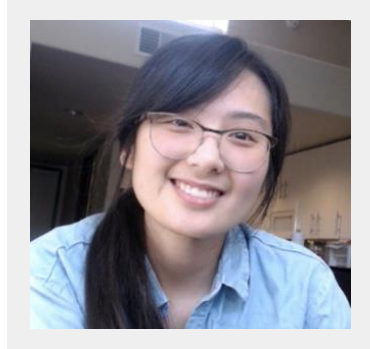




## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Stephanie Hou

**Law School:** Stanford Law School

**Organization:** CLSEPA

---

### Week of June 15th

Today's my first day working at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto. As part of my fellowship I will be posting updates about my work every couple of weeks. It's been wonderful meeting my coworkers and mentors so far. I'm glad that despite the crises happening around us that I am still able to spend my summer providing legal services to people that need it the most. I am looking forward to the great work we will be doing!

---

### Week of July 6th

I've been at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto for almost a month now. The work is and has been necessary and important for the people that we serve. I was warned when I first started that immigration is an ever-changing field, and in the past few weeks I've come to see just how quickly things can turn on their heads. I can't do anything to change these things. It's a frustrating feeling. The most I can do now is to keep clients informed as things change. That never feels like enough. I don't yet know what I can do that would feel like enough.

One of my projects has focused on summarizing and explaining a piece of immigration law in a way that is easily accessible to those that may be affected by it. While I might not be able to change the law to make it better, I do have the ability, right now, to understand the law and explain it so that clients can defend themselves more effectively. Lots of people probably feel intimidated by all the things that are happening right now, and if someone else with some more knowledge and expertise can step in to explain what is happening, they may be more reassured and also better able to understand their own situation. I hope that I can at least do this much for now.



---

**Week of July 27<sup>th</sup>**

Hi everyone, here's another update. Working from home remotely means that we don't have clients coming into the clinic to talk to us. It makes providing services a lot more difficult. As someone that would have to rely on an interpreter for client interactions, not having body language to read makes it harder, and it's definitely not easy to have an interpreter over video call. For this reason I've been doing a lot of research-based work this summer. Although I can't be working with our Spanish-speaking clients directly, I can make the jobs of the attorneys who are easier by doing some of the legwork for them. Do your best, everyone!

---

**Week of (date): August 10th**

It's my last week at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto. What a summer it has been! Being able to spend my summer learning the ins and outs of how immigration cases work has been an eye-opening experience. Even as someone with legal training, understanding the procedures is really difficult, as they seem to be designed to be as confusing as possible. It only highlights even further the need for people to really be getting into the weeds to help people navigate this area of law, especially given the huge impact these proceedings can have on people's lives. Policy change is something we should strive for, but in the mean time, there is a huge need for attorneys to help people navigate the process.