

August 29, 2016

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

As a first-generation Hispanic college graduate from the South Texas border region, the opportunity to have served the Rio Grande Valley ("RGV") community has impacted my life tremendously. Serving my community is a humble reminder as to why I decided to pursue a legal education. I had the distinct privilege to work with the Texas Civil Rights Project ("TCRP"), which allowed me to understand the vital meaning of representing our fellow neighbors in need who lack a legal recourse in the face of discrimination.

Thanks to the Equal Justice America Fellowship ("EJA") and TCRP I was able to work with non-profit organizations to assist clients with cases involving discrimination ranging from disabilities to birth certificate rights and beyond. TCRP granted me the opportunity to be a part of social change, not only in the RGV, but throughout the state of Texas.

I deeply enjoyed helping clients with drafting pleadings, researching relevant case law and statutes, and working in concert with other non-profit organizations towards effectuating social change in the RGV. I especially enjoyed being a part of the birth certificate cases, where TCRP was successful in advocating for Texas-born children who had been unfairly denied their birth certificate per the Texas Department of State Health Services' guidelines. Among other things, I am proud to know TCRP and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid led the fight to obtain our clients' constitutional protected right of obtaining their birth certificate.

I am blessed to have been a part of such an important movement and to have answered the call of justice in Texas. I will forever carry the feeling of knowing Texas families are in a better situation thanks to both the EJA and TCRP. This summer has been a unique experience for me, and I certainly plan to pursue a legal career that will lead to social and economic justice, not only in the RGV, but just as importantly, in the great state of Texas.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Uriel Guajardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Uriel Alejandro Guajardo
Texas Southern University – Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Class of 2018