



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Jamie McClintock

Law School: University of Texas School of Law

Organization: Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

Update 1:

This summer I am clerking for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, specifically with their Environmental Justice and Community Development Teams. These teams provide education and legal assistance to community groups to combat systemic inequities in housing, infrastructure, adverse environmental conditions, and health. Right now, I am conducting research on the air pollution permitting process in Texas. I've also had the opportunity to attend a deposition and work on a petition for a client!

My favorite part so far has been learning about all the different cases and projects that the TRLA attorneys are working on. It's a highly collaborative environment where everyone brings different expertise to the table in order to best serve our clients. I can't wait to bring everything I've learned back to my classes as a 2L at The University of Texas School of Law!

Update 2:

As I mentioned before, I am clerking for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid this summer as a student at The University of Texas School of Law. I am continuing my research on the air pollution permitting process in Texas while also getting to learn about housing law! I recently attended a celebration for a tenants' association who received a settlement from management that was implementing unfair policies in violation of housing codes. I also am attending hearings for a housing case where an apartment complex, which still hasn't addressed severe maintenance issues from winter storm Uri, is trying to evict over 20 families.

Update 3:

I am about halfway through my summer with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid! I have learned so much about the air pollution affecting rural Texas. People's livelihoods are destroyed by the dust and chemicals coming from polluting facilities. Imagine not being able to let your kids play in your backyard because of the poor air quality. It's so important that these people have a voice in the air permitting process, and it's been so interesting to see how legal aid can play a part in giving them that voice.



Entry 4:

I am finishing up my summer with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. In a few weeks, I will start my 2L year at The University of Texas School of Law. In the past few weeks, I have been attending tenants association meetings and helping the tenants association draft an agreement with their landlord. Many people in Austin are still living with the damage from the winter storm. I have also been working on a template for community members to use to submit comments on environmental permits. Legal aid organizations are often not able to step in quick enough to help people write comments against pollution permits, so the hope is that this template will help people do that on their own. I have learned so much this summer, and I am excited to be able to continue my research into environmental permitting this fall as a student in UT's environmental clinic!

Equal Justice America funds current law students and recent law graduates to work in legal aid so that everyone, regardless of income, can receive legal help. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America.