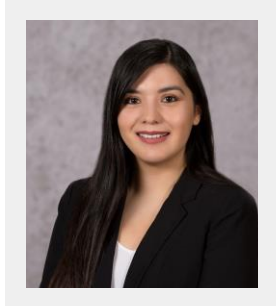




## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Dominique Mejia

**Law School:** DePaul University College of Law

**Organization:** National Immigrant Justice Center

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### Update 1:

I was generously selected as one of this year's Equal Justice America Fellows, which has allowed me to intern with the National Immigrant Justice Center's Asylum Project. I previously worked at NIJC from 2017 to 2019 as a paralegal and then as a Department of Justice Accredited Representative. I also interned with NIJC last summer as well.

This summer I will be continuing my work from previous years, focusing on cases involving unaccompanied immigrant children, such as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases, and gender and gang related claims of asylum.

I am very excited to have been given this opportunity by Equal Justice America and I am looking forward to learning so much from the amazing attorneys at NIJC. As I enter into my final year at DePaul University College of Law, I am hoping to gain as much experience as possible before graduating in May 2022!

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### Update 2:

I have now been at my Equal Justice America Fellow internship with the National Immigrant Justice Center for a month now, and in that month, I have been able to tremendously expand my immigration law knowledge.

This past month I helped prepare a family of five for their Asylum Merits Hearing (which was granted!), drafted, prepared and filed Pre-Hearing motions for three Adjustment of Status cases, which required extensive affidavit and supporting document writing and gathering, and began preparing to represent these three clients in Immigration Court as a Law Student Representative.

With only one month to go in my internship, I hope to gather more of these types of experiences before returning to classes in the fall, and then hopefully practice immigration law after graduation!



### **Update 3:**

With less than 3 weeks to go at my Equal Justice America internship with the National Immigrant Justice Center, things are ramping up as I try to complete all of my assignments before I begin my last year at DePaul University College of Law.

One of those assignments was my representation of two separate clients in their Adjustment of Status Merits Hearings in front of the Chicago Immigration Court. With the support and guidance of my supervisor, Hillary Richardson, I not only prepared and filed the necessary documents and motions for their cases, but I was also able to represent them in-court where they were both granted Legal Permanent Residency status!

This was my first time representing clients in immigration court and the experience was both daunting and exhilarating, but it also marks a big step forward in my immigration law career. I'm excited to see what comes next!

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### **Entry 4:**

My internship with the National Immigrant Justice Center, which I was able to do thanks to Equal Justice America, officially ended yesterday, and it was very bittersweet. On the one hand, I have left an organization and team that have taught me so much this summer and where I also had such wonderful experiences working with clients on a variety of immigration issues. But, on the other hand, I will be entering my last year at DePaul University College of Law, and will hopefully be doing this type of work for the rest of my career.

This summer has been full of ups and downs, with both wins and setbacks, but from every experience and case issue, I learned something new that I will hopefully be able to apply in the future to my own client cases!

Please consider supporting Equal Justice America.