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September 9, 2015

Equal Justice America

c/o Dan Ruben

Dan@equaljusticeamerica.org

Re: Viviana Bonilla Lopez

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Viviana Bonilla Lopez worked as a summer law intern for MFY Legal Services from June 1 to August 7, 2015. Viviana worked in MFY's Mental Health Law Project (MHLP). I was acting as Interim Supervising Attorney and had primary responsibility for supervising Viviana. She was a fantastic addition to the project. Viviana was enthusiastic about our work and our clients and is obviously committed to the community we serve. She asked good questions and was genuinely interested in the cases she worked on.

Viviana's internship involved a substantial amount of client contact. She answered MHLP's intake line several times during her internship, which involved gathering initial demographic information and factual background about the person's legal issue. MHLP is a busy general practice, so Viviana interacted with a diverse group of people with mental illness on legal issues primarily relating to housing and public benefits. Where possible and under the supervision of our attorneys, Viviana was responsible for the investigation and initial handling of the case, which included assessing the legal merits, giving advice, and offering some advocacy assistance to her clients.

Viviana also completed several research and writing assignments in support of cases being currently handled by MHLP attorneys. She researched the question of whether smoking in one's apartment can constitute a nuisance and lead to a person's eviction, and wrote a memo about the requirements for a U visa and the possible obstacles mental illness could raise in the application process. She assisted with an Appeals Council memo for a client who was denied Supplemental Security Income, and worked on a Medicaid fact sheet. Viviana is a very sharp and smart researcher. She was able to grasp the essence of questions and quickly track down the most relevant answers.

Thank you for making Viviana's internship possible. If MFY can provide any more information about Viviana or her internship, please do not hesitate to contact me at (212) 417-3736.

Yours truly,

Dinah Luck

Senior Staff Attorney