

8/20/13

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 evaluate my summer fellowship at Ayuda as it will soon conclude. First I would like to express my gratitude for you and Equal Justice America for facilitating these funds for me and making it possible for me to experience working in public interest law without having to worry about finances or having to take out loans in order to meet my financial obligations. Had it not been for your assistance, I would not have been able to obtain this great experience, so I want to make sure you realize how thankful I am for this.

My fellowship at Ayuda was one of the most enriching and rewarding experiences of my life. I was able to learn about immigration law through my clients' cases which made it much more enjoyable. There is one specific client I would like to tell you about. One of my first cases while at Ayuda was a client who qualified for Deferred Action Childhood Arrival. He is a fourteen-year-old child who had received an order for deportation. He had emigrated from Nicaragua to the United States with his mother when he was only three years old and had not been back since. He is an excellent student and cannot wait to be able to work to help his mother with the household expenses. He does not remember anything about his homeland and considers himself an American. Although he speaks to his mother in Spanish at home, his dominant language is English. He was very nervous about having to go back to Nicaragua on his own, to a family he did not know and to a life he could not imagine. He was very grateful to find out that there was an opportunity for him to stay here with his family and friends.

I was very touched by this case. It made me realize how much low-income immigrants need educated individuals on their side. If organizations such as Ayuda did not exist, my client would not have been able to afford an attorney and he would have had to go back to Nicaragua leaving his mother in the United States. I feel an obligation to make sure he and others in his situation are well-represented and do not have to face unequal treatment. I will continue to strive to be a great attorney in order to be able to serve them to the best of my abilities.

I would like to express my gratitude once again and encourage you to continue to provide this fellowship to other law students so that they are also able to pursue public interest internships while having some financial assistance.

Sincerely,

Lillyana Daza Jaller
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2015
American University Washington College of Law