

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

April 16, 2014

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben,

My experience this semester at the PAIR Project in Boston was the best internship I have had thus far while in attendance at Suffolk Law School. I worked at PAIR Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-5pm. I would perform various tasks throughout the day, ranging from legal research to performing intakes on the phone with potential clients. Being able to converse and assist clients is something that you cannot learn in school. Learning skills to deal with clients is something that one must learn through practice. I had sufficient practice with client intakes at PAIR. I cannot stress how truly remarkable this experience has been. I have learned so much about asylum and detention for immigrants.

Working with Anita on mainly asylum cases has truly broadened my knowledge of various countries and the conditions which certain people have endured. Anita is a pro bono attorney at PAIR who primarily works with asylees. For example, I performed an intake with a client from Cameroon who is homosexual and was harassed at home. He suffered discrimination and physical violence from private and public actors. It was disheartening hearing his story and the harm he faced because of his sexual orientation. Moreover, I performed another intake with a citizen from Zimbabwe who experienced terrible domestic violence from her husband. Another intake was with a man from Syria who worked for a TV station and was threatened on several occasions by the government. There are very different issues that clients have experienced. It is very heartwarming to know that I played a part in helping the person to obtain help. Even though I am not legal counsel, I know that just being able to sit and listen to their story really made them happy.

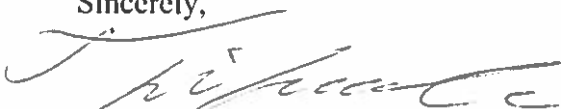
In addition, I was given the opportunity to fill out various forms for clients. I sat with clients to fill out employment authorization forms as well as a form for temporary protection status. Furthermore, I helped with an application for a stay of removal. This application was to ask the government not to remove a particular client from the country due to extenuating health circumstances. She would not receive the type of care in Cameroon as she would in the United States. Filling out these types of forms for clients is something I will need to do constantly for my clients in the practice of immigration.

Also at PAIR, I was able to attend two different detention centers in and around the Boston area to perform intakes with immigrant inmates. I had the chance to intake with English and Spanish-speaking clients. Many had pending cases in immigration court or had orders of removal instated, therefore they needed legal counsel. Many people in the detention centers cannot afford private legal counsel, so organizations like PAIR Project have pro bono attorneys to help with cases. I primarily performed intakes but did not make the determinations of which

potential clients we may be able to assist. This was the work that Antonio did. Antonio is a pro bono attorney at PAIR who visits the detention centers weekly to perform intakes and follow-up with people. My first time going to the Suffolk detention center was eye-opening. After going through security and being escorted to the all-male area, we sat down with whoever wanted to speak with us concerning their case. There were a lot of people in the detention center who overstayed their visas in the United States or who allegedly committed crimes, such as drug possession. Most people who came to speak with us were very prepared with all of their documents and court information. Many had done their own legal research with the resources provided by the detention center. Even though I could not answer most questions, it was a great learning experience. I felt that even if I could not personally help them, I listened and gave my full attention.

I could not have asked for a better and more fulfilling fellowship than I experienced at PAIR. Hearing stories from across the globe about hardship, turmoil, discrimination, and violence truly makes one appreciate life in the United States. At times clients would start hysterically crying and I would have to remain composed and not let my emotions take over me. Composure was a very necessary skill I learned at PAIR Project. It is something that I will need to carry with me to every immigration job I have in the future. The clients are real people with real stories who need to be heard. Listening to the client and giving him or her a chance to explain the situation and tell their story, which it is not always easy, is the most rewarding experience that I could possibly ask for. The staff at PAIR is kind, welcoming, patient, heart-warming and generous. The staff is one reason that my fellowship was worthwhile and meaningful. The knowledge I have gained through practice is remarkable. My next internships and fellowships following PAIR Project have a lot to live up to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany R. Andrade', written in a cursive style.

Tiffany R. Andrade

Suffolk Law School, Boston, MA

Anticipated Juris Doctorate 2015



April 25, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben

I am writing this evaluation for Tiffany Andrade, who interned with the PAIR Project during the past semester, from January 2014 – April 2014. I am the Asylum Attorney of the Political Asylum Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project, a non-profit organization that represents asylum-seekers who have fled from persecution throughout the world, and that advises non-citizens in immigration detention. I supervised Tiffany during her internship at PAIR.

Tiffany is a talented and passionate young woman who cares deeply about her work with indigent asylum and detention clients from diverse minority groups. She quickly masters complex legal issues; conducts thorough legal research for asylum and detention cases; and has a deep commitment to the representation of clients in immigration detention.

Tiffany earned my respect within the first few weeks as she took on numerous responsibilities: she conducted asylum intake; met with clients and helped them file various immigration applications; interpreted and translated for clients in the Spanish language; worked with a client to renew her medical-based Stay of Removal; prepared human rights documentation to support asylum claims of three PAIR clients; and assisted the PAIR detention attorney in the most complex area of immigration law—detention. She assisted with intake; helped to correspond with immigration detainees about their cases; and traveled to detention centers to conduct “Know Your Rights Presentations” to immigration detainees.

Tiffany is a highly motivated law student. She worked well in our fast-paced and demanding office environment, producing high quality work. We were all impressed by her work ethic and are grateful to have had her at PAIR this semester. If you have any questions about Tiffany’s work at PAIR or the organization itself, please feel free to contact me at 617-742-9296.

Sincerely,


Anika P. Sharma