

Terra Judge, Legal Intern at Safe Horizon and EJA Summer Fellow

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Safe Horizon's mission is to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. Established in 2001, Safe Horizon's Anti-Trafficking Program (ATP) is one of the largest service providers for survivors of human trafficking in the United States. ATP assists women, men and children who have been compelled to work against their will as domestic servants and in industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, food service, beauty salons, and the commercial sex industry. Since its founding, ATP has assisted over 450 cases within and outside the New York metropolitan area, supporting survivors of human trafficking from over 60 countries.

The ATP designs and implements services that are victim centered by providing intensive case management as well as legal advocacy to survivors of trafficking. The program has proven its capability and effectiveness in delivering a continuum of direct services to a large and varied population of trafficked persons. It also provides national training and community outreach services.

As the legal intern for ATP's staff attorney, Shonnie Ball, I was able to participate in a variety of legal research projects, anti-trafficking trainings, and direct client services. These activities included writing a response to a notice of intent to deny issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; calculating back wages for a survivor of domestic servitude; examining the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and its reauthorizations; participating in webinars with other NGOs across the U.S.; attending anti-trafficking trainings put on by the Department of Homeland Security; visiting the U.S. Mission to the

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United Nations for the annual Trafficking in Persons Report launch; and working on T Visa applications for a variety of trafficking survivors.

By far the most rewarding aspect of the position was the chance to help survivors of trafficking in such a real, direct way. I was able to work with about seven different clients during my ten-week internship, and filed multiple applications for T Visas – the form of immigration relief available specifically to trafficking survivors. One of my favorite moments was finishing up an application for a client I had met with about four times over the course of my internship. She had been a victim of sex trafficking, forced into prostitution for many years here in New York City. I was at first so nervous to meet with her, because I wanted to make her feel as comfortable as I could, and I also had to conduct all of our meetings in Spanish, which is not my first language. However, as soon as we began to talk, I realized that this interaction was not unlike any other in my life – we were just two people chatting with each other, with the only difference being that I could offer her crucial legal assistance. We laughed about my Spanish, and her new baby girl who always attended our meetings as well. To see her happy here in the United States and beginning a new life with her child made me realize how crucial this legal work is for these clients. Without advocacy and immigration relief, many of these survivors would be forced to return to their home countries, putting themselves and their family members – including their children – in danger of retaliation and harm by their traffickers. I was able to finish her T Visa application by the end of my internship, and I'm looking forward to hearing if it was approved.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to work in a field that I love, and that I hope will soon be my career,

Sincerely,

Terra Judge  
NYU Law J.D. Candidate, 2012



moving victims of violence from crisis to confidence

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September 26, 2011

Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
EJA Fellowships

Re: **JUDGE, Terra**

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing on behalf of Terra Judge and the exemplary work she did with the Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Program this past summer. Ms. Judge was one of the best interns that I have worked with to date.

Ms. Judge's primary assignment was to work with victims of human trafficking in preparing their T Visa applications. This preparation is extremely time consuming and sensitive due to the level of trauma that the majority of our clients have related to their victimization. Ms. Judge assisted me on five cases working to complete these visa applications for clients. In each case, Ms. Judge prepared extensively to ensure that she would be ready to offer trauma-informed, sensitive assistance to our clients. She was extremely helpful to me in completing many of the visas that she started this summer, a rare feat! Due to the complexity of the cases, many interns in the past have not been able to advance as far in the application process as she did.

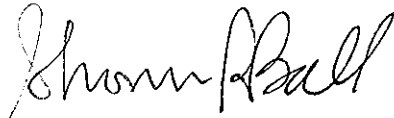
Ms. Judge also took time before and during her fellowship with us to work on her Spanish language skills to ensure that she could communicate appropriately with clients. She wrote documents in Spanish and practiced at length in advance of meetings to make sure that she was ready to work with the client. I was impressed by the initiative that she showed in this area!

Ms. Judge also participated in policy research. Our office works coordinates with two networks to advocate for the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Ms. Judge did background research and had thoughtful questions and commentary that were helpful in our analysis of policy positions.

Finally, I would like to thank Equal Justice America for providing this funding so that exceptional students like Ms. Judge are able to work with organizations like Safe Horizon. This assistance allows us to provide more comprehensive, stabilizing services to victims of human trafficking.

Please feel free to contact me with further questions at (718) 943-8647.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shonnie R. Ball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shonnie" and last name "Ball" clearly distinguishable.

Shonnie R. Ball

Staff Attorney

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