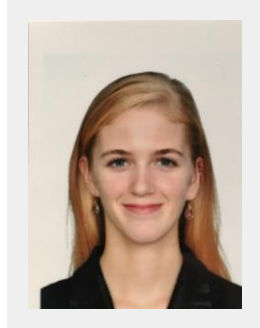




## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Rachel Kassler

**Law School:** Georgetown University Law Center

**Organization:** East Bay Community Law Center,  
Immigration Unit

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### Update 1:

I'm feeling so lucky to have been selected as one of this summer's Equal Justice America Fellows and thrilled to be working with the East Bay Community Law Center's Immigration Unit.

As my third week at EBCLC comes to a close, I'm reflecting on the sheer volume of clients the Immigration Unit serves and the close-knit, supportive team which makes that service possible. Though Immigration Law feels like a vast and complex ocean, I'm beginning to get my sea legs. It's exciting to talk through relief options for clients, dive into new immigration updates, and hear the rest of the team discuss their most recent consultations at case rounds. Already, I've started to dive into an asylum brief, comb through documents to file for a client's Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and am neck deep in research on Immigration-Criminal Law crossover issues. It's exciting to picture how these cases will have progressed by the end of summer!

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### Update 2:

As we head into the holiday weekend and the summer's halfway point, I'm reflecting on human connections. On a team level, East Bay Community Law Center has done an impressive job of ensuring that their units and team members stay connected while everyone works remotely (in Immigration, we've got people on both US coasts and internationally!).

On a client level, I've already learned so much from EBCLC and my team. We've had comprehensive trainings on topics from client-centered interviewing techniques to community care and have been able to put the former into practice in client meetings and consultations.

There's so much more to learn, though, & I can't wait to learn it!

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### Update 3:

This summer at East Bay Community Law Center has just been flying by. With 7 weeks down and only 3 to go, I'm trying to suck up all the insights from the Immigration Unit's supervisors that I can.

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Currently, my two main projects are wrapping up a brief for a client seeking asylum and drafting a memo on federal post-conviction relief. I'm also finishing a client's Special Immigrant Juvenile Status case, working an upcoming DACA renewal, and working through client consultations. EBCLC is an amazing environment, and I couldn't be more grateful to be here!

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## Update 4:

Yesterday was my last day at the East Bay Community Law Center and it was bittersweet. I cannot believe how full my brain is of substantive knowledge, how much more certain I am about the type of legal activities I'd like to do in my career, and how many wonderful people I have to say "see you later" to!

As I wrote out case transfer memos, sent clients goodbye letters, and submitted final work product to my supervisor, a wave of gratitude hit me. I am so thankful that EBCLC took a chance on me. Public interest legal work is definitely where I belong. I'm grateful that my clients trusted me enough to share their stories and let me support their cases. I'm thankful that I got to spend the past few months with such a supportive team of both interns and supervisors. I'm also grateful to Equal Justice America, for helping make this summer happen.

My first legal job could not have been better. Though I'm sad to leave, I look forward to what comes next!

Please consider donating to Equal Justice America, a non-profit supporting public interest law students and lawyers at legal aid programs across the US.