

August 25, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you for the opportunity Equal Justice America provided me this summer. Working for Capitol Area Immigrant's Rights (CAIR) Coalition was one of my most rewarding experiences to date, and one that will shape my legal career for years to come. In addition to CAIR's regular work visiting and assisting detained immigrants, my internship with CAIR focused on representing a client facing deportation. The client was a Pakistani woman with a very strong asylum claim but, due to a serious criminal conviction, the only relief from deportation available to her was protection under Convention Against Torture (CAT). Further complicating the case, she was detained in a jail that was six hours away (roundtrip) and face-to-face meetings were the only way to ensure our conversations would be confidential.

Over the course of the summer, CAIR allowed me to take the lead on interviewing the client and her family, gathering and corroborating evidence, and drafting affidavits. I am grateful that I was allowed to take control of these relationships, as I learned far more by the painful process of asking questions and having to ask again and again until I discovered the information I needed, than I would have if I had simply sat-in on a client interview. Even more valuable, I learned the importance of building rapport and trust with the client and the client's family. The evidence provided by her family overseas was the evidence that ultimately won the case, but that evidence only came to light after many of conversation.

The responsibility entrusted to me by CAIR also prepared me for our trial, the first trial of my career. While I was nervous, I also knew that the hours logged researching case law, driving to and from client visits, speaking with the client's family, drafting and redrafting declarations and briefs, and preparing for trial with the client and our lead attorney had prepared me to provide the best representation I was capable of.

My experience this summer reinforced my desire to represent immigrant clients who would otherwise go unrepresented, and Equal Justice America made that experience possible. As I return to school, I know that the training and experiences I gained this summer will remain with me and allow me to better serve future clients. Thank you again for this opportunity, and for making opportunities in public interest law more attainable for law students.

Best,

Katherine S. Conway  
American University Washington College of Law



Working to ensure all immigrants are treated with fairness,  
dignity and respect for their human and civil rights.

[www.caircoalition.org](http://www.caircoalition.org)

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August 31, 2016

Attention: Katie Toman  
Equal Justice America  
Building II - Suite 204  
3540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

**Re: Katherine Conway**

Dear Ms. Toman

I write this letter to verify Katherine Conway's participation as a summer intern with the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights ("CAIR") Coalition in Washington, D.C. As the Senior Program Director of the Detained Adult Program at the organization, I directly supervised Katherine in her capacity as a full time intern May 30, 2016 to July 29, 2016. During her time at the organization Katherine demonstrated initiative, professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to the immigrant population. I was very pleased with her work ethic and performance and fully support the full award of an Equal Justice America summer fellowship.

CAIR Coalition works with over 1,000 immigrants detained by ICE in jails throughout Virginia and Maryland. We visit these individuals in rural county jails, giving legal rights presentations in Spanish and English, identifying cases for representation, providing direct representation, mentoring pro bono attorneys, and assisting immigrants to fight their cases *pro se*. Because our work focuses exclusively on providing legal services to detained individuals, staff and interns must learn to establish and maintain various relationships with jail staff, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, and immigrants with various criminal histories and mental illnesses. Katherine actively participated in all of these responsibilities while at CAIR Coalition, specifically doing the following:

- Representing a client pro bono before the Baltimore Immigration Court.
- Conducting research to determine eligibility for relief for various detained immigrants located in Virginia facing removal proceedings.
- Conducting jail visits and following up on cases eligible for pro bono placement.

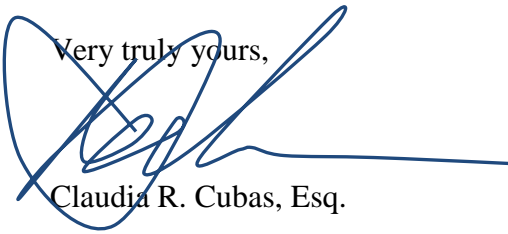
Katherine was wonderful to work with because she was open to developing new legal skills, had a deep commitment to helping detained immigrants, and incorporated constructive feedback seamlessly as she developed her understanding of the law and trial preparation.

Under my supervision, Katherine successfully represented a detained client throughout the entirety of her immigration court proceedings as part of a team with another summer intern. In the course of her representation, Katherine co-authored a 25-page brief addressing the client's eligibility for protection under the United Nations Convention Against Torture, appeared in various hearings in

immigration court, interviewed various potential witnesses providing evidence and testimony in support of the client's case, and prepared and elicited testimony from the client at trial. This case involved crafting a clear and focused narrative of the client's story detailing the client's significant abuse and rape at the hands of her U.S. citizen husband and his threats to have his family in South East Asia kill her as an act of honor for bringing shame to his family by divorcing him. The case was incredibly fact specific and complex because there were over 15 family members from both sides of the relationship that played a role in this story. Katherine helped the client, her teammate and myself organize and map the case by constructing detailed family trees and charts of each family member's relationship to the client and her ex-husband and their location. Katherine also successfully connected with the client's nephew abroad and elicited material facts to prove that the client's family had been tortured by the police and so this activity would extend to the client upon removal to her country. Katherine also proved adept at balancing complicated relationships with the client's friends with her duty to act in her client's best interest.

It was a pleasure to get to know Katherine this summer and help her develop her legal skills. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 331-3320, extension 16.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claudia R. Cubas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Claudia R. Cubas, Esq.

Senior Program Director  
Detained Adult Program  
CAIR Coalition