Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:

Name: Merafe Gedewon

Law School: Northeastern University School of Law Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services

Update 1:

This summer, I have the privilege of serving as a legal intern from Northeastern University School of Law at Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic. I will be posting updates on my work throughout the summer!

As a first-generation law student, I was exposed to the realities of immigration law at a young age. After a month of working with HIRC, I have painfully realized how much I didn't know. The complexities of immigration law have been extremely eye-opening and every day, I am learning something completely new. HIRC works on a multitude of immigration cases for individuals seeking refugee and asylum status. I am honored to work alongside my brilliant supervisors who have an abundance of experience and truly care for their clients. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America to ensure that law students, like myself, can continue to make an impact on the communities that can use it the most.

Update 2:

I'm back again with some more updates on my work with Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic! This week, I had the privilege of accompanying my supervisors and our client to court for a hearing regarding her application for asylum. Although the hearing was unexpectedly delayed, the attorneys wasted no time planning our next steps for the new hearing. But first, they tended to our client's well-being. They demonstrated genuine compassion and concern for how our client felt. They were human. Being an advocate is about more than the black letter law-- it is about the interpersonal relationships you build with your colleagues and, most importantly, your clients.

Update 3:

Hi everyone! Just thought I would update you on what I've been doing since my last update. As you know, I am working with the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic as an Equal Justice America Fellow from Northeastern University School of Law.

I have been working on asylum adjustments and drafting affidavits for immigrants applying for asylum/refugee status. Our amazing, resilient clients have trusted us with their stories, and I am so grateful to be a part of the process. We are doing everything in our power to fight for our clients and obtain a favorable outcome.

Entry 4:

Hi everyone! I'm back for my final update! First, I want to thank everyone who was kind enough to donate to the cause. Your donations are used to fund students, like myself, who chose to volunteer their services for amazing causes. I am very appreciative for your unconditional support <3 This summer has filled with the most rewarding experiences. The clients that I have worked with came to us in desperation. They needed someone to advocate for them so that they could do what many of us do without the looming fear of deportation, live in peace and provide for their families. They have trusted us with their stories and their lives. I am so grateful to have worked with the most compassionate and dedicated attorneys here at Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic. It has been a truly humbling experience—one that forced me to come to terms with my own privilege. I hope that everyone has the opportunity to do work that truly speaks to your heart.

Thank you again for the donations and feel free to keep doing so!;)