



September 9, 2010

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Maia Falconi-Sachs interned with the DC field office of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) from early June to the end of August 2010. She worked approximately 30 hours a week during that period and I was her direct supervisor. We are an office of two attorneys, so Maia's assistance this summer was greatly appreciated!

Maia had the opportunity to work with both released and detained children. Her work with released children – those children who have been reunified with family members in the DC area after being apprehended at the border – involved observing and conducting intake interviews and writing referral memos. She also spent untold time advising children and their family members about how to get to Immigration Court; how to ask for more time to find an attorney; and how to do basic procedures, like changes of venue, pro se. Perhaps most importantly, she allayed their fears about going to court and informed them about what to expect.

Maia also had the opportunity to visit the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention home which houses detained immigrant youth. She observed an intake with a detainee and also conducted her own intake, ultimately writing the referral memo for the child and participating in calls about the child's family reunification and potential transfer to another center. In conjunction with this detained work, Maia did research on Virginia procedures regarding abused, neglected and abandoned children. We, in turn, used her research in advocacy with the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, which has

jurisdiction over these detained children and hears their petitions for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

I believe Maia's internship provided her a complete introduction to the joys and the complexities of learning to communicate and work with clients, and child clients, at that. Maia was always very friendly and empathetic with clients, yet always professional. Her work contributed greatly to our office's productivity this summer and we are grateful that Equal Justice America funded her time with us.

If you need additional information about Maia's work this summer, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Daria Fisher Page

Pro Bono Coordinator