

August 30, 2013

Equal Justice America
Summer 2013 Fellowship Letter
Building II – Suite 204 – 13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben:

I spent this past summer interning with Catholic Charities Milwaukee Legal Services for Immigrants. This organization provides broad based legal services for low-income clients in Milwaukee and the surrounding counties. I started work in late May 2013 and continued with my fellowship until mid-August. This organization interested me for a number of reasons: I am interested in public interest law, I hope to practice in immigration, and I am a Milwaukee native with significant experience working with the Latino community in my home town.

My internship experience was fantastic. First, I was able to develop my legal skills in a wide variety of areas. I managed a caseload of six clients, and assisted supervising attorneys with portions of at least five other cases. My work involved legal research, drafting documents, interviewing clients, and preparing affidavits. I also got to interpret for our clients at Citizenship and Immigration Service interviews, which gave me an invaluable perspective on the nuts and bolts of how our immigration laws play out in practice.

I also got to perform outreach and education work under the supervision of CCMKE attorneys. The attorneys were friendly, supportive, and gave me consistent valuable feedback on every element of my work.

Of all the clients I worked with this summer, the one who stands out the most is a Mexican woman who fled to the United States to escape from domestic violence at the hands of her husband. I met with her a half-dozen times over the summer to prepare an affidavit and gather evidence for an asylum application. I also prepared a lengthy brief to explain the legal elements of her claim. I crafted a cover letter and organized over 200 pages of evidence to send in to the asylum office. My supervising attorney was very enthusiastic about the whole process and told me I gave this woman a level of sustained service that the other attorneys simply would not have been able to provide due to their heavy caseloads. I am eagerly awaiting her asylum interview, and I plan to serve as the interpreter at that meeting. I am so invested in her case now, and this experience gave me a deep sense of satisfaction that I am helping a vulnerable person escape from a truly hopeless situation.

A staff attorney position opened up at CCMKE at the end of the summer, and I was encouraged by my supervising attorney to apply. I am hopeful that my summer fellowship experience will lead to direct full-time employment with this organization, and I can continue to do the work that I loved so much this summer. Thank you very much for the opportunity to do this work, and

know that my EJA fellowship put me on a trajectory for public service work that will define my career.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kevin Layde

Third Year Law Student

Graduation Anticipated December 2013