



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



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**Organization:** Mobilization for Justice, NY, NY

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### Update 1:

This past week was my first week at Mobilization for Justice and it has been a very hands-on experience. So far, I have learned about the many practice areas that make up their organization and about guiding standards in custody and guardianship cases. Now I am currently researching case law to waive a fingerprinting requirement for a household member in a guardianship petition and conducting due diligence searches to serve birth fathers to give them notice of an ongoing case. Today, I had the chance to briefly attend two court hearings via zoom and I am excited to participate in more in the upcoming days.

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### Update 2:

These past couple of weeks at Mobilization for Justice have been very interactive. Last Thursday I led our Diversity discussion and picked a topic on how language barriers can affect access to the covid-19 vaccine. Other tasks I have been working on include: due diligence searches, client intakes, and research on the notice requirement for child custody and guardianship proceedings. This week I start conducting live intakes for our hotline on my own, this will be a great learning experience for me and a great way to improve on my communication skills.

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### Update 3:

This past week I started doing live client intakes along with a research and custody petition assignment. I am still learning how to balance time between live client intakes and setting short term goals for my long-term research assignment. The research I have been working on involves looking into one of the exceptions to the notice requirement for a guardianship proceeding, more specifically the abandonment requirement. My research will be helpful in terms of drafting a motion to waive service for a future guardianship proceeding. Today I will be gathering information to help a client in drafting a custody petition.



**Entry 4:**

This past week I finished three assignments. My largest being a guardianship petition. It was bittersweet to finish because this will be the last contact I have with the client, and I have been helping her for a month now. I also completed a research assignment on an ongoing guardianship proceeding where we are representing grandparents who are seeking guardianship of their grandson, whose father is incarcerated, and mother is deceased. I had four main issues to research on: 1) whether a court may order visitation when a parent has not filed for visitation; 2) what are the consequences of not abiding to visitation plan ordered by the court; 3) whether the court can order interstate travel to facilitate visitation when the proposed guardian is making the child available; and 4) and what is a reasonable amount of visitation for an incarcerated parent. My last assignment was finding bereavement and counseling resources for kids who just lost their mother. My experience at Mobilization for Justice has been very hands on and has pushed me out of my comfort zone, I hope to further expand on the skills I strengthened during my time there.