

## Chloe M. Angel

September 15, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer, I received funding from Equal Justice America for my internship with Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). I interned with the Immigration Unit at GBLS, and would not have been able to gain the experience I did without the funding I received from Equal Justice America. I gained a significant amount of immigration law experience, particularly in U-Visa and VAWA petition cases. Immigration law has been a field of work that I have been interested in for most of my life after being exposed in elementary school witnessing the complicated process my aunt went through in obtaining a green card after overstaying a work visa by several years. Since deciding to go to law school, I believed that immigration, particularly legal services immigration, would be a field that I would end up working in. This summer, that belief was affirmed as I learned a substantial amount about what the day to day life of an immigration attorney entails.

I had several cases which I worked on extensively, and which greatly played a role in growing my interest in pursuing immigration law following my graduation in 2024. One specific case which I worked on throughout the summer was for a man from Bangladesh, who came to the US on an F-1 visa several years ago and then suffered a series of misfortunes which required he leave school. He came to Boston early in his time in the US and has been here since, now raising his daughter on his own, as the mother was abusive to both him and his daughter. As he is the only person caring for her, he desperately needs to gain lawful residency since, if he were to be deported, his daughter, a US citizen, would be forced to leave the US for a country she's never been to which speaks a language she does not know, or be placed in foster care.

It has been greatly impactful to be working with this individual and to have a role in drafting his affidavit for his U-Visa application. Though my time with GBLS will end long before a resolution is reached regarding his residency, we were able to prepare his affidavit for filing, as well as preparing his forms for application. Sadly, we were unable to submit his application before my time ended because he needs to renew his Bangladesh passport, which unfortunately must be done in New York City, and traveling there from Boston introduces costs which he cannot yet afford. As such, his application will be submitted once his passport is renewed, and I know that as soon as it is ready, his application will be submitted as soon as possible, especially since his forms are ready to go, minus any small updates such as address changes in the period between this summer and when he is able to apply.

Another case which took up a substantial amount of my time at GBLS was one which had the incredibly tight deadline of need the application to physically arrive at USCIS in Vermont by June 30th, but required a medical form which could not be picked up from the doctor until June 24th. This man has been in the US for nearly 20 years, is married, and has 4 children, and for which he is the sole provider. He was attacked various times by gangs in East Boston due to his brother's participation in a gang, even though the client himself has never been part of it. After the police became aware of his association to the gang through his brother and of his undocumented immigration status, he was offered a deal to receive a green card if he helped bring down the gang/their money laundering scheme.

After the arrest and deportation of 18 gang members, the officers who offered the client the deal completely backed out and did not provide him with any support or assistance. If he were to be deported to his home country, he would likely be killed within days since the gang members who were deported are also from the same country. To work on a case which honestly sounds out of a movie is incredible but also terrifying, as there is so much riding on the perfect completion of his application. I got to know the client and his wife rather well over the past couple of weeks as I was the one coordinating the collection of all materials, including going to the doctor's office to get the medical forms expedited. While we got the application in on time, he faces many years of unlawful status ahead of him, as U-Visas are so limited in the number allowed each year, and the waiting list is more than a decade long. It is cases like this that motivate me to continue working in the immigration field, as I was to be involved in policy reform to make it much easier for people like this client to gain lawful residency, and to get to live the lives they want and deserve to.

I am very grateful to GBLS for providing me with the opportunity and mentorship that shaped my summer experience, and to Equal Justice America for supplying me with the funding that enabled me to afford such a position. Legal services are an underfunded area of the legal industry, but a vital area for the achievement of equality and equity in the United States. I am truly so grateful for the funding I received from Equal Justice America.

Thank you,

Chloe Angel  
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