August 27, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer, I interned with the Asian Outreach Unit (AOU) of Greater Boston Legal Services, a general practice unit servicing the Asian immigrant community. This internship helped me understand and help address the many legal needs and issues facing this community. I learned much from AOU's approach to providing legal services, which included partnering with community organizations and assisting clients' legal problems comprehensively, with cultural and linguistic sensitivity. I appreciated being able to take part in case review with the entire unit and being given the opportunity to apply my Vietnamese language skills to directly engage with clients through weekly intake.

I assisted supervising attorneys in the following ways: by written and verbal correspondence with clients and service providers such as the Department of Transitional Assistance, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Criminal Justice Information Services, writing motions, conducting legal research, writing affidavits, filling out forms, translating supporting documents from Vietnamese to English, observing attorneys in the courtroom, running errands to the court house, and transcribing depositions. I gained exposure to and was able to assist in a variety of cases in many areas of law, including immigration, tax, family, welfare, employment and housing. I mostly worked on employment, immigration, and family law cases.

For one major employment case, I transcribed the depositions of an employer who refused to pay their employees, seeking out information from these depositions that directly implicated this employer of bad faith conduct regarding depriving her workers of their wages and manipulating them into continuing working for her daycare center. I also drafted a motion for payment of administrative expense, which, if granted, may allow workers to get back some of their unpaid wages.

One major immigration case I worked on involved assisting a client who came to the United States through a fiancée visa and was physically, sexually and verbally abused by her husband. After obtaining VAWA status, she wanted to adjust to permanent status but must first explain her criminal history, which existed because her abuser used the legal system against her to charge her of assault and battery. For this client's case, I wrote her affidavit to explain her criminal history in support of her application for legal permanent status.

One major family law case I worked on involved a client who suffered sexual and physical abuse by her husband, and who is currently in the middle of the divorce process. I

attended her preliminary court hearing and drafted a request for admissions. For the request for admissions, I spoke with the client several times on the phone, confirming and asking her for more information regarding the incidents of abuse her husband inflicted upon her and her children.

I feel so grateful to have worked with AOU, a general practice unit that allowed me to gain the exposure to many different fields of law. I enjoyed the variety of cases I worked on, and became interested in areas of law I never before considered, such as I am also glad that I got the chance to work with every attorney in the unit. In doing so, I was able to observe the different ways each attorney worked, and I gained a sense of the different ways to build relationships with and advocate for clients.

This internship truly was one of the most rewarding internships I have ever had. This was largely due to the welcoming and kind supervising attorneys and interns, the people I worked with and the organization itself, but also due to the nature of the work and the fact that I was able to use my language and legal skills to assist the Asian immigrant community.

In 1975, my mother and father fled to the United States from Vietnam when they were 18 and 21, respectively. Sometimes, they would tell me about the difficulties they endured, in learning a new language and trying to assimilate and survive in a new society. In a way, they were able to transition better into their new life because they were younger, able to learn and become fluent in English and were quicker to adapt than their own parents. Nevertheless, they were old enough to hold on to Vietnamese history, cultural traditions and values, which they shared with my siblings and me. They imparted on us an appreciation and compassion for the immigrant experience, which I carry with me today. Throughout this internship, I feel not only empowered by putting my legal education to use, but also reinvigorated in my sense of purpose in choosing a legal career.

Thank you for supporting me this summer and helping me gain public interest experience with the Asian Outreach Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. I thoroughly valued my experience interning with this organization. My experiences here strengthened me resolve to make public interest, specifically catered towards addressing the legal needs of the Asian immigrant community, part of my career.

Sincerely,

Namgiao Do Boston University School of Law, Class of 2014



August 27, 2012

SENT BY EMAIL TO: katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

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

RE: Nam-Giao Do Evaluation

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Nam-Giao Do was a legal intern in the Asian Outreach Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services for ten weeks, from May 29 to August 3, 2012. The Asian Outreach Unit provides free legal services to Asian immigrants in the areas of immigration, family, employment, welfare, and housing law. I am the managing attorney of the Asian Outreach Unit, and I was Nam-Giao's primary supervisor. She also worked with two other attorneys and a paralegal. Nam-Giao was an outstanding legal intern.

During her internship, Nam-Giao performed a variety of job duties. She conducted weekly community based intake interviews at a Vietnamese Community Center in Dorchester, a neighborhood of Boston. She performed a substantial amount of legal research in the areas of tax, immigration, bankruptcy, and family law. Nam-Giao served scores of individual clients. She drafted an affidavit in support of a VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) petition, and a motion for payment of administrative expenses for unpaid wages in a bankruptcy case.

Nam-Giao is a hard worker and performed all assignments, big and small, with a high level of professionalism. She has strong legal research and writing skills. She did a thorough job researching a recent Supreme Court case which addressed the issue of when an immigrant is deportable for tax code violations, and wrote a clear and concise summary of the case holding and significance. In addition, she drafted an article to share this information with members of our client communities. Nam-Giao's research was thorough, and her writing is well organized and clear. Nam-Giao was diligent in her performance of her duties, whether the advocacy needed was informal negotiations with the welfare department, transcribing a hearing tape, or drafting a Bankruptcy Court motion.

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Nam-Giao was assigned to conduct weekly intake interviews at a Vietnamese Community Center, which was a challenging assignment for her. She worried that she would not be able to adequately communicate with her clients, or that she would not be able to obtain all the relevant information needed. As her supervisor, I appreciated the seriousness with which Nam-Giao approached her intake duties. Conducting a good intake requires very good communication skills especially because many of our clients come to us in crisis and may be reluctant to share details of their lives with a student. Nam-Giao was well prepared for her intake interviews, and she was able to develop a strong rapport with her clients. Her intake memos included the most relevant facts and identified key legal issues.

Thank you very much for EJA's funding which enabled Nam-Giao to work at Greater Boston Legal Services this summer. Nam-Giao was productive member of the Asian Outreach Unit, and she was a pleasure to work with. I would welcome the opportunity to work with her again. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 617-603-1720, or cmark@gbls.org.

Very truly yours,

/s/Cynthia Mark

Cynthia Mark Managing Attorney Asian Outreach Unit