

August 25, 2016

Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer I was a legal intern at the National Immigration Law Center (NILC). NILC is a public interest organization that aims to protect and advance the rights of low-income immigrants in the United States through impact litigation and policy advocacy. As an intern, I participated in both the impact litigation and policy advocacy approaches. A few of the tasks I completed include: legal research and writing assignments; attending community outreach meetings; and conducting a presentation concerning immigrants' rights to aspiring college students and college students.

The highlight of my experience was contributing work to a class action lawsuit and conducting research on potential class action lawsuits. One of the assignments I completed was writing a representative plaintiff piece that was included in a class action certification motion. This assignment allowed me to learn about the individuals named in a lawsuit alleging discrimination against a state government that is discriminating against Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. The named plaintiffs, and the class as a whole, were denied driver's licenses as a result of a discriminatory law. The refusal of driver's licenses is a significant burden to the class because it restricted their ability to gain superior job opportunities and travel to necessary locations such as to medical appointments and even grocery stores.

I also participated in community outreach and policy advocacy during my fellowship at NILC. My policy advocacy work concerned supporting a city ordinance in Los Angeles that would penalize "notario frauds" for preying on low-income, misinformed immigrants. I also contributed my research skills to reforming the California Gang Database, which heavily discriminates against immigrants who live in low-income neighborhoods. The community outreach work I participated in was a presentation to students about their rights as immigrants and the current political landscape of immigration laws.

My work at NILC fortified my passion of working to improve immigrants' rights in our country. After gaining experience of direct services at my school's Immigrant Justice Clinic, my experience at NILC provided me with the opportunity to observe the impact litigation aspect of immigration law. I felt fortunate to be in a position to help thousands of affected individuals through class action litigation. I am committed to continuing to service this community upon my graduation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erica Ascencio

Erica Ascencio
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