

August 31, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to thank you for funding my fellowship this summer with the Immigration Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). My fellowship allowed to me work alongside a group of talented and experienced immigration attorneys advocating on behalf of indigent individuals who would otherwise not have access to legal representation. It was an amazing and rewarding experience.

I spent the majority of my time working with unaccompanied minors who had recently arrived from Central America and were seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and asylum in the United States. These children made long and dangerous journeys to the United States, fleeing gang violence, domestic abuse, and poverty in their home countries in the hope of reuniting with loved ones in the Boston area.

The most rewarding part of my summer was getting to work directly with clients. I worked extensively on a case involving a young woman from Central America who had fled to the United States due to severe physical abuse she suffered at her father's hands. I spent many hours interviewing her to build trust and fully understand her story. I drafted several motions on her behalf as well as a detailed affidavit explaining the circumstances that drove her to flee to the United States. These documents would later be used in a state court proceeding as she sought a court order that would allow her to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and safely remain in the United States.

I also had the opportunity to work closely on a case with a teenage boy who had recently arrived from Central America. Initially, he was very timid and unwilling to give us much information as to why he fled his home country. After several sessions with this client, however, I was able to build a rapport with him. He disclosed a painful history of past abuse by his father, enabling us to develop a strong case on his behalf.

Thank you for making my fellowship with the Immigration Unit at GBLS possible. This fellowship provided me with the opportunity to grow professionally and develop valuable legal advocacy skills while providing a much-needed service to clients in need of representation.

Sincerely,

John Travis  
Boston University School of Law