

August 29, 2014

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

Dear Dan Ruben:

This summer I completed a ten-week internship at HIAS Pennsylvania, an organization that provides services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Many immigrants are in dire need of assistance with legal services, and HIAS's services help to prevent poverty by providing them with legal representation and helping them to access available resources. My work at HIAS was in the legal department, where, under the supervision of the managing attorney, I worked directly with clients, assisting them in various immigration matters.

I worked on a number of different projects, including completing U-visa petitions for individuals who were victims of crimes, Deferred Action For Childhood Arrival petitions for individuals who arrived in the U.S. as children, a T-visa petition for an individual who was a victim of trafficking, and a reinstatement of permanent residency case for an individual who lost her permanent resident status. I also completed various research projects, including the consequences of criminal convictions on clients' immigration status, and the viability of an individual's claim seeking asylum from Russia. On a weekly basis I also completed intake on clients. I spoke with individuals in order to obtain the relevant information and then an attorney would assess their claim and the organization's ability to represent them. I then followed up with each client to explain the organization's decision. I was also able to attend court proceedings a couple of times at the immigration court in Philadelphia.

One case I spent a great deal of time on was with an eighteen-year-old girl who was brought to the United States under false pretenses. Her aunt brought her to the United States from Malawi, and promised to enroll her in college in the United States. Once here, she was forced to take care of her two young cousins around the clock and without compensation, and was never enrolled in any type of educational program. After almost a year the girl was kicked out of the house by her aunt and left with nowhere to go. Her aunt had originally obtained a tourist visa for her, which had since expired and without legal status the individual could not obtain work in order to pay for school. I worked with her to prepare a petition for a T visa, available to victims of human trafficking, in order for her to obtain legal status in the United States, so that she can further her education as she had planned.

Another case I worked on was with a Mexican citizen who had entered the United States over thirteen years ago, in 2001. He and his wife have four U.S. citizen children, but neither he nor his wife have legal status. Last year he was the victim of an aggravated assault in Philadelphia, which put him in the hospital and caused him severe mental harm. The client worked with the police department and the district attorney's office in the investigation and prosecution of the crime, and thus, was eligible for a U Visa. The U Visa allows

undocumented immigrants who are extremely vulnerable to criminal acts, to access and assist in the judicial process without risking deportation, so that they are encouraged to report crimes and assist in the prosecution. I was able to work with the client to prepare his documents and submit a petition for him and his wife in order for them to gain legal status in the United States, allowing their family to remain here without fear of deportation.

It was really powerful being able to work with clients directly and see the huge impact that legal services have on individuals. I worked with clients who told me that their status has allowed them to finally feel free here, without having to constantly worry about their and their families' future.

I am very grateful for the funding I received from Equal Justice America because it allowed me to take a summer internship that not only taught me a lot about the type of law I am interested in, but also provided me with valuable insight in serving that community in a legal capacity. I learned a great deal about immigration legal work that I had never been exposed to before by working on a wide range of cases, from affirmative petitions to cancellation of removal and prosecutorial discretion cases. HIAS offers immigration legal services to individuals who would otherwise be on their own, and I worked with many clients who lived below the poverty level and did not have the ability to pay for legal services. I was able to be a part of providing much needed services to the community, and gain experience that is extremely valuable to my legal career. I am so thankful that Equal Justice America allowed me to take part in that experience.

Sincerely,

Caitlin C. Faye  
Rutgers School of Law, 2016



Judith Bernstein-Baker, Esq. M.S.W.  
Executive Director

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September 4, 2014

Katie Toman  
Office Manager  
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Building II  
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Re: Caitlin Faye  
EJA Summer 2014 Fellowship Evaluation

Dear Ms. Toman:

Caitlin Faye successfully completed her summer fellowship with us. Ms. Faye worked hard on the cases assigned to her and was a team player, always willing to help her colleagues as different needs arose. Ms. Faye developed excellent working relationships with her clients and completed her work in a timely manner.

Ms. Faye's primary responsibility was working with immigrant victims of interpersonal violence and helping them apply for benefits under the immigration laws. She worked with several clients and successfully completed their adjustment of status or green card applications for these families. This required her to work closely with the clients to explain the documentation they needed to collect and to accurately complete the various applications and compile the necessary evidence. Ms. Faye quickly earned the trust of the clients and helped them through the process. Our clients expressed their gratitude to me for the careful and respectful manner of Ms. Faye's work with them.

Operating in a busy work environment, it is critical that all staff and interns support each other in our collective work. Ms. Faye was always willing to help out throughout the office and she worked collaboratively with all staff and other interns. Her willingness to help out throughout the office was greatly appreciated and she earned the respect of the entire staff for her work.

Through her work with clients and assistance throughout the office, Ms. Faye demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of the clients our agency serves. She recognized the importance of the provision of the highest quality of legal services to the underserved and marginalized community which we serve. She did this with great respect and professionalism.

Sincerely,



Philippe Weisz  
Managing Attorney