

## **Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:**



Name: Raven C Pena

**Law School:** St. Mary's University School of Law **Organization:** Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Galveston Houston St. Francis Cabrini Center

## Update 1:

The past three weeks interning at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's St. Frances Cabrini Center as an Equal Justice America fellow have been great! The Cabrini team has warmly welcomed me. So far, I have assisted on four cases, helping with either Special Juvenile Immigrant, Asylum, and U Visa applications. What I have learned so far is that #immigrationlaw is ever-changing. Yesterday was a big day for that. During my 'welcome' in-person lunch, the team found out Matter of A-B-, 27 I&N Dec. 316 (A.G. 2018) ("A-B- I"), and Matter of A-B-, 28 I&N Dec. 199 (A.G. 2021) ("A-B- II"), were vacated in their entirety. This is a big deal. Now, "[s]urvivors of domestic and gang violence have better odds of getting asylum in the U.S. as the Justice Department reverses controversial rulings from the Trump administration." NPR.

This summer is full of promise. I am excited to see how I can help these survivors, their beneficiaries, and others secure legal status.

NPR Article: https://lnkd.in/e 4DmQC



## Update 2:

The great thing about being a fellow for Equal Justice America is the great work we are able to do and the ability to work in a new city. I reside in #sanantoniotexas, where I attend St. Mary's University School of Law. But, this

summer I'm using my fellowship funds to visit #houstontexas two days out of the week, where I work Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance. My experience has been wonderful. Coming here allows me to consider what life would be like if I moved to Houston after #lawschoollife. A bit about myself, I am a foodie who loves exploring new restaurants wherever I go. Yesterday, I dined at Brasil and enjoyed their 24-hour Short Rib. Wow! It was great. Now, I am back in the office drinking coffee, working on motions, and daydreaming of the next spot I will visit when I return next week. Thank you Equal Justice America for supporting my decision to intern at the Cabrini Center, it is an adventure.

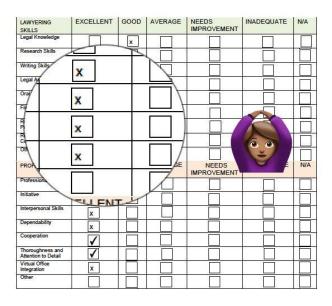
Brasil: https://lnkd.in/e\_CPPpt





**Update 3:** 

My internship at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston St. Francis Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance is also an externship class, so periodically my supervising attorney gives me a formal review. Last Friday, my midterm review was given. It went well, all good or excellent scores. This practical experience, stepping in the shoes of attorneys, is invaluable. It is great that my lifelong dream to become an attorney is being affirmed as the right choice. I'm glad to be a St. Mary's University School of Law student and thankful to be a fellow with Equal Justice America.



## Update 4:

My internship is wrapped up! It has been a great experience interning for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's Cabrini Center. My practical legal experience grew leaps and bounds. Thank you to Equal Justice America for lighting a way and St. Mary's University School of Law for facilitating my dream. Now, to prep for next semester.

My internship is afforded by Equal Justice America. If you support the work I am doing and want to support future interns working in public interest law, donate.

