

Dear Mr. Ruben

This past Summer 2017 I was a Direct Representation Intern at Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project in Los Angeles. During my time at Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, I helped in the representation of unaccompanied children who were applying for Asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). Being able to help unaccompanied children in their representation was truly a rewarding experience.

The work I did included: helping prepare declarations, writing a brief, and conducting research. I got to talk to clients, and learned about their life's. For instance, how the clients truly wanted to remain in the United States, because if they returned to their native country their lives were at risk because of the lack protection by the police in their native county.

Both clients which I worked with were young adults. The first client was a young 18-year-old girl who was applying for asylum. She was applying for asylum because from the time she was born until she left her native country her father subjected her to physical and emotional harm, which caused her serious mental health issues. The second client, which I worked with was a young 17-year old boy. He was applying for special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS). He was applying for SIJS because his father had abandoned, abused, and neglected him since he was five years old. His father even left home to go live with another woman. After leaving home the father never provided economic or emotional support to him. Therefore, the young boy wanted to apply for SIJS.

Being a Direct Representation Intern at Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project was a truly rewarding experience because it showed me work, which I truly felt great about. It taught me that I want a career in immigration law, where I can get to help the community. Lastly, the internship taught me that immigration law in the non-profit sector work is not easy work, yet it is work,

which I can be passionate about. Therefore, I am grateful that I was a Direct Representation Intern at Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project.

Sincerely,

Jioselin Juarez  
J.D. Candidate 2018  
Western State College of Law



**Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project**  
Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.  
1530 James M. Wood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90015  
(213) 251-3505 Tel. (213) 487-0986 Fax



August 4, 2017

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America

**RE: Jioselin Juarez**

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing this letter to evaluate Jioselin Juarez' Equal Justice America Fellowship with Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project ("Esperanza"). I am the supervising attorney for the Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Minors (LOPC) at Esperanza. I also represent mentally ill detained adult and unaccompanied minors in immigration removal proceedings.

Each year Esperanza receives hundreds of enquiries from students and professionals wanting to volunteer with our organization during the summer. Jioselin was selected from these applicants to work with us due to her education, outstanding experience, and passion for social justice. Jioselin worked under my supervision for approximately ten weeks. I was quickly impressed with Jioselin's ability and passion to work with unaccompanied minors. Based on my experience of working with Jioselin, she is a hard worker, dedicated, compassionate, and truly passionate about immigrant rights.

During her summer internship, Jioselin participated in immigration law trainings provided by Esperanza and other legal providers from the area. Jioselin helped me put together an asylum case for a mentally ill adult that is currently detained in immigration custody. She conducted intensive research on complex immigration issues and accompanied me to court to observe immigration hearings. She also went to the asylum office for a minor's case that she worked on during the summer. Jioselin drafted several declarations and legal forms under my supervision. In sum, Jioselin greatly contributed to our representation program and I have no doubts she will become a superb attorney who will zealously advocate for those in great need.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional queries.

Sincerely,

Heidy A. Pineda  
Supervising Attorney for LOPC  
(213) 251-3547  
hpineda@ccharities.org