



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



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Law School: SMU Dedman School of Law

Organization: International Rescue Committee

Update 1:

1L year at SMU is complete but the learning continues! As some may know, I am the grateful recipient of the Equal Justice America Summer 2021 Fellowship. Through their support, I am able to work at the International Rescue Committee and intern in their Unaccompanied Minors Program. These first two weeks at IRC have flown by, to say the least!

The work that I have done at IRC has given me a new lens through which to view the immigration process and the intricate laws behind it. As a daughter of immigrants working on asylum cases hits close to home. By beginning to build legal theories, attending client meetings, and developing a better understanding of asylum claims, the importance of this field has never been clearer.

I am very excited to see what the upcoming weeks at IRC will bring!

Update 2:

With the Fourth of July around the corner, it is hard to fully dive into the celebrations without remembering the experience of immigrants who have shaped this nation.

As I work through my client's case at IRC, I think of the many other children who are fleeing persecution and travel to the U.S. seeking asylum. Their journeys are difficult and full of unfathomable obstacles, yet they persist. The U.S. continues to be a beacon of hope around the world. For that reason, the need for diligent advocates, who wish to ensure protection for those fleeing danger, will continue.

As we celebrate independence, I ask that you take a moment to remember those who continue to live in uncertainty but are working for the same freedoms we share today.



Update 3:

One of the most rewarding parts of my work at IRC has been working directly with clients. After weeks of helping build legal theories and drafting declarations, my client had his interview before an asylum official! A decision will not be reached until a few weeks from now. Regardless, I am proud of my work but most importantly, I am proud of my client for getting through this grueling process that forces them to relive their trauma in order to prove that they should remain in the U.S.

Working in Public Service requires one to be aware of the difficulties that come with learning about another's person's trauma. Through my time at IRC I have learned the importance of creating a balance that allows me to take in a client's trauma-ridden story and remain composed in order to be the best advocate I can be.

Entry 4:

This week I wrap up my time at IRC. It's hard to believe it's been almost two months, but I am happy to look back at my time and reflect on all that I have learned. From working on asylum applications to state SIJS cases, I now know that public interest law is for me. I would like to thank the kind people at Equal Justice America for helping make this possible.