

Dear Dan Ruben,

My experience at the Greater Boston Legal Services, Harvard Immigration and Human Rights Clinic has offered me more knowledge and insight into immigration and human rights issues than I could have asked for. I had the privilege of working under Attorney Margaret Moran's supervision and assist with multiple cases involving various immigration applications.

As part of my internship with GBLs, Harvard Immigration and Human Rights Clinic I have drafted client declarations, performed legal research and writing, assisted with client interviews, testimony and evidence to be filed for adjudications before the Asylum Office division of USCIS, other divisions of the USCIS, the Boston Immigration Court, and Probate and Family Courts of Massachusetts. In order to be more effective in my internship position, I have learned about the laws and regulations of asylum and special immigrant juvenile status; I have also received training on asylum and temporary protected status (TPS) and have helped clients from Haiti renew their TPS.

I had the opportunity to assist Attorney Moran to apply for Special Immigration Juvenile immigration status for a client who had been abandoned, neglected and abused by his parents in his home county. I assisted my supervising attorney by taking notes during the client interviews where he was to reveal extremely sensitive information about his life. With the information obtained from these meetings, I was able to help complete client's personal affidavit for the SIJ application to be submitted to Probate and Family Court.

In addition to learning about the complicated and multi-stage process of applying for SIJ status, being present for client interview sessions with Attorney Moran provided me with experience in working with clients who have suffered past prosecution and harm. I observed how Attorney Moran navigated her way through linguistic and cultural barriers and obtained the necessary information without causing them undue pain from recalling those memories.

I also assisted Attorney Moran with representing two clients in immigration removal proceedings who are being detained while their case for asylum is pending. The clients, a husband and wife, arrived in Boston in January 2017, with tourist visas and were subject to a random search at the airport. During the search the Customs and Boarder Protection Agency officers discovered documents suggesting the couple intended to apply for asylum. Subsequently, our clients were detained and sent to separate correctional facilities and placed in Immigration Court removal proceeding. I had the opportunity to attend both of their hearings in front of the Immigration Court judge. The case has not yet concluded, but I believe that being present and working on this case so far has given me an invaluable insight on the mechanics of the immigration court. It is noteworthy that almost all facets of this case presented a new challenge for the team, including having to visit clients at different correctional facilities, not being able to interview them at the same time, and finding an interpreter that speaks their language properly. My role in this case was to assist my supervising attorney with checking facts about the client's backgrounds, preparing their affidavits to be submitted to the court, researching and drafting country conditions, organizing and assembling the case to be filed with the Immigration Court, including

our clients' testimony, testimony of witnesses, and other evidence, and finally, help with client trial preparation.

As an immigrant myself, I had to overcome many obstacles in my personal and professional life, none of which has stopped me from wanting to help people. After working here at GBLS, I can say that I have seen how I can serve this purpose and help individuals who, like me, may feel as though they have no voice or legal rights since they were not born in this country. The attorneys at GBLS have become my role models, my mentors, who I will aspire to in my career.

Sincerely,  
Parisa Ghomi, Northeastern University School of Law 2019



GREATER BOSTON  
LEGAL SERVICES  
*...and justice for all*

August 11, 2017

**BY EMAIL to: KATIE@EQUALJUSTICEAMERICA.ORG**

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing about Parisa Ghomi, whom I supervised in her internship this summer. Parisa was a key participant in every case on which she worked, and her work was excellent, as was her commitment to the clients. Parisa showed initiative and thorough attention to detail in each of her assignments.

Parisa was called upon to assist on number of cases this summer, including: the asylum cases of two people from Burundi who are in detention facilities and are in removal proceedings in Boston Immigration Court; the Special Immigration Juvenile petition of a young man from Djibouti; the asylum cases and Special Immigration Juvenile petitions of two young women from El Salvador; and the asylum application pending with the Asylum Office of USCIS of a human rights activist from Afghanistan. Parisa also worked with clients from Haiti renewing their Temporary Protected Status.

Parisa's work on the cases in removal proceedings involved many significant tasks on a fast-paced schedule due to filing deadlines and multiple hearings. Parisa accompanied & assisted me on a number of visits to correctional facilities for client meetings. These meetings were intense, trial preparation sessions lasting several hours each. Parisa assisted in this trial-prep work with her careful listening and thorough note-taking, followed by review of transcripts of earlier meetings with the clients and meticulous drafting of the clients' written testimony. On this case, as well as on the case of the human rights activist from Afghanistan, Parisa completed a significant amount of research regarding country conditions, and prepared Country Conditions reports for the Immigration Court and Asylum Office filings. These reports are important evidence in the asylum cases. Parisa assisted with developing clients' testimony and preparing affidavits in the Special Immigrant Juvenile cases also. Parisa worked closely with our interpreter in the cases before the Immigration Court, thoroughly reviewing recordings of the hearings to identify potential issues in the trial testimony in the cases. Parisa also assisted with the psychiatric and medical experts who are testifying for these clients, by reviewing their affidavits and comparing them to other testimony of the clients and the trial record.

Throughout the summer, Parisa's professional and compassionate interaction with clients was very helpful toward putting the clients at ease and facilitating the work we needed to accomplish. Parisa was fully engaged in every aspect of the cases on which she worked. She asked excellent questions and offered valuable suggestions as we developed strategies in our preparation of the cases. She worked very well with attorneys and with other students.

She has been a tremendous resource to me and my colleagues this summer.

Very truly yours,

