

August 26, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I would first like to thank you and Equal Justice America for funding my summer internship. With the support of the Equal Justice America fellowship, I was able to work at Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services. I have not only gained valuable practical experience, but my work this summer has also reinforced my commitment to public interest law.

As a legal intern at Catholic Charities, I was able to interact with clients daily. This was truly the most important and enjoyable part of my experience. Often clients just want someone who will listen to them, not just provide legal services. I have learned that building a connection with a client that allows them to feel secure and alleviates some of their anxiety is a crucial part of legal representation.

I had the honor of assisting clients in various immigration matters. I was able to work on several U visas this summer, and I learned not only a lot about the process, but also a lot about how I wanted to interact with clients. A U visa is available to immigrants who are victims of crimes in the United States. My clients this summer allowed me to assist them and listen to their stories with care and attention, even though their stories are often very difficult to share with anyone. I sincerely believe that a lawyer can never forget to see their clients as human beings. I was fortunate enough to have a supervising attorney who allowed me to spend as much time as I needed with clients when drafting their declarations. The clients that I saw this summer were mainly Spanish-speaking; I was grateful that being bilingual I could communicate with them effectively and gain their trust.

Catholic Charities provides immigration legal services exclusively, and I am still amazed how different each day is and how each client is incredibly unique. My summer at Catholic Charities would not have been possible without the financial support of Equal Justice America. I am grateful for your support, and I look forward to beginning my career in the public interest field.

Sincerely,

Patricia Muñoz

American University
Washington College of Law