



David A. Clarke School of Law, Immigration and Human Rights Clinic (202) 274- 6428

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America

August 29, 2013

Re: Carolina Ramallo  
EJA Summer Fellowship Final Evaluation

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Please accept this letter as my final evaluation of Equal Justice America (EJA) Summer Fellowship Recipient Carolina Ramallo, who completed her fellowship with the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC-DCSL) during Summer 2013. As this evaluation will attest, Ms. Ramallo did an excellent job of assisting our Clinic with the provision of legal services to non-citizens in removal proceedings.

The mission of the UDC Immigration and Human Rights Clinic is to provide free, high-quality legal representation to indigent non-citizens in removal proceedings before the Immigration Court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the United States Circuit Courts of Appeals. Since its founding in 2010, the UDC Immigration and Human Rights Clinic has focused on representing noncitizens who are detained by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) during the pendency of their removal proceedings. The vast majority of detained noncitizens – more than 90% - are unrepresented in removal proceedings, as they have no right to *pro bono* appointed counsel and do not have the resources to retain a private attorney. Through their supervised representation of noncitizens in removal proceedings, students enrolled in the UDC Immigration and Human Rights Clinic are exposed to the often confusing and bewildering immigration detention and removal process, which requires them to deal with the systemic dysfunction of government agencies, federal courts, and the prison industrial complex.

As the EJA Fellow in the UDC Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, Ms. Ramallo performed a variety of substantial tasks in the Clinic. Ms. Ramallo's primary assignment was the continued representation of a Clinic client whose case Ms. Ramallo worked on as a Clinic student during the Spring 2013 semester. Ms. Ramallo and her partner represented this client in immigration court at her individual hearing in April 2013. The Immigration Judge denied the client relief and the Clinic then filed an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals. Ms. Ramallo was the primary author of the appellate brief. She conducted thorough research and

formulated excellent legal arguments. Ms. Ramallo maintained communication with the client, who is detained at Rappahannock Regional Jail, both via video conference and in person.

In addition to her primary case assignments, Ms. Ramallo worked on several other cases over the summer. The tasks she performed include filing applications for work authorization, completing fee waiver requests, assisting several clients in the preparation of U-Visa applications for victims of crime who cooperate with law enforcement, drafting affidavits, and making contact with outside service providers to collect supporting evidence. Ms. Ramallo was present in the Clinic office every day to field telephone calls, conduct intakes, interpret, and perform administrative tasks for the Clinic at my request. Ms. Ramallo is willing to do whatever is necessary to assist the Clinic and is willing to accept new challenges. She works well independently, yet is also able to work collaboratively with other students. Ms. Ramallo is also able to take direction and constructive criticism and incorporate the feedback given into her work, and has been able to balance her assignments in a competent and professional manner. Ms. Ramallo's passion for the work and the clients she served was evident in every interaction.

In conclusion, Ms. Ramallo has been an asset to the UDC Immigration and Human Rights Clinic this summer, and we are grateful to EJA for funding her as a fellow in our Clinic. Should you require any additional information related to Ms. Ramallo's performance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s Emily Torstveit Ngara

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