

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

August 17, 2017

Dear Mr. Ruben,

For my Equal Justice America Fellowship this summer I worked at Fordham University School of Law's Immigrant Rights Clinic (IRC). IRC is part of Lincoln Square Legal Services, Inc. which houses all of the clinics Fordham University School of Law offers.

I was able to work under the supervision of Clinical Professor of Law, Gemma Solimene. Broadly, I worked on immigration matters with a range of clients. Their stories were often heart wrenching, and it was invaluable for my development to see my first year legal skills put to use helping those who would not be able to obtain representation were it not for pro bono law services such as those provided at IRC. In addition to corresponding with clients and individuals who were part of the clients' cases, I was able to draft affidavits and do legal research and writing on a variety of topics. Based on my overwhelmingly positive experiences, I plan on doing more work with Fordham's clinics once I take the prerequisite class "Fundamental Lawyering Skills" in the Fall of 2017.

Professor Solimene gave me a lot of personal attention but also respected my autonomy by entrusting me with many responsibilities. I was grateful for her approach, as I feel that I was able to grow through mentoring but also through trying things on my own and learning what worked and did not work, and why. Additionally, there were many moments where I was able to sit with Professor Solimene and discuss big picture issues in the practice of immigration law, including the importance of choosing the exact precise word or framing necessary to get a legally significant point across. This also involved considering the merits of different arguments that would make the most effective argument. I doubt I would have had the same experiences with many other attorneys and am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with her.

Based on my experiences this summer, I will also be taking a course in immigration law in the Fall. I know that when I am learning the academic or theoretical aspects of the law I will be aware of the human face that each story has. This comes from the ability to meet with clients, hear their stories from them, and help provide comfort in times of suffering. I know I will have a much deeper respect for the class because of my summer fellowship. I will also have a better grasp on how much goes into each of the cases I read in preparing them to the point where they are argued and decided. This insight will likely seep into other parts of my legal education as well. I feel fortunate to have had such a positive experience this early in my law school education so that I am able to get even more out of it going forward.

I am grateful to Equal Justice America for helping me financially with the fellowship that allowed me to do the public interest work I am most passionate about while living in New York City. The experiences I had were affirming that I am in the correct field, and that there is work that I find meaningful within it. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,

/s/ Saul Benjamin Schuster

Saul Benjamin Schuster
Fordham University School of Law
J.D. Candidate 2019