

August 4, 2010

Dear Mr. Ruben,

When I first began my Fellowship experience at the Sugar Law Center I had little experience with employment law, though quickly learned that it is one of the only legal services not provided to the poor. I spent the majority of my time doing legal research on a range of issues including employment discrimination, community benefit agreements, and fair employment practices. I also had the opportunity to participate in client interviews lead by compassionate and patient attorneys who understood the pain of a client who had recently lost a job, or another who needed to keep their position despite deplorable working conditions and checks that were short. In addition, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the U.S. Social Forum through my Fellowship placement; learning about employment conditions for undocumented workers, and the importance of fighting for the rights of people worldwide in the face of globalization.

One of the most compelling parts of my Fellowship time was working with a homeless client called Libra.¹ Living as an undocumented citizen in Detroit for many years, Libra held a variety of jobs working in restaurant kitchens and doing odd jobs wherever she could find work. When the upscale steakhouse she worked for closed, Libra was left homeless and nearly \$6,000 short on promised wages. Having no money, Libra moved into an empty building in downtown Detroit and helped out at the owner's diner in hopes that she could continue to stay despite her inability to pay rent. During times when she was not at the diner, Libra spent her days walking miles and miles across the city looking for jobs. One day she came to the office with welts on her skin from where the sun had scorched her skin. I had the chance to meet with Libra on several occasions, and helped her put together a resume to improve her chances of finding a job. Libra had her day in court, and the steakhouse owner agreed to pay her wages. After receiving

¹ This was the name she shared with us, her biological name is unknown.

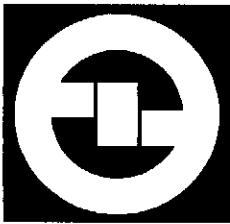
her check, I took Libra to the diner where she gave all the money to the owner in payment for allowing her to stay in her home behind the restaurant. Libra did not keep one dollar for herself.

This Fellowship not only gave a new meaning to the word ‘selflessness,’ but also deeply strengthened my commitment to helping those marginalized by our social and legal systems. I am truly grateful to Equal Justice America for making this experience possible, and providing me with the opportunity to gain new insight into the generosity of humanity.

Sincerely,

Anlyn Addis

Wayne State University
Juris Doctorate Candidate 2012



Maurice & Jane

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FOR ECONOMIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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August 18, 2010

Via Email: Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

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Equal Justice American Fellow Anlyn Addis – Summer 2010

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Please accept this correspondence as an evaluation of Anlyn Addis's work this summer at the Maurice & Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice. By way of introduction, I am Legal Director of the Maurice & Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice and served as Ms. Addis's direct supervisor.

Our work at the Sugar Law Center is multifaceted. We provide advocacy in support of stronger worksite closing laws, representation to dislocated workers, legal support to undocumented and low wage workers on wage and paycheck issues, free legal advice to Wal-Mart workers on employment law issues, and legal support to workers and communities on many other issues of broad public interest.

Over the past summer, Anlyn Addis worked at the Sugar Law Center as a legal intern. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Addis. As a legal intern at our office, Anlyn had the opportunity to communicate directly with clients, prepare discovery documents in ongoing legal proceedings, and draft memorandum of law in support of our work on various issues. In each of these tasks, she excelled.

Throughout her time at the Law Center, Anlyn exhibited exemplary work habits, a high degree of personal initiative, and an unflinching commitment to a fair and just legal system for all. Furthermore, her research, writing, oral communication, and analytical skills are all outstanding. In short, I would not hesitate to recommend her for fellowships and employment positions in the future.

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Ms. Addis possesses valuable life experience and while working at our office in Detroit, she exhibited a willingness to genuinely engage with other interns and staff and to learn from the various communities of blue-collar workers and low-income clients with whom we work. I believe that she is well-prepared to succeed with her legal studies and to apply her knowledge to the real-world problems faced by clients such as ours and the communities from which they come.

Thank you for providing Ms. Addis with her fellowship this summer, and if you wish to discuss any of these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


John C. Philo