

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

August 24, 2016

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you and Equal Justice America for your support as I served as a legal intern this summer for MALDEF (the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund) in San Antonio. MALDEF is a national civil rights organization based in Los Angeles, Calif., focused on impact litigation in four areas: education, employment, immigration rights, and political access.

This summer, MALDEF was able to win legal and financial concessions on behalf of immigrant clients, who were being targeted to pay unfair and discriminatory fees to a state government. The success of this litigation provided tremendous relief to these legally and financially vulnerable clients. I had the tremendous opportunity to provide assistance in the deposition of the state's 30(b)(6) witness in this case. MALDEF was also able to gain a settlement against the owners of a cemetery on behalf of a client whose loved-one was being denied burial at this cemetery, on the basis of race. MALDEF also continued its long-standing litigation, seeking improvements in the education of immigrant children in the state of Texas. I was able to participate in the preparation of the proceedings of these cases and others. It was a valuable learning experience.

While learning more about performing legal research and writing and problem-solving legal issues, I worked alongside the committed, veteran civil rights attorneys, who supervised my work. Under their supervision, I wrote Freedom of Information requests to help staff attorneys gather facts for an inquiry. I researched the law and facts for two legal inquiries and wrote summaries on those legal issues. I also performed intake interviews, wrote deposition summaries, assisted with depositions, and witnessed legal proceedings.

In addition to learning and practicing newly gained legal research and writing skills, I reached into a toolkit of professional skills that I had gained previously as a communications specialist to perform needed work during my internship. For MALDEF, I created a PowerPoint presentation on Texas school finance that MALDEF used for presentations with lawmakers; hand-outs explaining the impact of the Texas Supreme Court's decision in *Morath v. Texas Taxpayer and Student Coalition* on equitable school finance, and another hand-out explaining Texas school financing; and a blog for MALDEF and its equitable school finance allies to chronicle the coming 2017 Texas legislative session on school finance. I wrote press releases and an opinion piece on Texas school finance, as well as assisted other interns with writing press releases and opinion pieces on other issues MALDEF is engaged in.

I greatly appreciate the support of Equal Justice America. Thank you so very much for selecting me for the fellowship. Because of the fellowship, I was able to pay for the child care of my two children while I gained skills as a legal intern. It was a tremendous relief to know that my children were in good hands as I fulfilled this professional goal of working with MALDEF, which has a lauded history of civil rights impact litigation, and whose work I have admired for many years. Thank you.

Best regards,

Analisa Nazareno
St. Mary's University School of Law