

August 31, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to you today to reflect on my Equal Justice America fellowship experience at Public Counsel with the Opportunity Under Law division. As a summer clerk at OUL, I contributed to a team working to combat economic injustice and promote equal access at all levels of society. Specifically, I assisted the OUL team with three cases: *Scott C.*, a recently filed case in St. Louis regarding denial of rights under the McKinney-Vento Act and a lack of trauma-informed supports in the school system, as well as two unfiled cases. Additionally, I was able to sit in on strategy and planning meetings, and overall participate in the high-level work of the team.

For *Scott C.*, I conducted research immediately prior to filing regarding relevant sovereign immunity considerations. I quickly got a sense of what the nuts-and-bolts process of filing a lawsuit looks like, from multiple conference calls with co-counsel to filing checklists to back-and-forth conversations regarding local rules and conventions. I also gained some insight into the media strategy deployed for a case like this, and the various levers that an organization like Public Counsel might use to advance broader advocacy goals in tandem with litigation.

For the two as-yet unfiled cases, I conducted a combination of research and editing work, in particular compiling a large groups' edits multiple times for a lengthy complaint and helping to cut the length down without sacrificing any of the most important pieces of information. I also offered feedback on the media strategy to be employed once the case is filed, which was an exciting opportunity to use my previous work experience to hopefully advance the organization's goals. It was also an important reminder that being a lawyer involves much more than just 'legal' work – media, advocacy, policy, and public relations are just some of the other streams of work that must be considered carefully, particularly at this level of appellate litigation.

My experience at Public Counsel was incredibly fulfilling, and I cannot speak highly enough of the attorneys and organizers there. I gained valuable insight into a new area of public interest work, and into the Los Angeles public interest community. Thank you for your support of my growth and learning this summer.

Best,



Hetali M. Lodaya
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August 31, 2018

RE: Hetali Lodaya, EJA Fellowship Recipient

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I write regarding Hetali Lodaya's fellowship with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law project during the summer of 2018. I am a staff attorney at OUL and had the pleasure of acting as Ms. Lodaya's supervising attorney.

Ms. Lodaya was both a joy to work with and an enormous asset to the office. During her short time with OUL, she completed crucial work on three different cases, all in different stages of litigation. For a soon-to-be filed impact case, Ms. Lodaya edited a lengthy complaint and provided feedback on our media and communications strategy. In another impact case, this one filed during the course of her internship, Ms. Lodaya conducted last minute research to help clarify our ability to bring specific claims against various potential defendants under the McKinney-Vento Act. In addition, she drafted an anticipatory motion that will be useful as the litigation progresses. Finally, she provided lengthy research on potential plaintiffs for litigation we are currently exploring.

In addition to accomplishing an enormous amount in her too-short time with OUL, Ms. Lodaya demonstrated a wonderful attitude about work. Despite this being her second internship of the summer, she was frequently willing to put in extra hours and meet tight deadlines. Throughout her time with us, she also demonstrated a sincere commitment to social justice and the clients we serve.

It was a pleasure having Ms. Lodaya intern with us this summer. We are so grateful to Equal Justice America for making her internship possible. It meant a lot to our clients as well. Please feel free to reach out if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Annie Hudson-Price

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