

August 30th, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I worked as a summer law clerk at the Eagle Pass office of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. The Eagle Pass office has four attorneys, two paralegals, and two secretaries, and handles almost every type of issue that can arise in the surrounding community. Therefore, I was given the opportunity to work in many different fields of law. I worked most closely with the Branch Manager Mr. Javier Riojas, but I was also afforded the opportunity to work with some of the other lawyers and also see court proceedings at the tribal court for the Kickapoo tribe in Eagle Pass.

The clerkship at Eagle Pass gave me an incredible amount of experience in many different fields of law. I was asked to help prepare a revocable transfer-on-death deed for an old couple who wanted to give their land to their children. I was also asked to research how a man could obtain title for a car that was left in his land.

I was also given the opportunity to work in both civil and criminal litigation. In the civil litigation, we represented a Mexican citizen in a Civil RICO, breach of contract, and fraud case. I was able to prepare a draft for a response to a motion to transfer venue, which was ultimately decided in our favor. I also was able to prepare interrogatories to the defendants. In the criminal case, we were defending a man who is facing a mandatory life sentence for committing a drug crime after he had two prior drug convictions. My boss and I dug through dozens of cases to find authority that could support our argument that he does not deserve a life sentence. The hearing for this case will take place in October.

Finally, I was able to work on a mechanic's lien for four construction workers who did not receive compensation for their work. I was able to interview the clients and prepare the drafts for notices and

the affidavit for the lien, and I learned a lot about client interaction along with the substantive law through this project.

I was not able to have much client interaction, largely because I did not speak Spanish. However, I was able to meet our criminal client, and I was also able to interview the construction workers. The common thread among all of our clients was a strength and resiliency that shined through their dark circumstances. Our criminal client possessed an incredible optimism and joy that was hard to believe for a person facing such a grave sentence, even offering to pray for me and blessing me. His optimism pushed me to not give up no matter how much difficult the process, just as he is not giving up in the darkest of circumstances.

Our construction worker clients also possessed great strength, resiliency, and humility. They were asked to work on two construction projects and did not receive full compensation for their work. Some of the clients had delinquent bills to pay and were facing financial difficulty, which would be somewhat alleviated if they received their just payments. Given their financial situations and the injustice they received, they were understandably angry at the situation. However, they were also kind, helpful and patient with me, while I gathered the information required to prepare the notices and the affidavit for the lien. I finished drafting the notice letters and a draft of the affidavit on the day I finished my clerkship. However, the resilience and humility of our clients pushed me to work hard to the last day.

This clerkship experience was the best experience I had ever since coming to law school. All the people in the office made it a joy for me to go to work every day and I learned much in many areas of law. The clients, in their character and resiliency, pushed me to work harder to become a public interest lawyer. Due to this great experience, I will be going back to Eagle Pass next summer. I am very grateful to Equal Justice America for providing me with financial assistance during this internship.

Sincerely,

Jung Lim Koo
J.D. Candidate, 2018
University of Texas School of Law



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August 31, 2016

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

Re: 2016 Summer Fellowship - - Jung Lim Koo

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I had the pleasure of supervising Jung Lim Koo during his 2016 Summer Fellowship. He provided valuable help, and demonstrated great initiative during his summer at the TRLA Eagle Pass Office.

He assisted with numerous projects ranging from conducting initial interviews of low wage construction workers; investigating property owners, general contractors, and subcontractors so they could all be provided notice of our clients' wage claims and our intent to file lien affidavits; and the preparation of the lien affidavits. We are currently negotiating a settlement of those claims.

He also assisted in responding to a Motion to Transfer Venue in a civil RICO case involving visa fraud and fraud in foreign labor contracting claims. We just received a favorable ruling, which was forwarded to Jung.

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He also helped research issues that arose during court proceedings.

I could keep heaping accolades, but I think you get the picture. When one lives a busy public interest life, the assistance provided by Equal Justice America Fellowship recipients, provides welcome relief.

Sincerely,

Javier Riojas
Branch Manager/General Counsel

JR:mjf