

July 8, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

First of all I want to thank you for this fellowship that allowed me to work in a non-profit organization for the summer. I spent my 2015 summer working as a legal intern in Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, Inc. (HRI), located in Dallas, Texas. This was one of the most educational and gratifying experiences in my life. Every single day during the internship I learned something valuable for my professional life as well as my personal life. I have always been interested in helping those in need in any way possible. In HRI, the clients are offered free of costs immigration legal aid services, as well as social services during their time as clients of the organization.

I split my summer in between two of HRI's programs, the Women and Children's Program and the Asylum Program. My first weeks were in the Women and Children's Program. In this program HRI helps specifically clients that can petition for three types of immigration relief: U-visa, VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) and a few DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Within my first week I had already encountered the four types of reliefs in potential client intakes, and by working with current client applications.

One of the cases that most impacted me while working in this program was Maria's case. Maria is a Mexican woman who was shot in the head while in the parking lot of her apartment complex. Her perpetrator has not been found. Within two weeks of the incident she went to HRI to discuss the possibilities of applying for a U-Visa for herself and her husband. We signed a limited representation agreement the same day we met her to request a Supplement B certification for her U-visa from the Dallas Police Department. A week later, her case was certified by the Dallas Police Department because Maria has been assisting them in the investigation to be able to apprehend her perpetrator. Her application is in the final steps for filing with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

While in the Asylum Program, I saw a totally different perspective of the immigration system. In the Women and Children's Program most of the cases are filed with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the clients and attorneys rarely meet with an Immigration Judge. However in asylum cases, after a client files his affirmative asylum petition, the client can be referred to an Immigration Judge for adjudication.

Most of the cases I worked with in HRI were affirmative asylum, however I was able to work with two client defensive asylum cases and had three potential client intakes with people who filed affirmative asylum pro se and were seeking counsel for their defensive cases. The defensive asylum case of a 44-year-old man from Angola was one of the most educational cases I have worked on. He had filed a pro se application, but his case was referred to an Immigration Judge. He had also filed his wife and daughter's application as a derivative. He has five younger children who unfortunately are still in Angola. He seeks asylum due to the arrest, detention and torture he sustained in his home country. The government of Angola arrested him because he was aiding protestors from an opposition political party. He was detained for 5 days in a jail and suffered daily torture. A friend of the family was able to locate and help him escape. During my time on HRI this case went to Immigration Court. The trial lasted two days. For the first time I saw an Immigration Judge ask several questions to all of the witnesses. The Immigration Judge has not adjudicated the case.

All of the cases I worked on this summer at HRI were educational in a legal and personal perspective. I feel that I was able to make a positive contribution to the immigrant community by improving the lives of the clients I worked with. It was truly an honor to be an Equal Justice America Fellow. Thank you so much for this great opportunity. Working in Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, Inc. was the best choice for my 1L summer internship.

Sincerely,



Ana Morales Murrieta  
The George Washington Law School  
J.D. Candidate, May 2017



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July 17, 2015

**Via Email:**

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

**Re: Review Letter for the Fellowship of Ana Morales Murrieta**

Mr. Ruben:

Ana Morales Murrieta clerked with our agency this summer in both in our Women & Children's Program and our Asylum Program. The Women & Children's Program at Human Rights Initiative ("HRI") assists victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes. She worked on VAWA Self Petitions, U-Visa Applications, Asylum cases, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Cases. The asylum program assists immigrants fleeing persecution in their home country.

In the Women & Children's Program she handled many essential projects, including, drafting responses to request for evidence, drafting case summaries, drafting memorandum to volunteer attorneys about case management, legal research and working with clients on forming their affidavits for USCIS. In the Asylum Program she reviewed initial affidavit draft for affirmative asylum case; provided comments and follow-up questions for the client; reviewed defensive asylum file and created mock cross-examination questions; and reviewed several affirmative asylum files and drafted mock interview questions.

Ana managed clients and cases with the poise and dedication of an attorney despite only having completed one year of law school. Her dedication to the clients of HRI evidences her commitment to public service work as well as exemplifies her leadership skills. Ana has been very inquisitive about how we determine what cases we will accept as well as our strategy in cases. She has helped conduct several new client intakes with our legal team. She has then presented these potential clients to the legal team giving a thorough analysis of the pros and cons as to why we should or should not accept the case.

Ana's writing skills are unparalleled. The correspondence, memos, and affidavits that she wrote and/or edited for our clients required very few revisions. Her edits were careful, thoughtful and displayed a fine attention to detail. Additionally, her research was impeccable.

Ana has been tireless in her representation of our clients and her hard work has yielded positive results. Due to her hard work, several clients have obtained additional evidence or documentation needed for their cases and their cases were submitted to immigration in a timely manner. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, paired with a compulsion to use her talents for a greater cause.

Most importantly, Ana was an absolute joy to work with on these cases. Her positive attitude and diligent follow-up resulted in a quick and thorough handling of cases. Her compassion and concerns for the clients was clear in the final product.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,



Melissa E. Weaver  
Attorney, Women & Children's Program

MEW/ mw