



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Fernando Cierra

Law School: UC Hastings

Organization: La Raza Centro Legal

Week of June 15th

I was lucky enough to be chosen as one of this year's Equal Justice America fellows. Thanks to their support for the past two weeks I have had the pleasure of working with La Raza Centro Legal in their workers' rights program. The past two weeks has allowed me to directly engage with folx in the latinx community who normally have trouble accessing proper legal resources and services. The pandemic has certainly made it an interesting two weeks, forcing us to work from home. Nonetheless the past two weeks have already taught me so much and it feels great knowing that I'm helping people better understand their legal rights.

Please consider supporting Equal Justice America, their support is fantastic and much needed.

Week of July 6th

I have been working at La Raza Centro Legals workers' rights program for a little over a month. I've been able to take on more task the more I've learned. Recently I've been talking to many workers who worry about going back to work and not being adequately protected by their employers. Thanks to Equal Justice America's support I am able to help these people with the help of everyone at La Raza. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so they can continue helping others in pursuing public interest work:

Week of July 27th

San Francisco has one of the most robust minimum wage laws in the country. It automatically rises every year and ensures workers do not have to fight every few years for a raise. Unfortunately, this is still not enough for a lot of workers in San Francisco city because the rise in wages can't keep up with



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the rise in housing cost. One way that could be alleviated is through a reinvestment in social housing, like the one proposed by Supervisor Dean Preston. During the pandemic a lot of the people I have interacted with have recently lost their jobs and are worried about how they're going to pay their rent when the moratoriums end. The truth is our tools are limited when it comes to dealing with homelessness and that needs to change. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America so they can continue helping others in pursuing public interest work:

Week of August 10th

During my last weeks at La Raza I got to work with the team on a discrimination case. It was unfortunate, if not surprising, to learn that discrimination cases can take years to be resolved. None the less, it was a great opportunity to help the team with the case. It gave me the chance to learn about a field of law I had no experience in and develop my writing skills. I could not have worked at La Raza without the help of Equal Justice America.