

August 21, 2007

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

**RE: Fellowship Questionnaire – Summer 2007**

Mr. Ruben:

My summer fellowship at the International Institute of the East Bay could not have been a better 1L summer experience. I was able to dedicate all my time and attention to an organization that had a great need for legal interns but did not have the financial resources to have paid positions. With the assistance of Equal Justice America I was not only given the opportunity to work with a wonderful organization but also was able to do so in a personally economically feasible way.

The dedication of the two attorneys and staff at the International Institute to their clients and to providing legal services to the low-income immigrant population was inspirational. I started the internship with a strong sense of personal commitment to serving the low-income immigrant population, and I finished the internship with practical experience and mentors to further contribute to my commitment.

I was able to work directly with clients during the bi-weekly free walk-in clinic, Violence Against Women act self-petitions for spouses of abusive U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and U Visa Interim relief applications for undocumented immigrants that were victims of violent crimes and cooperated with law enforcement in the investigation and/or prosecution of such crimes that I prepared from start to finish under the supervision of the managing attorney, and helping one of the attorneys with other family petitions and immigration applications.

The International Institute's staff was extremely intelligent, open, and supportive, and along with the other two legal interns and undergraduate interns I worked created a real sense of community within the organization was created that I found very beneficial in discussing and pursuing a career in public interest

work. The clients I worked with also pushed me to continue exploring how issues of language (Spanish particularly), culture, politics, and economics interact and relate to the study and practice of law.

The Equal Justice America fellowship made it financially feasible for me to work with such talented people in the legal field and such dynamic clients and have invaluable experiences that have shaped me as a person and will continue to shape my legal career in the future.

I greatly appreciate the honor of receiving this fellowship, and I feel that the clients I worked with also greatly appreciate that I could be there working with them because many of them had been physically and emotionally abused and really needed an understanding, female, Spanish speaker with immigration knowledge, at no or a low cost, which I was able to be.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elisabeth Pellegrin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elisabeth Pellegrin  
UC, Hastings College of the Law  
2009