

April 26, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

For the past few months, Equal Justice America has enabled me to work for a non-profit domestic violence organization, Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, through the Spring Fellowship program. The funding that Equal Justice America provided me this semester allowed me to commit over 120 hours to Sanctuary for Families, and for this I am so grateful.

Sanctuary for Families is the largest non-profit organization in New York that is dedicated exclusively to serving victims of domestic violence and their children. Sanctuary for Families provides a range of services to victims of domestic violence, including clinical services, legal services, shelter, children's services, and economic stability services. In addition to these holistic services, Sanctuary also works to end domestic violence through outreach, education, and advocacy.

I have interned at Sanctuary for Families for three semesters now. My internship has been in the Matrimonial Project, under the supervision of the Director of the Matrimonial and Economic Justice Project, Amanda Norejko. Throughout my time here, I have developed a close relationship with my supervisor, the staff, and the clients that I had the opportunity to work with. My responsibilities have increased throughout my time here, and currently include conducting intakes, interviewing clients, drafting motion papers, drafting appellate briefs, filing papers at court, attending trials, helping clients find employment, and acting as a translator. I enjoy having these varied responsibilities, as I feel that I am really contributing to an organization that does so much to help domestic violence victims.

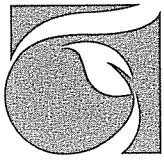
In particular, I have developed a strong relationship with a client who I began working with in September 2009. She is an immigrant from Pakistan, and a victim of domestic violence. She was able to contact Sanctuary for Families after fleeing her abusive husband's home and seeking refuge in a shelter. At Sanctuary for Families, we were able to provide her with a number of different services, including helping her with her green card process, finding her employment and shelter, aiding her in navigating the criminal justice system with her complaint against her husband, and helping her file her divorce papers. My role at Sanctuary for Families was to help her with her divorce. I conducted the intake, interviewed her in person, drafted her papers, and filed the papers in court. During this time, I developed a strong personal relationship with the client. She would call me at home and we would talk about the case, her employment situation, and her living situation. We have developed a close bond, and I feel personally

invested in her divorce. Thus even though my time at Sanctuary has come to an end, and I am graduating law school in a few weeks, I know that I will keep in touch with the client and remain updated about her case.

My experiences at Sanctuary for Family have been the most important of my professional career. While I came into law school knowing I wanted to practice in family law, I know now that I want to work as an advocate against domestic violence. This is an area of law that I am very passionate about, interested in, and enjoy doing on a daily basis. Equal Justice America allowed me to continue my work at Sanctuary for Families, which otherwise would not have been possible. With today's economy, the pressures of law school, and piling student loans, every little bit helps. So I wanted to say thank you to you, Mr. Ruben, and everyone else at Equal Justice America, for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Saira Khan
Brooklyn



Sanctuary for Families

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www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

April 28, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am delighted to provide this letter evaluating the Equal Justice America fellowship of Saira Khan. I am the Matrimonial and Economic Justice Project Director at Sanctuary for Families, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services. Sanctuary for Families provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence. I served as Saira's direct supervisor during her fellowship from January through April 2010.

Sanctuary for Families is a fast-paced work environment where professionals take on huge caseloads on behalf of clients with multiple legal needs. Because our clients are domestic violence victims, we often operate in a state of emergency, where the stakes are extremely high. Working in this environment is therefore a challenge, requiring an understanding of the complex nature of domestic violence and the ability to work directly with clients in difficult situations. Saira rose to this challenge and performed extremely well.

Saira was a hard working, valuable member of our team this past semester. During her fellowship, Saira conducted client intakes, both in English and in Urdu; drafted motions, including relief such as child and spousal support, extension of time for service and alternate means of service, contempt of court for nonpayment of a judgment, and modification of the terms of a divorce judgment; drafted pleadings and various other divorce forms; researched family law issues and prepared memoranda of law; and drafted a proposed settlement in a complex matrimonial action. Among the issues on which Saira conducted research were grandparent visitation rights, de facto parent statutes and case law in other jurisdictions, conflict of law issues with regard to divorce cases simultaneously pending in foreign jurisdictions and New York, enforcement of money judgments through income deduction orders, and what must be proved to establish divorce grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment in a long-term marriage under New York law.

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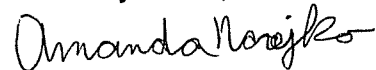
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Saira performed these varied and demanding tasks effectively and efficiently. She was versatile and able to multitask and prioritize appropriately when given multiple assignments. She was able to work well independently, enabling us to better serve our clients during her Equal Justice America fellowship. Saira showed maturity and leadership, working collaboratively with other staff and interns on various projects. She made good observations and analyzed issues well.

Saira was a wonderful asset to the Matrimonial and Economic Justice Project, and I am sad to see her go. Thank you so much for awarding her this fellowship to fund her work with our organization. We hope that you will consider funding fellows to work with us in the future.

Should you need any further information about Saira's fellowship with Sanctuary for Families, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Norejko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Norejko

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