

Dan Wojciak

August 31, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I had the pleasure of spending my summer fellowship at the University of Michigan Law School's Human Trafficking Clinic. Over the course of the summer I represented ten clients on a variety of issues. The Human Trafficking Clinic focuses on numerous areas of the law, from immigration to public benefits to family law. The majority of my time was spent on immigration law, though my most important case dealt with criminal law.

In the state of Michigan the process for expunging a conviction is known as a "set aside." One of my clients had been certified as a victim of human trafficking, had received the special trafficking T-visa, and later was granted Legal Permanent Residence. This client was lured to the United States under the false promise that she would be working as a model and instead she was confined to a hotel and forced to have sex with an average of eleven to sixteen men every single day. She was eventually able to escape her trafficker and with the help of the clinic was able to put her life back together.

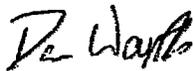
Unfortunately she was convicted of prostitution solicitation as a direct result of her trafficking. In order to help her get her life back on track the clinic applied for a set aside to have that solicitation conviction expunged from her record. The motion had already been filed when I started my fellowship, but I was responsible for attending the hearing and representing my client. I spent the summer familiarizing myself with the case so I could answer and potential questions at the hearing. After a few weeks I knew the case like the back of my hand and was confident I could answer any question that came my way. My client was appearing via telephone, so I worked closely with her in the week leading up to the hearing to make sure she was fully prepared. I attended the hearing with my supervisor but ultimately I alone acted as counsel. I presented the case to the judge and laid out how my client satisfied every one of the statutory requirements for a set aside. The judge eventually granted the motion to set aside my client's conviction.

I was ecstatic and incredibly relieved when the judge granted the motion. My client had worked so hard for so many years to reclaim control of her life, and the conviction on her record was not only an ever present reminder of her trafficking and the horrors she had suffered, but it was also a huge hindrance for her life going forward as she tried to reintegrate with society. She had found an excellent job but was still very worried about what the

conviction on her record might mean for her employment going forward. She could not have been happier when I spoke to her on the phone after the hearing, and that phone call alone is enough to keep me in the field of public interest law for the rest of my career. And her reaction was in no way an aberration. Every one of my clients was incredibly gracious and thankful for the work I was doing and that really helped motivate everything that I did this summer.

I had an incredible experience this summer. I will continue to work at the clinic this upcoming semester, and I feel very lucky that I can continue to represent some of my wonderful clients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Wojciak". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dan Wojciak

**SUELLYN SCARNECCHIA
CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLINIC**

August 31, 2013

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director, Equal Justice America
DELIVERED BY EMAIL

RE: Dan Wojciak Summer Fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am pleased to report on Dan Wojciak's summer fellowship supported by Equal Justice America. Dan spent the summer employed as a student attorney with the Human Trafficking Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School. He successfully completed all assigned work and went beyond his assignments several times to deliver excellent representation to his clients.

Dan received his own caseload made up entirely of victims of human trafficking, as defined by federal anti-trafficking law. He regularly communicated with clients, law enforcement agents, social workers and other attorneys in person, by telephone or through email. He drafted documents related to clients' immigration needs, including sets of documents requiring close attention to detail and process. He also successfully researched and argued a motion to set aside a client's record of conviction, a first for our clinic!

Noticeably, Dan extended himself to better serve his clients. For example, he worked hard with the court to facilitate his client's ability to testify by telephone for the set aside hearing. I was also impressed by his willingness to drive to meet a client new to the U.S. to help her navigate obtaining an airline ticket. Dan never shirked an assignment and, most impressively, has helped me with a case that became busy after the summer students completed their time with the clinic and before the new students joined us for the fall term.

Dan worked closely with three other student attorneys and two supervisors this summer. He was a great team member and learned collaborative practice when students shared groups of clients. He appropriately checked in with his supervisors when needed, but also took the initiative to move his cases forward without waiting for direction. Dan is thoughtful and calm in his approach to new problems.

I want to thank you and your organization for supporting Dan's work this summer. While it gave him an opportunity to learn important lawyering skills, his work truly benefited his clients in ways big and small.

Our work is challenging because of its diverse legal issues and clients characterized by poverty, language barriers and post traumatic anxiety. Dan met those challenges and his EJA fellowship helped us to serve his clients promptly and well.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can provide any further information about Dan or our clinic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suellyn Scarnecchia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Suellyn Scarnecchia

suellyns@umich.edu

734-764-0776