

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

First, I would like to thank Equal Justice America for supporting my work this summer at the Harvard Law School Immigration and Refugee Clinic. I cannot express my feelings enough of [the] staff in this clinic. It was an incredible opportunity to see how they dedicate their lives to make a difference in people's lives. The work environment is full of people from different backgrounds. Diversity and differences are highly appreciated in this clinic.

My primary duties include working with unit clients in the preparation of their claims for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture for Clinic clients whose claims are pending before the Asylum Office of the Department of Justice, or the Board of Immigration Appeals of the Department of Justice. More specifically, working includes conducting depth interviews of clients, legal research, preparation of short legal memoranda of law, researching and assembling packets of corroborating country conditions documentation, coordinating with experts and the preparation of their testimony in support of claims, second chairing asylum interviews.

I was lucky to be able to work with many cases deriving from different immigration issues. I had clients from different countries and regions including Latin America and Middle East. During my first week, I started to make a research for country conditions and I realized how my JSD studies and human rights background could be useful for Asylum cases. I was already familiar with these type of research and most of these countries.

Later, I started to work with VAWA, U, and T Visa applicants. Interestingly, I realized that being an International lawyer and familiar with other countries and legal systems are great assets for an immigration lawyer. We had a VAWA applicant who was married with someone from another country and I was familiar abuser's culture. When we were getting her statement, I found that I had a better understanding about their arguments and family dynamics. It was so helpful to ask leading questions about abuse.

I had another great chance to my one-one client meeting and it was a little over three hours long. I was a bit nervous but I was also prepared. I was able to use my language skills for this meeting. It was interesting to be the only one getting clients' statement and story. I had to also think about possible issues and make sure I had everything ready for unit's decision.

I would like to say thank you for your assistance and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. I have learned so much and gained a lot from this experience. This internship has really reshaped my career goals and helped me to see this is the path that I want to take.

Sincerely,
Maya Avci
Chicago-Kent College of Law, JSD Candidate



August 9, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Maya Avci worked this summer under my supervision at the Harvard Law School Immigration and Refugee Clinic at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). She prepared asylum, VAWA, U, and T Visa applications for our clients.

In her first weeks, she had a mini orientation session about the unit's work. After her training, I assigned Maya several cases of her own to prepare, and she assisted me with my caseload. Maya drafted client affidavits, forms, medical report requests and U-visa certifications from law enforcement.

Since Maya has a Middle Eastern/European background, she was helpful in explaining cultural norms for client's ethnic background. In addition, she worked directly with a Turkish speaking client. Her ability to speak directly to the client without needing an interpreter was invaluable. She met with him twice and she [and he have] talked many times over the phone. It was a good one to one client interview experience and I think she was more confident after that client.

It was a great opportunity to have her and I hope she has learned so much and gained a lot from this experience. I will miss her.

Sincerely,

Lisa Locher
Senior Attorney
Immigration Unit

<August 9, 2018>

Page 2