



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:

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Law School: UC Hastings

Organization: East Bay Family Defenders

Update 1:

As some of you may know, I was graciously accepted as one of 2021's Equal Justice America Fellows. Currently, I am working with the East Bay Family Defenders - learning about dependency law and holistic representation of parents in dependency cases alongside a fantastic group of advocates.

Week 2 is in the books, and there is a lot to reflect on. As Juneteenth approaches, I've been thinking about what it means to work towards equity and justice. And my limited experience and exposure have taught me that there is an urgent need to address the systemic issues that disproportionately affect the families of color in our communities.

Update 2:

Hey folks, it looks like it's time for another EJA Fellow Update. It has been one month since I began my internship, and I am grateful for everything I have learned. Thus far, I have done plenty of research, drafted a memo on writable issues for a client, and observed multiple hearings ranging from brief motion hearings to contested hearings with testimony. In addition, I have prepared a few closing arguments, filed appeals, and conducted client interviews. These experiences have broadened my understanding of what it takes to be an effective advocate with limited resources.

Thanks to my mentorship and guidance from the organization, I have realized two things about advocacy. First, it is essential to see the client's experience from their perspective. Sometimes, this is not an easy task to undertake, and it requires constant effort. However, in my opinion, as advocates, it is work we all must be willing to do to represent our clients effectively.

Second, I have learned two types of justice 1) outcome justice and 2) process justice. Outcome justice is delivering the result the client wants, something all attorneys wish to provide. But sometimes, things won't go the way we want, and it is important to know that we did right by the client; this is process justice. Process justice is doing all that one can to provide the desired outcome, leaving no stone unturned. While the result may



not be ideal, knowing every effort was made to secure a positive outcome can provide a sense of justice. I believe we all have a duty to at least provide clients with process justice.

Overall, I have learned so much in such a short amount of time. I look forward to continuing on this path and keeping you all in the loop!

Update 3:

I have been enjoying my time with EBFD. I have learned so much through increased client contact. I have had the opportunity to draft motions and more closing arguments. I have recently started a research memo on Bypass.

Entry 4:

Overall, my time with EBFD was wonderful. I was exposed to so many hard-working advocates who work tirelessly to help those in need. I had the opportunity to learn from both supervising attorneys, parent advocates, and clients themselves. I finished my internship learning some techniques for motivational interviewing, feedback on legal writing, and opportunities to investigate legislative intent on discreet issues. I am truly grateful for my experience this summer.