

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3007 E. Boundary Terrace, Suite 201
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan Ruben,

My name is Claudia Hurtado and this summer I had the privilege of working at Greater Boston Legal services in their employment law unit. During my internship I was able to gain more experience working in the field of public interest law, as well as experience in working in the employment law sector. My summer began with a large win for the unit as a trial regarding labor trafficking began the same week I began my work at Greater Boston Legal Services. Witnessing the bravery of the victims as they took the stand served as a powerful reminder of the importance of doing public interest work and it was thanks to Equal Justice America that I was able to receive funding in order to do this important work.

Throughout my ten-week internship I worked with a variety of clients on various issues. Many of the clients I assisted were illegal immigrants who were suffering under unfair and in some cases illegal working conditions. I assisted various clients in preparing visa application documents so that they may stay in the United States while we pursue their case. Working with these clients was especially meaningful to me as the daughter of immigrants myself. I would often go to a workers center bi-weekly called "La Colaborativa" where I, along with other attorneys from the employment unit, would assist Spanish speaking workers. We would often provide workers with resources and referrals or do an intake and assist them with any legal issues they might be having.

Going to La Colaborativa was one of the most rewarding aspects of the summer. I greatly enjoyed being able to talk with these potential clients and assist them in any way possible, even if it was only giving referrals or providing resources. Potential clients would always tell me about how thankful they were that such a resource was available to them as most people came as a last effort after being rejected many times before. Having such

resources freely available to the community is crucial in ensuring that the largest amount of people are served. By going out to the community we aim to serve we were able to reach clients who may have been unable to go to the traditional legal office. Even on days in which I was only able to give out referrals I still felt a deep sense of joy knowing that at least I was able to provide people with helpful resources in their attempts to seek legal help.

A particular case that ended in success was regarding one client who had been unfairly discharged due to a medical issue. I assisted this client in applying for Paid Family and Medical Leave. The client was ultimately approved and was able to get financial assistance during their unemployment. Knowing that I assisted a client in obtaining the resources they needed was a very rewarding experience as I was able to see the result of my work and effort. Given that the majority of the cases I worked on included visa application I was not able to see the full resolution of many cases making this particular win all the more rewarding for me. Ultimately this summer was extremely motivating for me, and I am extremely thankful to Equal Justice America for providing me the funding in order to make the most of this opportunity.

Claudia Hurtado
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