



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: Catholic Charities' St. Frances Cabrini Center
for Immigrant Legal Assistance

Update 1

Today marks two weeks since beginning my summer internship with Catholic Charities' Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Aid. After undergoing training and meeting my supervising attorneys and fellow interns via Zoom, I'm excited to research relevant statutory and case law, prepare clients' cases for family / immigration court, compose educational materials for future interns, and help more folks reside safely and make a better lives for themselves in this country.

Update 2

Since starting my internship at the Cabrini Center, I've met some incredibly talented and passionate attorneys and paralegals, sat in on (Zoom) family court proceedings, assisted DACA applicants, and, very recently, submitted a hefty research project that will, hopefully, help future attorneys better protect unaccompanied minors who enter the United States. Though my contribution is comparatively small and I have much to learn, I'm humbled by the opportunity to channel whatever legal knowledge I've garnered towards helping even one or two of these uniquely vulnerable children.

Update 3

I'm approaching the end of my internship with Catholic Charities, but the volume has been turned up in the last week, in which I have:



- Created a motion template for attorneys and paralegals to use in overcoming specific statutory barriers in order to help unaccompanied children apply for asylum.
- Compiled a list of relevant statutory + case law for a supervising attorney to use in convincing a less sympathetic judge to permit an undocumented youth to remain with their parents in Texas. (Side-note: I didn't realize just how deeply I enjoyed legal research until now. It was an exhilarating and victorious experience.)
- Reviewed a child's case files and composed an affidavit containing their full residential history in order to help their mother win full custody and to prevent the child from being returned to an abusive home in their native country.

Quite a busy week, but it's been a beautiful one.

Update 4

Like that, my internship with Catholic Charities has come to an end. This week, I drafted two motion templates utilizing Fifth Circuit and the Southern District of Texas precedent for attorneys and paralegals to use when petitioning for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of children seeking asylum in this country.

I am grateful for a beautiful summer internship experience, even if it was remote, and for the patience, guidance, and confidence of my supervising attorneys; I hope I have deserved them. Now, I depart from Catholic Charities confident that the impact of my intellect, labor, and values will only increase as I accrue more experience and knowledge in the legal field; indeed, I am more confident than ever that the legal field is where I belong.

