



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



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Organization: Farmworkers Legal Assistance Clinic

Update 1: These past three weeks I've been meeting with clients, most of whom are special immigrant juveniles (SIJ). The SIJ path is tough for many of my clients; many have to find a guardian, and then wait years in order to be able to apply for a visa. One of my clients came to the United States when he was 17 and is now an advocate for farmworkers. He is working with @CornellLaw on being able to leave the country in order to present to young students in Mexico about his work. When I asked him about some ideas to raise funds in order to support himself all he wanted to talk about was how much of his advocacy work is collective: all of it. I was impressed by his passion for his colleagues and realized that the same goes for working at my clinic. We do good work here, but we can't do it alone. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America in order to allow students like me to continue helping special immigrant juveniles!

Update 2: The Farmworker's Legal Assistance Clinic at Cornell has been busy this week! We are working on getting in contact with clients who may have FCTA claims in relation to the family separation policy circa 2017. Some of these clients are in other countries now and may not be fully aware of their possible right of recovery from the loss they suffered. Our work is crucial because justice cannot be achieved without being aware of your rights. This summer my work is being supported by Equal Justice America, which is a great organization. Equal Justice America makes it possible for law students to work in legal aid, which is extremely important.

Update 3: The past two weeks have brought some good news to the @CornellLaw Farmworker Legal Assistance Clinic! The Attorney General has issued a decision in *Matter of Cruz-Valdez*, and overruled the *Matter of Castro-Tum*. This is good news for our clients because now immigration judges can choose to administratively close a case after considering several factors, including the likelihood that the respondent will succeed on any petition, application, or other action he or she is pursuing outside of removal proceedings. We have a lot of clients that are just waiting to be eligible for visas in the next three years, but are not allowed to



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apply yet. In the past, they would have to go to Master Calendar hearings in front of the court in the interim, but now there is a chance that we can petition the court to close their case. This work is imperative to our community and I'm so happy to share this news.

Entry 4:

The summer has come to a close, but the clinic is as busy as ever. ICE and DHS have changed their policy about SIJ applicants who have an approved I-360 and are just waiting for their priority date to become current; for many of our clients, that means that their removal proceedings can be dismissed. New students will be ensuring that all our eligible clients' cases are dismissed, as my time at the clinic is almost over. To facilitate the transition, I have been working on compiling information for future students at the clinic to be able to use efficiently. Ensuring the sustainability of the clinic is vital to its longevity. Transfer memos are helpful for future students to quickly get an overview of the case files and the most important details, including upcoming court dates and filing deadlines. If you want to support students like me, please consider donating to Equal Justice America.