

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

Re: M. Laura Garcia

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This past summer we were fortunate to have M. Laura Garcia as a student intern in our Illinois Migrant Legal Assistance Program ("IMLAP"). IMLAP provides free civil legal services to migrant and seasonal agricultural workers across the state of Illinois on legal issues ranging from employment and public benefits to housing and immigration.

Laura was one of the finest student interns we've ever had on staff. She is thoughtful, dedicated, and steadfast in her advocacy. She interned out of our central office in Chicago, but traveled the full state doing outreach at migrant labor camps and in communities where we hold community legal education events. Laura was a central part of our team and quickly gained the trust of staff in doing intakes from clients with highly complicated legal problems. Her research skills are highly refined and her ability to spot several legal issues at once allowed us to provide higher quality services to our clients.

Due to Laura's skills as a law student intern, she was given many of the most challenging cases including working on foreign guest worker issues under the H2A program; putting together immigration applications for victims of severe crimes and human trafficking; and complex wage and hour cases. She was also instrumental in reaching out to and establishing new contacts with community organizations across the state, allowing us to leverage limited resources to extend our capacity.

In over a decade of doing this work, I have only met a handful of students who have the commitment and dedication to working with this particular underserved population of migrant farmworkers. The isolation and poverty endured by these workers often times makes it nearly impossible to establish a trusting relationship where workers are able to fully confide in their legal representatives. Laura has a unique skillset that allows her to reach workers and help others become better advocates, and I have the utmost respect for her. She is truly the embodiment of what civil legal services is meant to be.

Should you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 312-229-6352 or mkeberlein@lafchicago.org.

Very truly yours,



Miguel C. Keberlein
Director
Immigrants and Workers' Rights Practice Group
Client Support Services Unit