



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Megan Acosta

**Law School:** University of Miami School of Law

**Organization:** Legal Services of Greater Miami

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### Update 1:

I began my summer as a law clerk at Legal Services of Greater Miami. This summer I will be helping clients with public benefits suits, such as Social Security, unemployment, and food stamp issues.

EJA “believes that income should not determine outcomes in the US justice system” and so do I. I am looking forward to a summer of helping the Miami community ensure rightful financial stability for both themselves and their families.

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### Update 2:

EJA “believes that income should not determine outcomes in the US justice system” and so do I. As my time at Legal Services of Greater Miami continues, I am more and more exposed to the grave inequalities in our legal system and the distinct nuances that come along each client I work with.

Each client I work with has a unique story, a unique issue, and with that, deserves the right respect, attention, and care to their unique case.

As a EJA Fellow this summer, I am working towards my goal as a public interest lawyer and honing my attorney-client relationship skills.

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### Update 3:

EJA “believes that income should not determine outcomes in the US justice system” and so do I.

As my summer with Legal Services of Greater Miami continues, my experience as a law clerk thus far has exposed me to the grave inequalities in our system, especially regarding (proper) representation.



EJA highlights that “across the country, people who can’t afford legal help are forced to choose to either represent themselves...[o]r forego legal action entirely” and my work this summer underscores this.

I have worked with members of the Miami community who cannot otherwise afford and/or know the complex legal obstacles needed to properly obtain what he/she rightfully deserves, be that with public benefits forms, court pleadings, obtaining proper identification, just to list a few.

My summer as a law clerk and as an EJA Fellow has allowed me to work and learn amongst practicing attorneys dedicated and passionate about direct services and legal aid.

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#### **Entry 4:**

EJA “believes that income should not determine outcomes in the US justice system” and so do I.

As my last week at Legal Services of Greater Miami comes to an end, this statement above continues to be a grave reminder of the issues I faced this summer and as a point of introspection moving forward.

This summer I worked with various clients on issues such as Social Security claims, veteran discharge upgrade claims, food stamps, unemployment, identification cards, just to list off a few, and through these experiences I came face to face with necessity for legal help for people who otherwise could not afford it.

For many, Legal Services of Greater Miami was their last resort for financial stability for them and their families and as a continue my legal education I know I will take with me what I learned as a EJA Fellow in my pursuit in public interest lawyering.