

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

July 1, 2008,

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you for funding my Equal Justice America fellowship to practice complex immigration law with Marilia Zellner at Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto. It was undoubtedly the best experience of my 1L year. The fellowship gave me the opportunity to apply the legal theory I learned in the classroom to real life situations, it taught me valuable client counseling skills, and it sparked a passion for immigration law.

There were numerous highlights throughout my three-month fellowship. One particularly happy moment was when we informed our clients that her employment authorization was approved so she could now legally work and support her family. Another highlight was when we learned that the police department would certify our client's helpfulness in a domestic violence incident that occurred fifteen years ago, allowing her the opportunity to apply for a visa and obtain legal status.

However, the real highlights were the sad and uncomfortable moments – those were the times that I learned real client-skills and realized that I wanted to go into public interest work. One of the most difficult encounters was when a client started crying because her two teenage sons were detained and they might be deported. As tears of empathy swelled in my eyes, I did not know what to do. I felt paralyzed between the desire to cry with her and hug her or to leave the room. I did not know how to be both professional and empathetic. It is still a skill I am developing. The next time a client cried, however, I was not overwhelmed. I knew to get her a tissue, stop the interview, get her a glass of water, and give her the time she needed before I continued the interview. The ability to learn how to deal with clients who are suffering and to not be scared of their emotions is an invaluable skill and one that will aid me in my legal practice.

Throughout my fellowship, I realized how illogical and broken the immigration system is. One of the most difficult moments was telling a mother that because her child was a United States citizen who had been abused, and not an undocumented immigrant, the mother was not eligible for the U-visa or the VAWA. The mother could not legally remain in the United States to protect her child. Observing the devastating effects of current immigration laws on my clients made the problems of the current immigration system more tangible. It is a topic I was interested in before I did the fellowship and now I am passionate about it. I am spending part of my

summer interning for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund in Washington, DC to work on immigration policy and I will take a class on immigration law next semester.

My EJA fellowship will undoubtedly have a huge impact on my legal career. It incited a passion to improve the immigration system and a love of working with clients. I had not considered a legal aid career before this fellowship, but now it is a real possibility because I enjoyed working with clients, helping them, and learning from them.

I cannot thank you enough for your generous financial support and the opportunity to do this fellowship.

Sincerely,

Jordana Lynne Mosten
J.D. Candidate
Stanford Law School
Class of 2010