

August 18, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you so much for making my summer internship with Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A possible. Equal Justice America's fellowship allowed me to take an internship in which I learned a great deal and made a difference for people in need.

I interned in the Comprehensive Rights Unit (CRU), which serves low-income clients affected by HIV/AIDS. My main project over the summer was handling a self-petition for permanent residency under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA.) My supervisor allowed me to take the lead, beginning with several in-depth interviews with my client, and continuously writing and re-writing affidavits and other documents for the petition. My client was a mother of four who came to the United States to escape violence in her home country. She suffered seven years of abuse at the hands of her husband, a United States citizen, before finally separating from him for her and her children's safety. She decided to seek documentation so she can work to support her family.

My client was extremely inspiring. She faced unspeakable hardship both in her home country and in the United States, but she has persevered and put her children's well-being above all else. Working on a VAWA petition is a long, complicated process, but I enjoyed very much learning about my amazing client and using that information to make a difference in her life. If the petition is approved, she will be able to work to support herself and her children and stay in the country she has made her home. I plan to attend her interview with immigration next year.

I was also exposed to other areas of family law at Brooklyn A. I visited clients in the hospital to help with permanency planning for their children, should they become too ill to care for them. I met with a client about a visitation matter involving a frighteningly abusive husband. By the end of my internship, I not only improved my legal skills, I gained a strong understanding of the hardships my clients faced and what it means to be low-income and HIV-positive, struggling to support one's family.

I cannot thank you and Equal Justice America enough for the funding to make this internship possible. I had an amazing experience and will continue to pursue a career in public interest law.

Sincerely,

Courtney Libon

Law

Fordham University School of

Class of 2012

August 19, 2010

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Re: Courtney Libon – Summer Law Intern

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Courtney Libon worked at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A from the end of June through mid-August of this year. During that time she performed research assignments on a variety of family law issues including relocation as it relates to custody, kinship foster care and various immigration issues relating to adjustment of status for an undocumented victim of domestic violence. Courtney also drafted and organized a voluminous VAWA application for an abused spouse including a self-petition, application for work authorization and an application for adjustment of status. This required selecting relevant materials to be submitted as supporting evidence, organizing numerous documents and drafting several affidavits for review by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Naturalization Services. In addition to the significant written work she completed, Courtney effectively interviewed witnesses for the drafting of the affidavits.

Courtney very quickly reviewed and came to understand the legal requirements for the VAWA application and all of the research requests I asked her to do. She is very hard working and knows how to work independently, seeking guidance when she needs it but also capable of analyzing material and making good judgments on her own.

Courtney was always punctual and responsible in performing all tasks. She kept me abreast of her progress and set a timeline for completion of the project. She worked well beyond the required hours each week and was flexible with her work schedule in order to accommodate me, a client or a witness. Most important to me, she showed respect and a special sensitivity to all of the clients with whom she interacted. As many of my clients have HIV and are very concerned about their confidentiality, Courtney was able to break through immediately and create a rapport of respect in a culturally diverse community with very low income clients in crisis. She assisted me in drafting and executing documents in hospital settings with terminally ill clients on two occasions. I was very impressed by her demeanor under very difficult circumstances.

I am often reluctant to work with law students during the summer but after my experience

with Courtney this past summer, I am looking forward to doing so again. Courtney is clear in her determination to make a difference for the disenfranchised. I know she will make a meaningful contribution to public interest lawyering.

Rose M. Morgan
Senior Attorney