

Laurie Ball Cooper
Skadden Fellow/Immigration Staff Attorney
Admitted in California, practice limited to federal immigration law

August 23, 2013

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

RE: Internship Evaluation for Elizabeth Hasse

Dear Mr. Ruben,

It is my pleasure to write this letter evaluating Elizabeth Hasse's performance during her internship with the Tahirih Justice Center this summer, between May and August of 2013. The Tahirih Justice Center is a non-profit organization serving immigrant women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence. As a legal intern with our immigration program, Ms. Hasse reported directly to me, her supervising attorney. She worked on numerous cases this summer, and she did truly exceptional work on behalf of our clients.

Ms. Hasse began her internship diving right into preparation of an extremely difficult asylum claim. The case was pending in immigration court and was presented before a judge about one month after Ms. Hasse began working with me. Her research, writing, editing, and strategic assistance were absolutely essential to case preparation. With her assistance, we were able to prevail on our client's claim – a result that was at all points up for grabs. At the same time, Ms. Hasse assisted me in providing additional evidence on a tight timeline in a difficult case under the Violence Against Women Act.

Ms. Hasse also took the lead on some additional cases. She was able to guide one client through preparing her declaration and supporting evidence in an affirmative asylum case, which required intensive client interviews, consolidating complex information, and drafting persuasive narratives. She also guided three clients through the process of applying for lawful permanent residency.

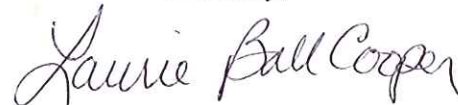
In addition, Ms. Hasse was able to compile and finalize the evidence and legal arguments in a number of T visa cases for survivors of human trafficking. She showed a high level of sophistication in her ability to craft persuasive legal arguments in difficult cases and also organize evidence into coherent narratives, formatted best to provide the adjudicator with every reason to grant our clients' petitions.

The Tahirih Justice Center also had two cases this summer present as appellate cases unexpectedly. Ms. Hasse provided absolutely essential research assistance to my colleagues in preparing those cases, under my supervision. Her research was thorough, efficient, well-presented, and in compliance with extremely demanding timelines. I was thoroughly impressed by her work.

Finally, Ms. Hasse assisted myself and my colleagues with various smaller, but extremely important, applications throughout her internship. Her Spanish language skills are exceptional, her attention to detail indispensable, her legal skills, as detailed above, truly outstanding. In short, we were extremely lucky to have her as a member of our team this summer. I personally relied on her for many, many essential tasks and projects; I was consistently impressed with her work product and thoroughly enjoyed working with her. Our work is extraordinarily difficult and requires many skills because of our clients' extreme trauma. It is not work for which everyone is suited. Ms. Hasse was perfectly suited to this work, and I look forward to seeing where her career brings her.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at laurie@tahirih.org or 571-282-6172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Ball Cooper". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Laurie Ball Cooper