

August 29, 2014

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, I interned at the Immigration Center for Women and Children (ICWC) in Los Angeles, California. I divided my time between helping represent mentally incapacitated individuals in immigration proceedings and helping families victimized by violence and abuse. I worked on various immigration cases including U visas, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions, adjustment of status, and a defensive asylum case. My experience at ICWC was challenging, rewarding, educational, and above all, inspiring. The opportunity to do meaningful work with clients in need reaffirmed my interest in becoming an immigration attorney after law school.

Not only was I given real responsibility and a substantive workload, I learned how to earn the trust of clients, something that has made me a better person. A client of mine from Guatemala had endured repeated acts of sexual violence after coming to the United States. She had saved money and worked hard to support her three children, but suffered from anxiety and post-traumatic stress. She felt especially vulnerable because of her immigration status and was eager to gain the protection of legal status in order guarantee a promising future for her children. I met with her several times and after recording the difficult stories of her abuse, I assembled her personal documents, completed her visa application, and sent it out to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services before the end of the summer. When I told her I had finished her application, she gave me a big hug and told me I was making a huge difference in her life and the lives of her children. I have never felt so moved.

I also worked on a defensive asylum case for a mentally incapacitated HIV-positive bisexual man from Central America. He has lived in the United States since he was a child and has no family, friends, or personal connection to his country of birth. In researching and writing about the unsafe conditions in his homeland, I learned about the persecution of minority groups in Central America and in what circumstances the United States is able to offer refuge. In writing a brief on the persecution he would likely face due to his medical condition, mental condition, and LGBT status, I gained immeasurable respect for his optimistic outlook in the face of such overwhelming challenges.

The Equal Justice America Fellowship not only allowed me to pursue the legal work that appeals to me most, it gave me the opportunity to empower others to discover a new beginning in spite of the obstacles of their past. Thank you for your support and for helping students like me to pursue such rewarding work.

Sincerely,

Justin Globerson

University of California, Hastings College of Law, Class of 2016



ICWC Immigration Center for
Women and Children

Via Mail and Email

August 28, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, Justin Globerson worked under our supervision at the Immigration Center for Women and Children in Los Angeles, California. Our non-profit legal organization provides affordable immigration services to underrepresented individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes, and children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. Our office also provides direct removal defense representation to detained noncitizens that have been found incompetent to represent themselves in deportation proceedings under the landmark *Franco-Gonzalez v. Holder* lawsuit. All law student interns have their own caseloads and conduct client intakes and general consultations.

Justin was assigned two U visa cases, an adjustment of status for a U-3 visa holder, and he also researched, briefed, and assisted with a defensive asylum case. After completing orientation and introductory trainings on major forms of immigration relief and how to screen clients for eligibility, Justin assumed primary responsibility for preparing the U visa and adjustment of status cases. During the summer-long internship, Justin developed strong rapport with his clients and was able to successfully complete a U visa application and file it with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Justin's exposure to both the U visa and defensive asylum process was an invaluable learning experience because he not only learned the law, he became familiar with the practical aspects of immigration work, including filing deadlines and the timeframe for collecting and preparing necessary documents. He also assisted attorneys with Freedom of Information Act requests and Violence Against Women Act petitions.

Justin also had the opportunity to shadow staff attorneys during removal hearings for detained noncitizens. While shadowing attorneys, Justin learned about case strategy and crafting legal arguments. In addition to Justin's caseload, he drafted a memorandum on whether a conviction under a certain California statute was an aggravated felony or crime of moral turpitude.



ICWC Immigration Center for
Women and Children

We truly appreciated Justin's positive attitude and his eagerness to learn more about effective immigration lawyering. Justin was flexible and enthusiastic about taking on additional work throughout the summer.

Thank you and Equal Justice America for providing support to law students interested in public interest work.

Sincerely,

Stobhan Waldron
Staff Attorney

Mariel Abeleda
Staff Attorney