



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Robin Chang

**Law School:** Berkeley Law

**Organization:** East Bay Community Law Center

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### Update 1:

The summer has been flying past during my internship at the East Bay Community Law Center's Housing Unit. In the midst of on-going confusion about COVID-19 regulations, the Housing Team is continuously providing unlawful detainer defense and other legal services to East Bay tenants. In my short few weeks, I have been assisting clients on not only their evictions but also rental assistance, habitability, and accommodations for disabled tenants. Housing is essential for every single one of us. EBCLC's Housing Team is committed to preserving tenancies and supporting tenants in their efforts to stay sheltered in these uncertain times. I am thankful to East Bay Community Law Center, the Housing Team, University of California, Berkeley - School of Law, and of course, to Equal Justice America. My internship has been possible in part by Equal Justice America's Legal Services Fellowship.

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### Update 2:

It's already four weeks into my time with the East Bay Community Law Center - Housing Unit! I've been knee deep in client services, providing advice, letters, and information to East Bay renters navigating our housing market. I've also been getting a front row seat to the numerous agencies overseeing and executing the housing landscape. It's been frustrating and confusing at turns, but it helps me get just a glimpse of the kinds of challenges that our clients are facing while trying to stay housed. Under the supervision of the passionate, knowledgeable attorneys in the Housing Team, I've learned so much about tenant protection ordinances and the civil procedure that dictates housing court. I'm very fortunate to be working alongside them and my fellow Housing Interns for the rest of the summer.



### **Update 3:**

Seven weeks into my time with East Bay Community Law Center Housing Unit! I can't believe that it's already nearing the end. This week, I've been working on Motions in Limine and a Stay of Execution. California's eviction moratorium has been extended once more, now to the end of September. When the pandemic legislation first started, the most pressing concern for most was paying rent during COVID-19 and rampant unemployment. Now that we're more than a year into the pandemic, it feels like COVID-19 is just a new normal that tenants must navigate alongside the usual concerns that existed before. Every day I realize the high demands of this work, for both the tenants and the attorneys.

That's why fellowships like mine with Equal Justice America are so critical. EJA supports law students working in legal aid to provide services to low-income communities across the country. As an EJA Fellow I'm being supported while I work with members of my community right here in the East Bay.

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### **Entry 4:**

My time with the East Bay Community Law Center Housing Unit has come to an end. Thank you to everyone at EBCLC, Equal Justice America, and University of California, Berkeley - School of Law for your support this summer. Ten weeks is such a short time, but I've grown immeasurably in my professionalism and legal skills. This summer, I learned how to write a motion, conduct legal research, interpret statutes, and conduct client interviews. All of this was with the focus of client-centered lawyering: allowing a client to set the contours of their case and be a partner in defining their legal remedies.

At the end of my internship, I began to wonder whether clients were able to benefit as much from my efforts as I did. I know that there were folks who avoided evictions and maintained their tenancies because of my work. However, I am also humbled by my interactions with my clients. I know that what is to me a part of my career development is to my clients a lived experience with nuances and difficulties that they handle alongside a full, rich life and history. Legal aid work is a vital part of increasing access to courts and the legal structures that overwhelmingly impact low-income communities, so I strive to remember that the role of a lawyer is to empower rather than to dictate goals and solutions for my clients.

My summer was also made possible in part by Equal Justice America. Please support their mission in helping students to pursue legal aid work today.