

August 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My Equal Justice America Fellowship at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in Boston was an amazing experience. Over my thirteen weeks at KIND, I have worked with children between ages seven and seventeen, from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador. They came to the United States alone, often fleeing gang violence, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and harsh working conditions.

As an interpreter, I have been able to work with these children throughout the entire process of obtaining Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), which allows them to apply for permanent residency in the United States. I have worked with children at the beginning of the process, screening their calls, performing intake interviews, going to immigration court with them, and assisting them to enroll in school. I have interpreted for many meetings between children and their pro-bono attorneys, I have written and translated legal documents, and I have helped to develop their SIJS cases. I have assisted nine children in preparing the documents to file in probate court, and I will be attending many of their probate court hearings in September and October. I have also interpreted for two SIJS interviews and I have assisted one young woman in filling out her application for permanent residency.

I feel privileged to have been able to help these young men and women, many of whom are wise beyond their years, having worked outside the home from a very young age in order to support their families. They have lived through things that most teenagers born in the United States cannot even imagine. Working with these children has reaffirmed my desire to work with the low-income Spanish-speaking population as an immigration attorney. It has also allowed me to further develop my communication and advocacy skills in the process of helping attorneys to figure out how best to help these children. My first-year internship at KIND has been an incredibly enriching, fulfilling experience.

Thank you for everything that you have done to make my fellowship at KIND possible.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hasse
Boston University

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August 29, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I write in evaluation of Eliza Schafler, who received an Equal Justice America Summer 2012 fellowship to support her time interning with me at Public Counsel in Los Angeles.

Eliza spent her full summer at Public Counsel focused on complex litigation in various stages of progress, including cases at the nascent stage of conception, two cases on appeal, two cases in the middle of intense settlement negotiations, and cases in the middle of ongoing discovery battles and motion practice. She eagerly took on each project and brought mature insight to her work. She wrote careful, effective, nuanced memoranda; drafted several effective declarations; worked effectively with clients and witnesses in Spanish as well as in English; and participated creatively and fully in case strategy discussions. I especially appreciated her close connection to our client communities and her eagerness to work with witnesses and clients to develop facts in support of the legal arguments she researched.

Eliza was a pleasure to have in the office and a significant asset to our legal team. I miss her work now.

I am deeply grateful to the Equal Justice America program for supporting summer interns' public interest work.

Sincerely,

Catherine Lhamon
Director of Impact Litigation