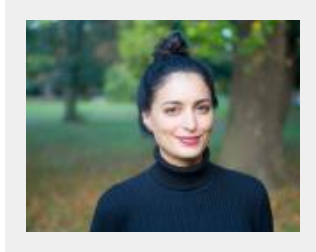




## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Kate Steiker-Ginzberg

**Law School:** Temple University

**Organization:** HIAS Pennsylvania

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### Week of June 15th

Starting a remote internship in the midst of a global pandemic has been a surreal experience, but I am so grateful to HIAS Pennsylvania for welcoming our nine-person summer cohort to the organization. By the end of the first week, we had jumped right in, helping to provide legal services to immigrants and asylum seekers from around the world. I am assigned to several different teams, including the intake team, which handles incoming calls from potential clients seeking legal advice and support. The diversity of stories, backgrounds, and languages we've heard is overwhelming: I've spoken with women fleeing domestic violence in their home countries, and others facing persecution due to their sexual orientation. Some of the people I've spoken with turned themselves in at the US-Mexico border just a few months ago, while others have been here for years and are now exploring their legal options. I've also been working on another team doing research about the documentation requirements for the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness program, which provides a one-year window for Liberian nationals who have resided in the US since 2014 to apply for a Green Card. I've also gotten involved with the advocacy team, which is fighting for legislative policy changes at both the local and federal level. The work is thrilling and vital, now more than ever. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America, which provides fellowships to law students to intern with public interest

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### Week of July 6th

These last few weeks interning with HIAS Pennsylvania have flown by. We were recently trained in assisting with Pro Se asylum applications, and I started working with clients from Guatemala and Brazil. I've also been doing research about femicide in El Salvador and assisting with a bond application to get a client out of immigration detention. The immigration changes at the national level are relentless. Despite the joy and relief from the DACA decision in the Supreme Court (hundreds of thousands of young people who will not face imminent deportation), my colleagues are now fighting the Trump administration's efforts to effectively end asylum in the United States, making it nearly impossible to win. And just this week, ICE announced that



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international students on F-1 visas will have to leave the US or transfer if their academic institutions are online due to COVID. Despite all this news, my colleagues continue to fight-- for their clients, for policy changes, and for this country to live up to its promise as a refuge for those fleeing unfathomable violence, persecution, and poverty. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America, which funds law students doing summer internships with civil legal services organizations.

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## **Week of July 27th**

As the summer internship comes to a close, the last few weeks have been very busy. Our team filed a successful bond application on behalf of a client and secured his release from an immigration detention center in Dallas, Texas (where he had been transferred due to the pandemic). Our client is now back in the Philadelphia area. I have continued to work on the intake team, both conducting new intakes and filing pro se asylum applications. I have also been doing research about divorce procedures in the West Bank and continuing to research femicide and gang violence in El Salvador.

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## **Week of August 10th**

Friends, this is my final post as an EJA Summer Fellow and HIAS Intern. As the summer winds down, I am once again asking anyone who is able to please consider donating to Equal Justice America, which provides financial support to law students pursuing unpaid internships with civil services organizations. I spent my final week at HIAS Pennsylvania helping to develop a remote internship guide, so that future law students will have all the tools and resources that they need to succeed in a remote internship. The pandemic has upended everything -- communication with clients, intake procedures, and protocols for filing applications with USCIS and immigration court. I hope that our team's work will provide a strong foundation for future interns to jump right in and continue the important mission and work of HIAS Pennsylvania to provide high-quality legal representation to low-income immigrants and refugees from around the world. Thank you to HIAS Pennsylvania for the amazing opportunity and to Equal Justice America and all the friends and family who have donated so far.