

September 24, 2019

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
13540 E Boundary Rd Ste 204
Midlothian, VA 23112-3943

Dear Dan Ruben and Katie Toman,

Over this past summer, I worked with both the Consumer Litigation Clinic and Immigrant Rights Clinic at Lincoln Square Legal Services. The first half of my summer was mainly spent with the Immigrant Rights clinic where I had the opportunity of assisting clients filing for asylum, SIJS, and U-visa applications. For the asylum case, we researched country conditions of Venezuela to try and formulate an argument that our client's specific group was being targeted by the Venezuelan government. The client's application for asylum has not been filed yet, so it was a great opportunity to be able to make an impact on his application, hopefully in a way that will make it that much stronger.

For the SIJS applications, I was able to assist in preparing the clients for their family court hearing in Nassau County. I was also able to attend the actual hearing in family court that following week. To be able to see the kids I had helped answer the questions in front of a judge in a small courtroom meant a lot to me. When we were preparing for the hearing, you could tell that they were scared. But they were able to tell their story to the judge and he granted their guardianship application. It was a wonderful thing to be a part of.

For the U-visa application, I actually conducted an interview with the client in Spanish. We needed to get more information about her finances so that we could start the fee waiver process for the U-visa application. This experience allowed me a greater understanding of the intricacies within immigration law and the dedication it takes to take on these cases. It was hard at first because the process involved knowing every little detail about her finances, but is

essential for her application so that she does not have to pay the expensive filing fee for a U-visa application.

With the Consumer litigation clinic, I was able to gain experience in drafting pleadings. I was able to draft a motion to vacate a default judgement for a client who had been a victim of identity theft. The motion I drafted was the last of five that this client had against them. I also spent a lot of time at Bronx CLARO where I assisted with translation in French and Spanish so that people could receive free legal services for their pending litigation. I also assisted in taking a detailed intake form for an individual who could not receive assistance from CLARO because he had to appeal the denial of his motion to vacate a default judgment. It was really rewarding to assist in this way because he was able to get representation after the intake form I had written was distributed amongst possible representation.

Overall, this summer provided a great opportunity for me to witness two very different segments of the legal community. I was able to assist many diverse clients and hopefully positively impact their cases. Thank you to EJA for providing the funding that made all of the work I did possible.

Sincerely,

Ashley Slater
Fordham University School of Law
Class of 2021