



August 31, 2015

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Rueben,

I am a staff attorney in the Immigration practice group at the East Bay Community Law Center in Berkeley. This summer, I had the pleasure of supervising Dustin Hovda during his summer internship here.

During his time here, Dustin took on several complex immigration matters and did an excellent job with them. He represented an asylum seeker in her individual merits hearing before the San Francisco Immigration Court. In addition to preparing her testimony, Dustin researched and drafted a brief in support of her claim, helped her request corroborating evidence from her therapist and family members in her home country, and researched country conditions documentation. Dustin also prepared a waiver application for a client seeking to apply for an immigrant visa in Honduras. This involved preparing declarations from the client and his wife, collecting and preparing documentation to show the hardship to the client's wife were he not granted the waiver, and drafting a letter brief outlining the client's legal eligibility for the waiver.

In addition to these complex legal matters, Dustin also dealt with several difficult clients and unexpected issues, and was very adept at navigating these issues and working with those clients. In particular, he worked with one difficult client on an application involved collecting substantial documentation. The client had no stable housing or phone number, and had been very difficult to contact. Dustin was able to work with her to get the documentation we needed. The client also had several family members for whom she would unexpectedly seek advice. Dustin took on research on these additional issues as they appeared, even though they were entirely in a new area of law.

Dustin was a very valuable asset to our team this summer, and I am very grateful to Equal Justice America for making his fellowship possible. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "LKnox", is written over the typed name.
Lisa Knox
Staff Attorney