

August 31, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, I had the privilege of interning at the Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) in Falls Church, Virginia. LAJC has been advocating for the rights of low-income Virginians since 1967 by providing free legal services in a range of practice areas including housing law, employment law, consumer law, family law, elder law and public benefits. LAJC also has an immigrant advocacy program, based out of the Falls Church office, that assists low-wage immigrant workers combat unjust employment practices and provides immigration counseling and representation to eligible juveniles.

The vast majority of LAJC's clients are low-income, undocumented immigrants who have often endured extreme violence in their home countries and have overcome significant adversity to come to the United States. My employment before law school and my internships during law school had exposed me to various fields of legal services, including employment, consumer and public benefits law. However, until my fellowship at LAJC, I had never had an immersive experience supporting undocumented, monolingual, Spanish-speaking immigrants. My work at LAJC solidified my commitment to a career in legal services and strengthened my accompanying interest in advocating for immigrant communities.

Of the many impactful client interactions I had while at LAJC, one typifies the kind of cases LAJC takes. It was an intake with two undocumented Central American women who had worked for a cleaning company that withheld thousands of dollars in overtime pay over several years. The women complained about their pay and were subsequently fired. During the interview, one client related her story with desperation, explaining that she was the sole breadwinner in her household and had been a reliable company employee for years. After providing the initial information from our intake, LAJC decided to take the case and file a complaint in federal court for violations under the Fair Labor Standards Act. While the case is ongoing, I am glad to have played a small part in helping these women access justice after years of exploitation.

Another meaningful client experience came while working on the asylum application for a young man from Honduras. Our client came from a poor community. He had been orphaned while young, and after living with various relatives, became homeless at the age of 14. He decided at that point to leave Honduras to flee gang violence and pursue a better life in the United States. After a long journey on foot, our client arrived in Texas. He was ultimately transferred to a foster care home in Washington, D.C. where he started attending a G.E.D. program for immigrant youth. For the first time in his life, our client had the opportunity to live in a safe and stable home and attend school. He flourished.

Unfortunately, due to a minor brush with the criminal justice system, our client was put into removal proceedings. I had the opportunity to interview our client and draft his asylum application. Through this process I learned about the personal tragedy and danger he had overcome to arrive in the United States as well as his passion for education and deep appreciation for his life in the United States. My interactions with this client and others consistently demonstrated both the injustice endured by undocumented immigrants as well as the immense resilience of members of this community.

Beyond sharpening my client intake, legal research and writing skills, my experience at LAJC has enabled me to better understand the experience of undocumented immigrants as well as the intersection between immigrant status and poverty. As I pursue a career in civil legal services, I hope to have the opportunity to continue to work with immigrant communities in advocating for greater equality. I am grateful to Equal Justice America for providing opportunities for students like myself who are dedicated to furthering the legal rights of low-income individuals.

Sincerely,

Naomi Iser
Georgetown University Law Center
Class of 2017

August 23, 2016

By e-mail only, to Katie@EqualJusticeAmerica.org

Katie Toman
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Naomi Iser

Dear Ms. Toman,

I write to recommend Naomi Iser, who I had the pleasure of supervising this past summer as a law clerk with our office. While working with us, Naomi worked on the following projects:

- Researched and drafted a section of a brief to the Virginia Court of Appeals, and helped with general editing/bluebooking
- Drafted a federal complaint under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act; drafted discovery requests in the same case; and drafted a settlement agreement in the same case
- Researched and drafted a federal class action complaint under the Fair Credit Reporting Act
- Researched and drafted a letter to a client, advising him that his prior criminal convictions rendered him ineligible for immigration relief
- Researched Virginia state law and advised a community partner about the rights of tenants in a mobile home that is about to shut down, and drafted a state-law FOIA request to a local city in connection with the same case
- Researched due process rights for detained immigrants requesting bond
- Interviewed a detained immigrant via televideo, and drafted his asylum application
- Researched and drafted a memo on the effect of an upcoming national change in immigration policy
- Drafted a demand letter disputing a client's debt collection
- Interviewed and wrote an intake memorandum for two clients with potential overtime and sexual harassment claims
- Met with a client to evaluate eligibility for immigration relief
- Researched and drafted a motion for *cy pres* distribution in a federal consumer class action
- Drafted policy white papers on expanding in-state tuition to different classes of immigrants in Virginia, and drafted a client story in support of an advocacy campaign
- Gave a community presentation in Spanish about workers' rights

As you can see, Naomi performed an extremely wide variety of research and writing tasks, but also client interviewing and even community presentations – in other words, all of the skills necessary to be an effective lawyer at a nonprofit agency such as mine – and carried them

out skillfully, promptly and efficiently, and with an extremely positive attitude. Naomi's work product was generally excellent and I would have no qualms in considering hiring her for a permanent position after she takes the bar exam, were she to apply.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide you with any further information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

//s//

Simon Y. Sandoval-Moshenberg