



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



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**Organization:** Immigrants' Rights Clinic

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### Update 1:

I've been considering what to write for my first EJA Fellow Update for the past few days. The first week of work has been a roller-coaster! I'm learning how immigration cases can turn on such specific details in heartbreaking ways. At the same time, I am loving the opportunity to get a crash course in Evidence as I try to support one client who will be going through a trial soon. Piecing the puzzles of how to authenticate evidence, use it for non-hearsay reasons or to find an exception to the hearsay rule as part of the strategy of the case has been fun. In the coming weeks I'm looking forward to working one-on-one with clients (under supervision, of course!).

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### Update 2:

The last two weeks have been about getting settled into the internship with the Immigrants' Rights Clinic. Listening into a DACA application meeting was a highlight, but my favorite thing has been working on a manual that public defenders can use to help their noncitizen clients avoid negative immigration consequences from criminal proceedings. The law is dynamic on the issue right now and the day after writing a first draft of my sections of the manual, the 7th circuit decided on a case that reshapes everything I had written! It is exciting to be following this area of law so closely and to be figuring it out along with the courts.

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### Update 3:

What a whirlwind! Just as I was completing the draft of the criminal immigration guide, we found out about an urgent reply deadline. Working on the reply brief was a great experience as the issue is so important and I was able to develop my research and writing skills. We're now currently working on drafts of the reply to submit on the deadline.



**Entry 4:**

In my final update, I'm reflecting on the summer as a whole. I noticed that I still enjoy cases that involve contracts and listening in to a hearing was one of my favorite things to do despite the difficult content. I liked having a tight deadline more than a summer long project, which surprised me. I was also happiest when I was talking directly to clients, guiding them through a complicated and sometimes scary process. I'm so grateful I was able to have this opportunity this summer.