

ProBAR

South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project

Immigrant Children's Assistance Project

San Pedro Plaza
119 W. Van Buren Ave., Ste. 204
Harlingen, Texas 78550
(956) 365-3775 tel
(956) 365-3789 fax

probar@sbcglobal.net
www.americanbar.org/probar

Meredith Linsky
Director

*A project of the American Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, and
American Immigration Lawyers Association.*

September 3, 2013

Ms. Katie Toman, Office Manager

Equal Justice America

Building II, Suite 204

13540 East Boundary Road

Midlothian, VA 23112

Via electronic mail to Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

RE: Elana Rodman Fellowship

Dear Ms. Toman:

It was our great pleasure to have Ms. Elana Rodman as a fellow this summer. Thank you for funding her work with us. During her summer with ProBAR, Elana assisted with various cases in which unaccompanied minors were seeking immigration relief. Elana worked on several Special Immigrant Juvenile cases. She drafted state court pleadings, interviewed clients and drafted affidavits, drafted direct examination questions and helped prepare children for hearings, and attended the hearings with a ProBAR attorney. She also prepared immigration applications for Special Immigrant Juvenile status.

Elana worked on multiple U visa cases. She developed an affidavit for a principal applicant in a case that would benefit the principal as well as the derivative son, and she obtained extensive supporting documents for the case. She met with children and interviewed them in order to determine which kind of relief they were eligible to pursue. She helped them develop their claims. Unfortunately, ProBAR does not have the resources to represent all children who qualify for relief. Accordingly, Elana helped several children prepare pro se asylum cases.

Elana observed ProBAR know-your-rights presentations along with ProBAR attorneys. She conducted screenings at two shelters, and she attended juvenile immigration court dockets and court tour. She also toured an adult detention facility. Along with representatives from ProBAR,

Texas Rural Legal Aid and the Texas Civil Rights Project, she attended a meeting of RGV Equal Voice, a Texas Network that focuses on legal developments related to Border Patrol in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

Elana conducted research on multiple issues such as redress for children who report Border Patrol abuse, and inadmissibility issues regarding forced drug trafficking by children who otherwise qualify for relief. Elana showed initiative and thoughtfulness, and she brought relevant experience to her internship.


During the summer, Elana worked with several different ProBAR attorneys. She assisted attorney Michelle Quintero Millan with a procedural and jurisdictional research project which was very difficult because there was little case law on the issue. Nonetheless, Elana thoroughly researched the issue. Her asylum case law research project was also completed very well, Michelle reports. Elana wrote a summary of the case law on point for the nexus and distinguished between cases that were helpful and not helpful. Michelle found Elana to be a pleasure to work with.

Elana also spent a week in ProBAR's adult office, working under the supervision of ProBAR Director Meredith Linsky. In the adult office, she worked directly with a detained Ethiopian asylum seeker. She prepared his asylum application. Her first draft covered the most salient factors in the claim. Meredith provided feedback which Elana accepted, and Elana amended the application accordingly. Meredith states that Elana was willing to pitch in where needed. She assisted with assembling supporting documents for another asylum applicant. She worked diligently and with a positive attitude, and was a pleasure to have in the office.

Elana also worked with ProBAR attorney Meghan Johnson. Meghan reports that Elana took initiative to research criminal issues as related to a child's immigration case, and that she completed good work.

Again, thank you for funding Elana's work with ProBAR. It was a pleasure to have her in the office, and we wish her the best in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimi Jackson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimi Jackson
Managing Attorney