

**Dan Ruben**

Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Building II – Suite 201  
Midlothian, VA 23112

September 3, 2023

Dear Dan Ruben,

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to work with Farmworker Legal Services in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where I assisted low-income farmworkers from Latin America. The Equal Justice America (EJA) Fellowship Award enabled me to fully concentrate on my internship and clients, alleviating the need to seek additional employment for financial support. Also, I'm grateful to EJA for regularly updating me throughout the summer. These updates not only helped me improve my approach to client work but also kept me informed about the impactful projects undertaken by other fellows this summer.

My time at Farmworker Legal Services was eye-opening, revealing the often overlooked realities of farm work in the United States—particularly the challenges faced by foreign workers who are frequently both undervalued and underappreciated. My role involved meticulous brief drafting, courtroom attendance, legal research, and client outreach. While I found the office work engaging, my greatest satisfaction came from direct interactions with clients, providing them with essential resources and information about their rights as temporary foreign workers in the United States.

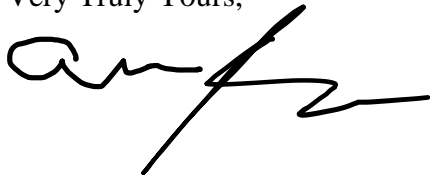
On a weekly basis, I participated in outreach trips where a colleague and I would visit approximately five farms to distribute informational calendars outlining workers' rights. I had the chance to have conversations with employees mainly from Mexico and improve my Spanish skills in the process. As a Dominican-American, I was eager to share my own experiences of growing

up in the United States, forging a deeper connection with those I served. This summer prompted me to ask critical questions about why farmworkers are often marginalized, and how we can engage communities to better understand and assist them. It also gave me a sense of the sheer magnitude of the issue at hand. Conversations with the attorneys at the internship were mutually enriching; they were reassured by my aspirations for policy change concerning farmworkers, and I found it rewarding to have my perspectives valued by experts in the field.

I cannot express enough gratitude to Equal Justice America for the opportunities this fellowship has afforded me. The financial support was instrumental in overcoming obstacles that might have otherwise hindered my involvement. My summer experience was incredibly enriching, and I eagerly anticipate a long-lasting relationship with this remarkable organization.

Thank you, Equal Justice America, for enabling this transformative experience.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andres Baez', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andres Baez