



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



Name: Daniella Nitza Lopez

Law School: Fordham University School of Law

Organization: Lincoln Square Legal Services, Inc.

Update 1:

A few weeks ago, I started my summer internship with Fordham Law's Immigrant Rights Clinic (IRC) and the International Cooperation and Justice Clinic (ICJC). The IRC represents individuals seeking to gain or maintain legal status in the United States and live a life full of opportunity and promise. The ICJC works on hands-on projects in partnership with governmental institutions, NGOs, advocacy organizations, students, and students from partner law schools, in order to expose students to the realities and challenges of international cooperation. I am very grateful to be a summer fellow with Equal Justice America and to have their support for my work this summer.

Update 2:

Last week my supervisor shared that a client had received a notice requesting medical evidence in their application for adjustment of status. This notice was great news because the request for the results of a medical evaluation is one step closer for the client to have their application for permanent residence reviewed. Our next step was to gather information about the approved civil surgeons' requirements and find ones who perform the immigration medical examination at an affordable price near our client's home or workspace for their convenience. I took the lead in conducting this research and created a chart with the information later shared with the client. In addition to the work for this client, I am conducting supplemental research concerning the country conditions in South America to build evidence for a client seeking asylum. I am reviewing country reports on human rights practices from NGO's international organizations, newspapers, periodicals, and various websites.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Update 3:

Since my last update, I have expanded my supplemental research of the country conditions in South America to the identifiers of the client and how these identifiers influence livelihood today. I have looked through articles written in Spanish, watched videos of local news reports, and reviewed annual reports of the country's conditions. Later this week, I plan to produce a final version of the research report for my supervisor to check.

Update 4:

What a great summer! I have taken further steps in pursuing immigration law by working at the Lincoln Square Legal Service, Inc. I have seen the dedication it takes to help underrepresented community members, and I will have the same commitment in my career. I have wrapped up my supplemental research, which was a great preview of the legal analysis I will conduct in law school. In addition to the research on the country report, I worked with my supervisor to draft responses to a questionnaire for a client to receive funds for their medical evaluation.

During my summer employment with Lincoln Square Legal Services, Inc. Immigration Rights Clinic (IRC) and International Cooperation and Justice Clinic (ICJC), I reflected on how certain I am in my current career goal. This summer, I learned that legal research was much more specific and strategic than the research I conducted during undergrad. I gained familiarity with LexisNexis and Westlaw, which was an intimidating process at first. However, working with trial and error, you pick things up quickly. What helped me the most to demystify legal search engines was working with my law school's librarian to search for NGO's international organizations, newspapers, periodicals, and various websites to build evidence for a client seeking asylum. Toward the end of my internship, I had the opportunity to advocate for a client by filling out a fundraiser questionnaire covering the expenses for their medical evaluation.

As a 1L at Fordham School of Law, this experience allowed me to build connections with upper-class law students and the law professors working in the clinic. I look forward to applying the research tips and attorney-client communication skills to my class.

What a great summer! I have taken further steps in pursuing immigration law by working at the Lincoln Square Legal Service, Inc. I have seen the dedication it takes to help underrepresented community members, and I will have the same commitment in my career. I have wrapped up my supplemental research, which was a great preview of the legal analysis I will conduct in law school. In addition to the research on the country report, I was able to work with my supervisor in drafting responses to a questionnaire for a client to receive funds for their medical evaluation.