

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I had the pleasure of spending ten weeks at the Community Development Project ("CDP") of the Urban Justice Center. I was able to do so with the help of Equal Justice America. Within CDP, I interned in the Workers' Rights Project. As a workers' rights intern, I helped advocate for low-wage immigrant workers with their employment claims, as well as affirmative immigration applications for those who had experienced employment crimes and abuses that qualified them for such relief.

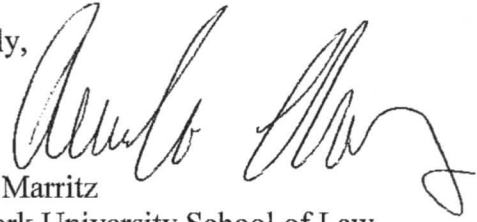
During my internship, I saw firsthand the extent of wage theft from low-wage immigrants in New York. Employers regularly exploit labor in fields from construction, to domestic work, to restaurant work. Non-payment and underpayment ranges from a few hundred dollars, which to many can mean the difference of food on the table for their family, to tens of thousands of dollars. As part of this work, I did intakes at legal clinics at community based organizations, had follow up meetings with clients, calculated damages owed, wrote demand letters to employers, and analyzed claims for further litigation. I saw just how difficult it can be to collect money owed, even after the wrong has been proved in court, due to employers who hire people for work without actually having any money to pay in the first place and other employers who move the money they do have around so as to claim they do not have the funds to satisfy a judgment against them.

Many of the clients coming through CDP's doors have the added insecurity of being without proper immigration documentation, many times as a result of having been trafficked by an employer. All the clients whose trafficking or immigrant crime visa applications I worked on were women. Some had been exploited for multiple decades before being able to escape their trafficking situation. One case hit me particularly hard. The client is a woman just six months younger than myself. After graduating from university in her home country, she was unable to find a job, much less one that would suffice to support herself, her disabled mother, and her young sister. Desperate to find work, she took a position working for a powerful family in another country despite knowing very little about the job. In the position, she was exploited terribly and made to fear making any kind of complaint or consideration of leaving. She was

brought to the United States, where the terrible treatment and isolation continued, until she was eventually able to escape. Along with my supervisor, I had the privilege of hearing her story and using my training to help make sure her affidavit submitted would support her application for a trafficking visa as best it could. A good affidavit from a client in this position can change their whole life, and in a few months time I hope to hear that the affidavit has done just that for this client.

I am now more committed than ever to a public interest career providing direct services to low-income immigrants, and am so appreciative for having had this experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Amelia Marritz', written in dark ink.

Amelia Marritz  
New York University School of Law  
J.D. Candidate, 2016