

*Briefly describe your summer placement. What was your host organization and what kind of work does it do?*

This summer, I worked with the American Bar Association's Immigration Justice Project (IJP) in San Diego. The IJP conducts legal orientation programs for noncitizens in immigration proceedings and recruits and mentors attorneys to take on cases pro bono. In addition to coordinating representation for eligible cases, IJP attorneys take on a limited number of cases. The IJP was launched in 2008 and is being studied by the Georgetown University Law Center's Institute for the Study International Migration (ISIM). The IJP's mission is to promote efficiency as well as justice in the immigration adjudication system.

*Describe your work over the summer. What did you do, who did you help, what documents did you write etc.?*

My primary task this summer was the development and compilation of a manual to be distributed by the IJP to attorneys taking on pro bono cases in San Diego immigration court. The sixty page final product includes a broad overview of the structure of immigration court and of different types of relief, practical advice for dealing with clients and their families, research resources, guidelines about filings, and information about what to expect at different points in the progression of an immigration case. As I researched the manual, I worked closely with the IJP staff attorneys, to whom I had almost constant and unfettered access.

In addition to the manual, my work included a variety of tasks and projects that would change on a weekly basis. I researched country conditions packets to be submitted on behalf of asylum applicants and assisted IJP attorneys with casework, including basic research, gathering supporting documentation, and translation of documents. I also visited immigration court and observed legal orientation program presentations at the detention center. I particularly enjoyed

writing the first IJP newsletter, which included a profile of a staff attorney, an article on an interesting case won by an IJP pro bono attorney, and a write up on a recent change in DHS detention policy.

My work was varied but consistently challenging and engaging. My supervisor, IJP Director Elizabeth Sweet, and all the other staff attorneys were encouraging and enthusiastic. They would often email interesting articles or take time to explain upcoming issues in immigration law. I learned a great deal about immigration practice as well as about IJP staff members' decisions to pursue public interest law.

*Pick at least one particularly memorable moment and describe it in more detail. Why was the moment memorable? Was it because of the person/people you were working with? Was it because of the substance of the problem? Was it because you learned something of importance about you or your own aspirations?*

Among my many surprising and thought provoking experiences this summer, an interview with a client to take her initial deposition remains particularly vivid. The client, a legal permanent resident with American citizen children, became eligible for removal after a change in the law made a crime to which she had pled guilty and served probation over ten years ago grounds for removal. Terrified, confused, and still struggling with the English language, she asked me in a shaking voice if we had to talk about her crime in front of the judge. Her question illustrated more clearly than any amount of statistical analyses the immense value in terms of fairness and efficiency of access to competent legal representation in immigration proceedings. She had an extremely strong case for relief. However, due to her overwhelming fear and her misunderstanding of immigration law, she would have been unlikely to present that case effectively without representation. Her question highlighted for me both the human consequences of seemingly minor changes in immigration adjudication policy and the

importance of recognizing how the confusion and fear often inspired by immigration proceedings affect the administration of law.

*If you have just graduated, what are your plans for next year? If you haven't graduated yet, do you have thoughts on your post-graduation plans?*

I am a rising senior, and after graduation I hope to work for a couple years before attending law school. I appreciate the opportunity the fellowship provided to experience what a career in public interest law may include, and I am increasingly confident in my decision to apply to law school.

*Is there anything that the Liman Program could have done differently/better to help or support you?*

I found the Liman Program, and particularly Ms. Gerwin at Princeton, extremely supportive. I hoped to secure a summer internship relating to immigration detention, so at Ms. Gerwin's urging, I approached Allegra McLeod, a former year long Liman Fellow who gave a presentation at the Liman conference on her work with the IJP. Ms. McLeod was kind enough to talk with me extensively and to advise me about a variety of organizations, including the Immigration Justice Project. She has been a wonderful resource.

My only suggestion would be to develop a more formal advising system to ensure other summer fellows have the same positive experience I did. Overall, however, I think the program is fantastic, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the summer fellowship.