



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:

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Organization: Youth Represent

Update 1:

During my internship so far, I had the opportunity to assist with housing applications regarding reasonable accommodations and HUD safety transfers. Prior to this assignment, I did not know what housing representation entailed until I began working with clients that experienced living conditions below the standard for safe and clean housing. Working with these clients awoken me to the true complexities of how filling out an application for reasonable accommodation transfer can seem so simple when in reality, it requires intricate details and information in order for the application to be processed in a favorable manner. It was working with clients dealing with these matters was I aware of how unfair and disadvantaged the underprivileged community was especially in a place like NYC.

Update 2:

This week working at my organization I have opportunity to assist a prior convicted youth of obtaining a certificate of relief and helping a person that identifies with the LGBTQI community obtain a name change. Assisting on these two projects this week open my eyes to how little things are major things in a person's life. Submitting a certificate of relief requires the gathering of documents from supervisors and authoritative people in a person's life whom they have connected with after their release from prison or jail. These people are those whom one would rely on for affidavits and recommendations that would be submitted with their application to the court. Submitting a name change is an application as well that requires information about where the person was born and obtaining documents to effectuate that change. To prepare for these two projects, I spent time researching information about the process and how to make sure applications submitted would be likely to have a successful outcome.

Update 3:

This week I had the opportunity to work on drafting letters to news outlets to request that they take down old articles of our clients who were convicted of crimes as juveniles. In order to draft this letter, I did a lot of research about the efforts many news stations have taken across the United States to remove articles about juveniles because of the negative effects it has on the juveniles. Both of the clients that I had written letters for



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were convicted under youthful offender status. Since their conviction and after serving time both clients went on to pursue a career in hopes of leaving their past mistakes behind. One obstacle faced by both clients are when their name is searched in Google or yahoo, information about their convictions and charges are online thus making it difficult for them to obtain employment or be admitted into school. With writing this letter I hope that the news stations will see how damaging their articles could be especially when one was convicted as a youth and is now trying to make a better life for themselves.

Entry 4:

This week marks the last two weeks of my internship. This week I had the opportunity to work with a client who experienced discrimination after being denied a position because of her prior criminal conviction. In order to determine if our office can file a claim for discrimination with the commission for human rights of Connecticut, I researched Connecticut's Fair Chance Act. Specifically, my research focused on the areas of discrimination that the law protected and the process with filing a claim against a potential employer. After performing a research and analysis about this topic, we determined that the client does have a probable claim and are currently getting ready to process a claim with the commission. Also, this week I was able to work on drafting a motion to have a client's juvenile records sealed. Through this motion we are requesting for our client's records to be sealed because his prior attorney never did so after his case in family court was decided that it was eligible to be sealed.