

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben,

This summer, due to the fellowship Equal Justice America gave me, I was able to experience what working in an Immigration Public Interest environment would be like. I was able to secure an internship at Catholic Charities in Houston, TX, in the Crime Victims Program.

The skills I learned this summer in speaking with clients, preparing the paperwork/cases to send to USCIS, to even the interaction with other attorneys and national organizations, was very rewarding. Although the program was 10 weeks, I felt it went by very fast. I left with a hunger to learn more and with a greater passion to work in a non-profit after I am a licensed attorney. The attorneys I worked with provided me with so much knowledge in the immigration field, that not only did I leave Catholic Charities with basic understanding in several areas of immigration law, but with some almost expert knowledge concerning VAWA, U-Visa and T-Visa cases. I was able to learn about Family Petitions, DACA, Unaccompanied Minors and even Refugee Immigration law. Even my Spanish was improved, because I was speaking it daily, with mostly every client and I learned a lot of legal terminology.

Since then I have had many people tell me how great Catholic Charities is and what a great organization it is to be a part of, and I couldn't agree more. I would say that when it comes to Immigration law and taking your first steps in that law area, Catholic Charities is a great environment and organization to gain as much knowledge in a short amount of time.

Equal Justice America gave me an opportunity to work in the non-profit sector. This summer I worked with many single-mother clients, clients who have been sexually, physically and emotionally abused by their spouse or by a stranger. Since I worked in a non-profit immigration firm, all of our clients were under the national poverty guidelines. We did not take any sort of money from them but yet were able to provide them with great attorneys, who did their best in advocating for their clients. That is how I knew I wanted to continue working for people, who do not have the resources to hire private attorneys. I love helping others and seeing how the two attorneys I worked with worked hard for their clients, instilled a fire in me to do so as well.

Again I would just like to say thank you to Equal Justice America for giving me the opportunity to be able to intern at Catholic Charities and not sway away from the opportunity because it was a non-paid internship.

Yours Truly,

Pamela Moreno

TSU-TMSL

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