

August 30, 2015

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

Dear Dan Ruben,

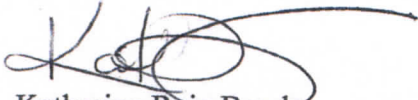
This summer I had the great pleasure of working at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in New York, New York. KIND provides pro-bono attorneys to represent unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in their deportation proceedings, at the Immigration Court, as well as legal screenings and “Know Your Rights” presentations. KIND focuses on a mentorship model with pro-bono attorney partners-at-law firms, corporations and law schools nationwide.

My goal for this summer was to get as much legal experience as possible from my internship. During my internship, I had the opportunity to interact directly with the clients by conducting numerous intakes. This process also entailed presenting the client’s story with my supervising attorneys and offering my insight into what type of relief this client could pursue. Following this discussion I would write a memo that would be presented to the client’s pro-bono attorney. This memo would assist the attorneys in determining whether or not to take on the case by summarizing the client’s background and all the available reliefs for the client.

This is not so say that I didn’t find myself in the position where I was facing situations that were hard to deal with. This was because some of our clients came to the United States to find a better life for themselves but came to the realization that there wasn’t any legal relief based on their profiles. After speaking with the clients for many hours, and learning their stories, it was extremely hard to explain to them that my organization couldn’t help them because there weren’t eligible for any legal relief.

At first, I hadn't envisioned myself pursuing a career in Immigration Law. Nevertheless, I took the opportunity with an open mind – which proved to be an excellent choice, not only from an experience perspective but also as a career building block. This wouldn't have been possible without the support from Equal Justice America, and for this I'd like to extend my most sincere thank you to the organization.

Sincerely,

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

Katherine Ruiz Boada
JD Candidate 2017
Brooklyn Law School



August 18, 2015

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Sarah Burrows, I am a Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney at Kids in Need of Defense. I supervised Katherine Ruiz Boada during the course of her internship at KIND this past summer, and am writing to provide an evaluation of her work as requested under the EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA Fellowship Program.

Over the course of her 10-week internship, Katherine became a strong contributor and a true team member in our five-person office. A major focus of Katherine's summer was conducting comprehensive intake interviews for unaccompanied immigrant children seeking pro bono legal services through KIND. After first observing several intake sessions conducted by KIND staff, Katherine conducted one under observation of a supervisor, and then was able to conduct approximately 8 intakes herself. Each screening is preceded by a brief "Know Your Rights" presentation to provide the child and his/her family members with vital information about immigration court proceedings, access to education, and working with pro bono counsel. After conducting this presentation, Katherine would then interview the child and the child's caregiver separately. Afterward, Katherine would review her findings with a KIND attorney, to help them in analyzing the child's prospects for legal relief and eligibility for KIND's services.

The purpose of KIND's legal intakes is twofold: to identify whether the child may be eligible for any form of relief that would allow him or her to remain in the United States legally, and to assess whether the child and family are prepared to work with pro bono counsel. Katherine was able to complete both of these objectives during her intakes. After each intake was concluded, Katherine drafted a detailed memorandum of her findings, for review by KIND attorneys, which would ultimately be shared with the child's pro bono counsel.

Katherine learned quickly, and built on her skills throughout the summer. For example, although her initial intakes ran long, she learned how to better manage her time and became more efficient as she developed the ability to focus and prioritize the most important issues. Similarly, her intake memos improved as she learned the best and most efficient way to present important information. Katherine was able to connect with clients and has an ability to bridge the clients' world with the law practice world, which is a valuable skill that she continued to build on throughout the summer.

Katherine also did substantial research into U-visa eligibility requirements. This research was helpful in determining whether or not KIND could offer representation to a child.

Katherine furthermore assisted with daily case management tasks and frequently communicated directly with clients and potential clients. She helped track upcoming court appearances, composed letters to families, and conducted follow up phone calls.

She was open to trying new things and took on everything that was given to her with enthusiasm. She asked questions when necessary and met her deadlines. We found her to be detail oriented and organized. She frequently asked for feedback and made an effort to incorporate our comments into her work. At her mid-summer evaluation, during a half-hour in-person meeting, she provided a self-assessment of her skills and understood her own strengths, as well as where she needed improvement.

Katherine had a great attitude throughout the summer and was truly a pleasure to work with. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information about Katherine's work with KIND this summer. I can be reached by phone at (212) 854-6014 or by email at sburrows@supportkind.org.

Sincerely,



Sarah Burrows, Esq.

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