

Dear Director Ruben,

I was incredibly excited, after finishing my first year of law school, to start my first legal internship this summer. I am so happy to have ended up working with Greater Boston Legal Services Immigration Unit for the past several weeks. Having this Fellowship experience has been an amazing first step into the world of public interest work. Not only did I improve my legal research and writing skills, but I also was able to meet and help out wonderful clients and act as a support for them.

My supervisor, Nancy Kelly, has been one of the best supervisors I have ever had the experience to work under. She really helped me develop my research skills and become more familiar with asylum case law. She also was extremely helpful in giving me feedback on the motions, affidavits, and country condition reports that I was assigned. Tasks that seemed incredibly intimidating at first turned into tasks that I could blaze through by the end of the summer. However, my clients are the ones that really shined.

Over this past summer, I helped fill out forms, write affidavits, and submit motions for several clients. The clients were always so caring and patient, and they always brought positive energy into the office. Working in asylum, most of these clients have horrible traumatic pasts that serve as the reason they decided to come here. Yet, even with all that they have had to deal with in the past, often still having profound effects on them to this day, they always came in with an energetic smile. It amazed me that all these folks were able to have such shining hope after having gone through so much torment. Each and every one of them were such an inspiration to me. Three clients in particular were amazing to work long-term with.

The first was a young man from Guatemala whose family has been under attack for generations, primarily based on their status as indigenous folks. From when he was only fourteen years old, the client was subjected to severe physical violence solely because he was a part of his family. He came to us and we worked on a Special Immigrant Juvenile status application. After getting his affidavit together, we went to family court so that he could be declared dependent on the court. After a long day, we were successful. His face was filled with absolute joy, especially because he was nervous to go into court. He knows that it is still a long road, but he has so much determination.

The second amazing client was a gay man from Uganda. I met with him over several weeks to put together his affidavit. He always came in with a smile, even while I know he was still worried about his wife and children back home who were being harassed by those in his village who were aware of my client's sexuality. He was always open about his feelings, both positive and negative. However, he was a religious man and that seemed to really keep him going and allowing him to have faith in the future.

The last impactful client was a man who is also from the family that my first client was from. Suffice to say, he was also subjected to severe physical harm. Many of the things he went through were truly heartbreaking. We had to file his asylum application and had an asylum interview for him. It was very hard for him to go through his affidavit again and again to practice, as each time he was reminded of memories he would rather bury. However, he was strong, kept going, and did amazing in his asylum interview. He put his trust in the people here and he was not disappointed.

This past summer was an amazing Fellowship experience. The people and Greater Boston Legal Services were truly amazing and helpful teachers, and the clients shined even

brighter. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to do this work. I am looking forward to exploring more public interest work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Espinoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Espinoza  
Northeastern University School of Law Class of 2019