



2019 Brian Lewinsein Youth Justice EJA Fellowship

Equal Justice America (EJA) and the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) are pleased to invite graduating Berkeley Law students to apply for the 2019 Brian Lewinsein Youth Justice EJA Fellowship. The inaugural EJA Fellowship will place the successful applicant with the Youth Defender Clinic (YDC) at EBCLC for a term beginning in Fall 2019 and lasting for two years. The YDC advocates for young people at the intersection of the juvenile justice and education systems in Alameda County by providing legal representation in juvenile delinquency and school discipline proceedings, as well as assisting young people in overcoming barriers to education and employment. Along with EBCLC's Education Advocacy Clinic (EAC) and social work program, the YDC provides holistic, wrap-around legal and social work services to young people and their families.

EBCLC is a non-profit legal services organization and the community-based clinical program for Berkeley Law. EBCLC is committed to increasing access to justice through education and advocacy and by building a culturally diverse workplace, centered on equity and inclusion. With over 70 staff, 150 law students per year, and an \$8 million annual budget, EBCLC is the largest provider of free legal services in Alameda County, providing multimodal, collaborative, and holistic legal advocacy to over 7,000 clients annually and engaging in legislative and policy advocacy and affirmative litigation at the local and state level.

The specific focus of the EJA Fellowship is transition-age youth, defined generally as young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. Although the modern understanding of adolescent brain development has resulted in recent unprecedented reforms in the California juvenile justice system, these reforms have largely overlooked transition-age youth. However, California reform efforts such as AB12, which provides extended support and services for young people who historically would have otherwise "aged out" of the foster care system, illustrate a critical unmet need for an in-depth examination of existing laws and regulations to determine their developmental appropriateness for this population.

The goal of this project is to improve outcomes for transition-age youth either currently involved in or at risk of becoming involved with, either the juvenile justice or criminal justice system in California. On an individual level, the EJA Fellow will represent youth of all ages in juvenile delinquency and school discipline proceedings in Alameda County, California, in an effort to prevent the over-criminalization of youth and pushout from schools.

On a systemic level, the EJA fellow will leverage the fellow's direct representation experience to create, propose, and advocate for broader reforms, both locally and statewide, which directly impact transition-age youth. Such reforms could include efforts such as: (1) increasing the age of majority in juvenile delinquency proceedings from 18 to 21; (2) reducing or eliminating the incarceration of transition-age youth in adult jails and prisons; (3) expanding juvenile procedural safeguards to apply to transition-age youth; and (4) identifying, developing, and implementing programs and services for transition-age youth to help avoid system involvement. Through holistic individual advocacy and policy reform, the EJA Fellow will also directly challenge disparate racial impacts inherent in our current juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. In joining EBCLC YDC, the Fellow may also play a role supervising law students as part of EBCLC's Clinical Program.

Minimum Qualifications

- J.D. degree from Berkeley Law expected in May 2019*
- Demonstrated commitment to working with children and youth
- Demonstrated commitment to social, racial, and disability justice
- Strong interest in policy work
- Excellent written and oral advocacy skills

Preferred Qualifications

- Interest in, knowledge of, and/or experience with, criminal, juvenile delinquency, and/or school discipline proceedings
- Interest in, knowledge of, and/or experience with, legislative advocacy
- Interest in law student supervision and clinical legal education and instruction
- Ability to partner and work effectively with a diverse range of groups, including people of color, homeless people, immigrants, non-English speakers, people with mental disabilities, people experiencing domestic violence, law students, service providers, government employees, community partners, elected officials, and law school faculty

EBCLC is strongly committed to building a culturally diverse workplace centered on equity and providing an inclusive, welcoming, and culturally responsive environment for all members of our staff, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients. To achieve this goal, EBCLC works actively to improve our office climate, systems and structures, communications, and community engagement to create an inclusive and respectful workplace in which differences are acknowledged and valued. We strongly encourage individuals from traditionally underrepresented communities to apply. EBCLC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color,



religious creed, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, prior contact with the criminal justice system, or any other basis prohibited by law.

Interested applicants should submit application materials by email to both fellowships@ebclc.org and info@equaljusticeamerica.org (include "EJA Brian Lewinstein Youth Justice Fellowship" in the subject line) **no later than Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Please combine all materials into a single PDF.** EBCLC will review applications on a rolling basis and may schedule interviews before the closing date. Application materials should include a statement of interest, resume, short writing sample, and a total of two to three professional references and/or letters of reference. The statement of interest should address all of the following topics in no more than three double-spaced, typewritten pages:

- Describe your personal and/or professional interest in working with and for children and youth in general, and how any relevant practical and/or professional experience you may have had in this field qualifies you for this position.
- Describe area(s) of our current systems of juvenile justice and/or criminal justice where you believe the need for reform is most critical and what reform(s) you believe would be most effective in addressing social, racial, and/or disability justice in those area(s).
- Describe an area of policy or legislative advocacy that you either worked on or are familiar as an example of how you might approach that type of advocacy in the context of transition-age youth.

* This Fellowship is intended for recently-graduated Berkeley Law alums. The Fellow must be able to commence work with EBCLC's YDC Unit in Fall 2019. Candidates that graduated Berkeley Law in 2017 or 2018, and that will have spent the interim year(s) completing a judicial clerkship(s), will be considered for the Fall 2019 inaugural fellowship so long as they can commence the Fellowship Term in Fall 2019.

Questions about the Brian Lewinstein EJA Fellowship and the application process should be directed to EBCLC Clinical Director, Seema N. Patel (spatel@ebclc.org) and to Rosa Bay (rbay@ebclc.org), Program Director, EBCLC Education, Defense, and Justice for Youth (EDJY) Practice.