



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Evan (Evie) Zavidow

Law School: UCLA School of Law

Organization: Public Counsel, Community Development Project

Week of June 15th

Today marks the start of my fourth week at Public Counsel. Through my work at the Community Development Project (CDP), I am exposed to various aspects of the field: transactional support, direct legal aid, and a litigation team that fights to protect street vendors and renters in Los Angeles. In every area of the work, CDP attorneys follow the lead of the clients and not only provide legal support, but also participate in grassroots coalitions.

Some examples of CDP's advocacy:

A new report by University of California, Los Angeles - School of Law professor Gary Blasi indicates that 365,000 households are at serious risk of eviction once the moratorium lifts. In a city with no plan, I am grateful to be working with attorneys pushing for housing protection through sponsoring bills like AB 1436.

Public Counsel is active in the LA Street Vendors Campaign, which has called on the City to protect vendors during the pandemic.

Public Counsel has endorsed #PeoplesBudgetLA, which calls for the city's budget to reflect the desires of Angelenos. This means putting resources into housing, healthcare, and education rather than increased policing.

Week of July 6th

Today marks the close of my eighth week at Public Counsel.

The past couple of months have demonstrated the overlapping crises this country faces. We are in the midst of global pandemic, the economic fallout of which will be devastating. Los Angeles lacks hundreds of thousands of units of affordable housing, leading to an unparalleled unhoused population. And the



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Black Lives Matter movement has cast a much-needed light on the ways that these two crises, as well as consistent police brutality, disproportionately impact Black Americans.

In the past couple of weeks, I have been aiding Public Counsel's advocacy. I have had the chance to support with declarations and research for Public Counsel's intervention in the lawsuit Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles (AAGLA) v. City of Los Angeles, which challenges the City's eviction and rent freeze Ordinances. I have submitted public comment in support of a robust Mello Act Ordinance, which fights gentrification and luxury real estate development in Los Angeles' coastal zone. And I have gotten to work with organizers, workers, tenants, small businesses, and nonprofits that are committed to making my hometown more equitable.

Week of July 27th

As I close out my final week at Public Counsel, I am grateful to have gotten the chance to work on such a wide range of legal issues impacting low-income Angelenos. Through the Community Development Project, I have presented to community groups looking to start nonprofits, worked with early child care providers adapting to the evolving public health crisis, conducted legal research on affordable housing development, and continued to support litigators fighting to protect tenants through the City's eviction moratorium.

This Summer has only strengthened my commitment to economic justice and community-led development efforts. I look forward to deepening my knowledge in this field throughout law school and my career.

Week of August 10th

One of the highlights of my work this Summer at Public Counsel was getting acquainted with different coalitions and community-based organizations, such as Healthy LA, SAJE, ACCE, and more. While my Summer Clerkship has officially come to a close, I have continued to follow the work of each of these groups closely.

This Fall, I will enroll in the Public Interest Law and Policy program at University of California, Los Angeles - School of Law in order to further my understanding of how attorneys can support community economic development work.

As L.A. County COVID-19 rates continue to rise, the unemployment has increased to 19% and a major eviction crisis looms. I am grateful for having had the chance to work with attorneys and organizers working to build a more equitable city this Summer. Public Counsel taught me so much about public interest lawyering, community economic development, and the inner workings of transactional and litigation work.

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