

October 6, 2017

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to work at Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center, a family law non-profit organization, this past summer. Without Equal Justice America, I would not have had the opportunity to work full-time and I would have missed out on so many valuable experiences.

The vast majority of my time at Levitt & Quinn was spent working directly with clients. I assisted clients with a variety of family law issues, including domestic violence, divorce, custody, visitation, and adoptions. Almost all of the clients that came into our office were low-income, some greatly impoverished, and a vast number were Spanish-speaking only. As a native Spanish-speaker, I quickly became an asset to the team. Being able to communicate with clients directly in Spanish, helped form trust and bonds quickly, which allowed us get the most information possible to best serve our clients' interests. The hands-on experience that I gained from Levitt & Quinn will definitely stay with me throughout my career. My supervising attorneys trusted me to draft trial briefs, declarations, supplemental declarations, and organize exhibits.

Some of my most rewarding work and interactions with clients came from cases involving domestic violence. Most of our domestic violence clients were women who had been abused. There were numerous times when I would go to court with the attorneys and these domestic violence clients to attend restraining order hearings. These were obviously very tension-filled hearings, with the opposing party attending as well, but at the end of these hearings where (usually) restraining orders would be extended to three or five years, clients were given a sense of empowerment. Their relief and thankfulness after such decisions completely

overwhelmed me, because I knew that we had truly done something so amazing, in assuring that our clients remained safe.

The adoption cases were also some of the most heart-wrenching cases I dealt with over the summer. I worked on uncontested and contested adoptions, both of which were so emotional and rewarding beyond belief. These adoption cases truly pulled at the heartstrings because for many of these families, the child or children in question had already seemed like family for years, but thanks to our work, we were able to help our clients make their “family” official. Whether it was a grandmother adopting her granddaughter who had been abandoned by her parents, or an aunt who took in her brother’s children after his imprisonment; all these stories of clients who just wanted the best for these children, truly changed my life and way of thinking.

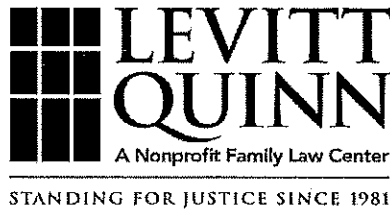
I sincerely believe that I had the most valuable and rewarding summer that I could have possibly experienced coming straight out of my first year of law school, and none of it could have been possible without the support from Equal Justice America.

Sincerely,

Brianna Franco

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Class of 2019



**VIA EMAIL**

October 11, 2017

Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
c/o Katie Toman, Office Manager  
Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Mr. Ruben:

Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center had the privilege this summer of having Brianna Franco as a law clerk. This clerkship was made possible through the fellowship provided by Equal Justice America. By way of introduction, I am a Staff Attorney and Volunteer Coordinator at Levitt & Quinn, and I served as Brianna's direct supervisor.

Levitt & Quinn provides family legal assistance to low income families in Los Angeles including issues of adoption, child support, spousal support, custody, visitation, domestic violence, paternity, and marital dissolution. Brianna's work focused on our Kids Fund and Adoption Project, however she assisted with a wide variety of cases. Brianna conducted client intake, researched legal issues, drafted paperwork, and assisted attorneys at court hearings.

One case Brianna worked on was a case where the child's father was requesting to remove the child from our client's (the mother's) care, where she had lived since birth. The father was falsifying documents and attempting to use the mother's immigration status to gain custody of the child. Brianna drafted paperwork and assisted in preparation for court hearings. Of even greater impact was Brianna's dedication to providing personalized assistance to this client. She called the client on a regular basis and helped the client navigate unfamiliar territory in both Court and on the Internet. Without Brianna's assistance, our staff would not have been able to provide this depth of services to our client.

Brianna's work at Levitt & Quinn this summer served our clients immensely. She was eager to take on any task and learn new areas of law. She showed a dedication to public interest and helping low-income clients. It was a pleasure to have her with us this summer, and we have high hopes for what she will achieve in her legal career.

Sincerely,

Becky Miller, Esq.  
Staff Attorney & Volunteer Coordinator

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**Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center, A Nonprofit Law Firm**

1557 Beverly Boulevard | Los Angeles, CA 90026-5704 | Tel (213) 482-1800 | Fax (213) 482-4225