

Dear Equal Justice America,

My name is Maggie Kopel and I am a student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. I spent my summer after 2L year at Colorado Legal Services, in the Migrant Farm Worker Division. My role was to perform outreach and complete legal work for Farm Workers in Northeastern Colorado. Every evening, I drove to visit Farm Workers across the region. I would bring information about their rights related to wages, employment and housing. My time in the office each day was spent following up on any legal questions the Farm Workers had. I also worked on one long-term immigration project, completing a U Visa application for a Farm Worker client. Throughout the summer, I visited over 120 housing sites, and met with over 600 workers.

Much of my work and research was focused on labor and employment law in Colorado. I was able to learn about a wide variety of topics, from workers' compensation, to tax regulations for H-2A workers, to pesticide safety. It was fascinating to learn about the federal regulatory frameworks, and how their implementation was (or was not) effective at the state and local levels. I really enjoyed being able to meet with so many clients, and to offer concrete solutions to their problems. Given the population I was working with, I saw a lot of people who were living and working in extremely remote areas with no access to legal aid besides our organization. Although the driving was exhausting, it was worth it to bring important information to those who needed it most.

It was also wonderful to be part of the amazing team at Colorado Legal Services, and to see how a nonprofit organization works. The Migrant Farm Worker Division team is very small, and yet manages to serve the entire state of Colorado. They do everything from giving clients referrals to bringing litigation in Federal District Court. It was incredible to see the impact they

are able to have with their limited resources. I also loved seeing the client relationships they have developed over the year, and the utter trust clients place in them.

After this summer, I am confident I want to pursue a career in public interest law and continue advocating for those with limited access to legal justice. I am grateful to Equal Justice America for facilitating this opportunity for me.

Thank you,

Maggie Kopel
University of Pennsylvania Law School

Colorado Legal Services

Servicios Legales de Colorado

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August 30, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Ruben,

My name is Jenifer Rodriguez and I am the managing attorney of the Migrant Farm Worker Division (MFWD) of Colorado Legal Services. Maggie Kopel worked with the MFWD for a 10 week period, starting in June and ending on August 15, 2018. I was Maggie Kopel's supervising attorney during her summer internship.

The MFWD provides legal representation to migrant and seasonal farm workers throughout Colorado on a variety of civil legal issues. We litigate cases in the federal and state courts as well as perform administrative advocacy involving the working conditions of farm workers (e.g. wages, pesticides, workers compensation, sexual harassment and human trafficking), immigration law cases, as well as cases occasionally related to housing, benefits or civil rights. We also have a comprehensive community education program that involves outreach to workers at labor camps and working with community-based groups. The client community is comprised primarily of Latino migrant and seasonal farm workers.

Maggie Kopel was tasked with conducting outreach to farm workers throughout the northeastern region of Colorado. Maggie visited farm workers at their housing, conducted presentations for farm workers and their families as well as for service providers who also work with farm workers. She conducted intakes and interviewed clients and assisted with legal research and investigation related to current litigation as well. She met with hundreds of workers over the ten weeks she was with us and was extremely effective in getting workers to open up to her about unlawful working conditions.

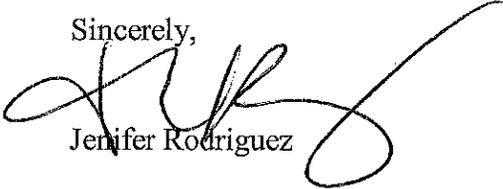
August 30, 2018

I was impressed with just how quickly Maggie was able to take what she had learned in our three-day substantive training about worker rights and apply it to the real life circumstances she was encountering. From the very beginning, she was self-directed, intuitive, and a strong communicator; able to immediately engage the population she was serving and create a safe space for them to discuss their legal concerns.

In addition, Maggie showed tremendous skill in her legal research and analysis. Maggie was given several different research assignments over the summer all of which she completed promptly and thoroughly. Given her interest in immigration law, Maggie also assisted us with the preparation of a U nonimmigrant visa application for a client who had been a victim of a crime. Thanks to all of the time Maggie spent working with the client on her declaration in support of her application and on completing the various forms, the client's application was nearly ready for submission at the time Maggie's internship ended.

It was a pleasure having Maggie intern with MFWD for the summer of 2018. If you have any questions, please contact me at jrodriguez@colegalserv.org or (303) 866-9371.

Sincerely,


Jenifer Rodriguez