

August 10, 2010

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to thank you and EJA for making it possible for me to work at the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center this summer. This summer internship has given me a positive working experience in the legal public interest sector, and has helped strengthened my desire to use my legal education towards furthering the welfare of the community.

I have been thoroughly impressed by the breadth and depth of work a small organization like APALRC can accomplish. With a staff of less than 15 people, they are able to handle work in a wide range of areas, including language access, immigration, housing, domestic violence, employment and community organizing. As a summer intern, it has been an invaluable learning experience for me to be exposed to so many issues over this summer.

I have also been surprised by how much more I feel connected to the Asian immigrant issues that are at the center of APALRC's attention. As an immigrant myself and having lived in five different cities on three different continents in the past ten years, I feel that I understand the sense of alienation that my clients are experiencing. Some clients have expressed to me the great relief of finally being able to tell their stories in their own language because that is when they feel like their problems have truly been heard. Indeed, one of the experiences that I enjoyed the most from the internship is the opportunity to work with clients. I feel that doing direct intakes with callers help place the issues in context. I now see each case more than just a legal puzzle that needs to be solved. Applying law to facts means more than just winning a case—it is instead about thinking what is best for the clients.

I have also learned a tremendous amount about what it means to be a community lawyer. Being positioned in the Housing and Community Justice Project provides me with the opportunity to observe how community organizing intersects with legal work. My supervisor and the community organizing staff at the APALRC have worked over the past few years in helping tenants gain a collective voice. They have shown me not only how much patience is needed in this type of work, but also how rewarding this work can be. One of my favorite clients at the APALRC is in fact a tenant association. With the help of the APALRC, this tenant association has become a well-run group that knows how to demand their right, who can debate their issues thoroughly, and who works tirelessly to improve the living condition for all the tenants in the building.

APALRC's success depends very much on the passion and drive of the staff, and I have learned that I will need to find the same sense of passion in the work that I do if I want to excel in the public sector. Working at the APALRC this summer has been a truly inspiring learning experience. I want to thank you again for the generous grant and for supporting my work at the APALRC this summer.

Sincerely,

Kammy Lai
The George Washington University Law School
JD Candidate, 2012

APA Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center

LRC

August 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am a staff attorney at the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, and former recipient of an Equal Justice America Fellowship. I wanted to thank you and EJA for your continued support of law students interested in public interest. This is the second year in a row that we have had the privilege of hosting a student who received a fellowship. I am writing this letter to summarize the work of my summer law clerk, Ms. Kammy Lai, who, through the support of EJA, worked with the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center and assisted in our mission of advocating for justice for Asian Americans in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area through direct services, advocacy, and organizing.

Ms. Lai worked directly under my supervision in the Housing & Community Justice Project, which focuses on tenants' rights and community building in low income and limited English proficient communities. Ms. Lai worked 40 hours per week for 10 weeks during the summer of 2010. Ms. Lai was also responsible for client intakes and interviews in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, and other languages through the use of interpreters. During her time with the APALRC, she wrote legal interview memos, researched legal issues as they relate to client cases, and assisted in legal drafting whenever necessary. She also interacted with individual clients both on the phone and in person under the supervision of a staff attorney, as well as with group clients that have retained the APALRC as counsel.

Ms. Lai was an exemplary law clerk. She was organized, thorough with her research, interested in a range of areas, empathetic to the clients, wrote well, and dove into the work that we had waiting for her. I cannot say enough about the quality of her work and her ability to thrive in a fast-changing, unpredictable environment. As her direct supervisor, I always found her to be thoughtful in the way that she engaged the work, asking questions about process and context even as she was researching and learning the substantive area of law in which we were working. I believe that Ms. Lai will be a fine lawyer, and believe that both EJA and APALRC should be proud to have had some role in her journey to practice.

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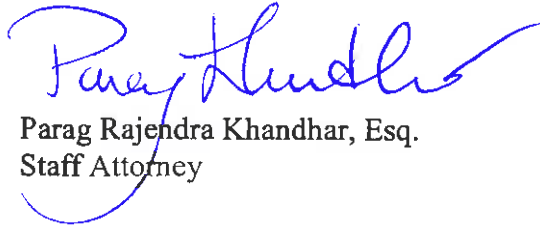
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APALRC: Ensuring Access to Justice for Asian Pacific Americans since 1998

www.apalrc.org

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 706-7102 or parag@apalrc.org if you have any questions about anything I've written above, and again, thank you and Equal Justice America for supporting public interest law students and organizations through this invaluable program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Parag Khandhar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Parag Rajendra Khandhar, Esq.
Staff Attorney