

August 21, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I completed my EJA Fellowship at the University of Michigan Law School's Human Trafficking Clinic. It was the best experience I could have asked for as a rising 2L.

While I was responsible for about 15 clients at the Clinic, I spent a substantial amount of my time working on two cases that have stayed with me because of the clients' stories and because of the work I completed for them.

The first client was visiting her family in the U.S. on a temporary visa when her husband, who was in her home country, divorced her. Scrambling to find stability, she started working for a relative of her family at his business. After she started, he told her that she had to get married to a U.S. citizen in order to stay in the country. She did not know that this was illegal under U.S. law. After the marriage, he stopped paying her and said she had to work for him all day, every day for free because he had given her "husband" a lot of money to marry her. He said that if she did not work, he would take her to ICE and have her deported.

The client worked for this man for two years before she escaped. Every week, the man would rape her and say that if she went to the police, he would deport her. He also hit her on several occasions and covered it up by using the same threats. He eventually pled guilty to the immigration fraud, and a U.S. District Judge ordered restitution. However, he has appealed this order on the grounds that our client was a conspirator in, not a victim of, the immigration fraud, and is therefore not entitled to restitution. This summer, I wrote an *amicus* brief defending the client's restitution order, which the Clinic will file in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

While it is far from certain that the client will actually see restitution if the order is upheld, this case was important to me because I wanted to ensure that the Court treated our client as a victim, and not as a criminal. In addition to the legal reasons why she should not be considered a criminal, it seemed monumentally unfair to me that the law should force this woman to forfeit her wages after the defendant twisted the immigration laws to steal them.

The second client was brought to the U.S. on a student visa with the promise that she could work to earn money for her education. When she arrived, however, she was forced to work in a strip club, isolated from the outside world, and subjected to physical and sexual violence. When she tried to leave after her visa expired, her traffickers forced her to stay. Even after hearing that the traffickers firebombed the car of another victim who tried to leave, she escaped and helped

police put her traffickers in prison. She has been in the U.S. for over ten years, and members of the clinic staff have helped her get her T-Visa and Green Card in previous years.

This summer, however, I was able to help her prepare an application to Naturalize as a U.S. Citizen. This involved having many phone conversations with the client, completing a lengthy immigration form, and determining whether she was legally eligible to naturalize. Her case was important to me for several reasons. First, it was a privilege to help this woman complete her 10 year immigration journey from being a foreign victim of trafficking to being a U.S. Citizen, after the client and dozens of lawyers and law students worked so hard to bring her to this point. Second, it made me realize how fortunate I am to be a U.S. Citizen by birth, and impressed upon me how difficult it is for non-citizens, particularly those who are unrepresented, to navigate the sometimes incomprehensible legal labyrinth of the INA, even if they are eligible for a status. Finally, after becoming more familiar with the client and her story, I became firmly convinced that she will be a better citizen than many of the natural-born citizens that I know, and that the United States will be better off when she is a part of it.

Sincerely,

/s/Christopher Kozak
Christopher Kozak
J.D. Candidate (May 2017)
Michigan State University College of Law
Michigan State Law Review



Bridgette A. Carr
Suellyn Scarnecchia
Elizabeth A. Campbell

August 24, 2015

Equal Justice America Fellowship Program
VIA e-mail to Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

RE: Christopher Kozak

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am pleased to report that Christopher (Chris) Kozak successfully completed his fellowship with the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic. He completed 10 weeks of full-time work in the Clinic and his last day was Friday, August 21, 2015.

Chris had his own caseload, consisting of a wide variety of matters. All of his clients were victims of human trafficking. Some of his clients were foreign nationals and others were U.S. citizens, including both men and women and people of all ages. Chris developed a lengthy brief on behalf of a client for filing in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. He worked on a variety of immigration applications and completed them with terrific attention to detail. He helped clients navigate bureaucracies of all kinds. He kept in touch with his clients and supervisors on a regular basis and, in just a short time, developed strong professional relationships with many clients. Chris has excellent writing and advocacy skills.

Chris was always professional, courteous, and timely. He was a good and helpful colleague to his fellow law students. He was a pleasure to supervise and he worked with all three faculty members of the Clinic during the summer months. We think very highly of him and will look forward to serving as references for him as he pursues his career goals. We are grateful to EJA for supporting Chris' work in our clinic during the summer of 2015.

Many thanks,

Suellyn Scarnecchia
Clinical Professor of Law