

August 31, 2016

Via e-mail

Dan Ruben
Executive Director,
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, PA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I was one of Christian Moehrle's two attorney supervisors during her summer 2016 internship at the Bronx Defenders. In my role as a Staff Attorney in the Bronx Defenders Immigration Practice, I primarily advise clients of our Criminal and Family Defense Practices on the immigration consequences of their involvement with the criminal and family courts. I also evaluate those clients for eligibility for immigration benefits and represent them in applying if they are eligible. Additionally, I carry a small removal defense case load.

Over the course of the summer, Christina performed various different tasks to assist me with the various research, writing, and client interaction aspects of my work. On the research and writing end, Christina carried out various different long and short term projects pertaining to the intersection of criminal and immigration law, including whether convictions under certain New York gambling statutes were aggravated felonies and whether a New Jersey conditional dismissal constituted a conviction under the immigration laws. She also researched the procedural aspects of filing an I-601A provisional waiver of inadmissibility for a client who is in removal proceedings, and later drafted a motion to administratively close his removal proceedings to allow him to apply for the waiver. Additionally, Christina researched whether certain New York statutes would be deemed crimes involving moral turpitude after our client was convicted of them following trial. Using that research, Christina then drafted a section of a letter to the sentencing judge outlining the potential immigration consequences of the conviction in support of our client's request for clemency in sentencing.

Christina also worked with several of my clients, doing intake interviews, completing USCIS applications, and drafting letters of support. For example, she accompanied me on several occasions to Bronx Criminal Court to interview Criminal Defense Practice clients and advise them on the immigration consequences of their pending criminal cases. She also spoke on the phone several times with a client's family members to draft letters of support for her husband's marriage-based immigration petition, as well as a full affidavit from the client's mother.

Christina also worked with a client on her naturalization application, first researching whether her criminal record made her deportable and/or ineligible for naturalization, and then helping our client complete the forms and paperwork for her green card renewal and naturalization applications.

And finally, Christina accompanied me to a different client's naturalization interview before USCIS, helping me prepare the client beforehand and taking notes during the interview. We had planned for her to also accompany me to a marriage-based family petition (I-130) interview; however, that interview was canceled.

Overall, the quality of Christina's work was excellent and she was a great asset to our office. Thank you for supporting her fellowship work this summer.

Sincerely,

Sarah Borsody