

RYAN HOLT

8/16/2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

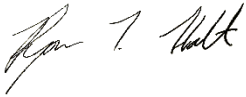
I would like to thank you and Equal Justice America (EJA) for the Legal Services Fellowship grant I was awarded this past summer. The grant made it financially possible for me to work at RAICES, the Refugee and Immigration Center for Legal Education and Services, which was a personal and professional experience that I will value forever. If not for EJA's generous support, my work this summer would not have been possible.

This summer I worked exclusively with RAICES's family detention team, which is dedicated to providing pro bono legal services to the asylum-seeking mothers and children detained in Karnes Residential Center and ultimately ending the United States policy of family detention. The women and children detained at Karnes Residential Center are fleeing violence and cannot live safely in their home countries, so most present themselves at the border and ask for asylum here, in the United States. Upon asking for asylum, which they have a legal right to, they are detained and transferred to one of the family detention centers in the United States. The majority of the women and children are from the Northern Triangle of Central America, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; however, I have worked with and served women from all over the world ranging from Egypt, to Nigeria, all the way to Romania.

The majority of my work revolved around preparing women and children for their credible fear interviews, which is the first step in the asylum process. This preparation is difficult and emotional, the women and children must disclose extremely personal details of the violence and persecution that they have suffered in their home countries, to pass their credible fear interviews. My job was then to help the women and children organize their stories into a chronological order and help them highlight the important parts that may render them eligible for asylum.

The work I did was incredibly gratifying and felt immensely important. Without the generosity of EJA and their fellowship none of it would have been possible. It was a truly career-defining internship and has laid the path for a career dedicated to social justice and public service.

Thank you again,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan T. Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Holt
Wake Forest University School of Law
Class of 2018