

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

August 26, 2014

Dear Mr. Ruben:

During my fellowship at the Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia I had the opportunity to represent immigrants both in defensive immigration court proceedings and on affirmative applications for immigration benefits. It was a wonderful chance for me to both improve my skills and expand my substantive knowledge about various areas of immigration law. I participated in weekly intake sessions where I screened clients for various types of immigration relief. I also communicated with existing clients regularly and learned a huge amount about managing a heavy caseload while maintaining the confidence of my clients.

One client who I worked with throughout the summer came to the United States from Mexico in 2003 on a temporary work visa to work for a landscaping company. He explained to me that he came here because he was unable to support his wife and three children on the wage he could earn in Mexico. His home was made of cardboard and was severely damaged each year during the rainy season. He had hoped to return to Mexico and then come back to the United States to work on a seasonal basis, but he was unable to secure one of the limited positions for which companies can offer visas. Instead, he overstayed his visa and remained in the United States to work as a day laborer. He has sent money to support his family in Mexico every two weeks, but has not seen them in ten years.

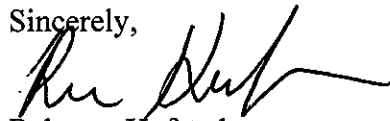
Last year, he was placed in removal proceedings as the result of a traffic stop. When he came to the Nationalities Service Center seeking representation, our office discovered that he is eligible for a U visa. U visas provide immigrants who are victims of crimes and cooperate with the police an opportunity to gain work authorization and ultimately lawful permanent residence. My client was attacked by a neighbor in 2011 and testified against his assailant. I worked with him to prepare his application. This included interviewing him extensively and writing his affidavit, completing the necessary forms, and gathering supporting evidence. After filing the application, I represented my client in court and asked for a continuance while the application is pending with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). I also prepared the applications for his wife and his three minor children, who can be derivative beneficiaries if he receives the visa. Now, he just needs to wait for CIS to adjudicate his application. Hopefully, he will soon be able to legalize his status and bring his family to join him in the United States after so much time apart.

Another client I worked with extensively is a legal permanent resident from Italy. He is in his thirties now, and has lived in the United States legally since he was five years old. He was placed into deportation proceedings last year on the basis of a single drug possession conviction from 2011. After his arrest, but before immigration authorities initiated his deportation, he voluntarily

enrolled in a drug rehabilitation program. He has now been clean for three years. He sought discretionary relief from deportation, and I worked with him to gather evidence of his extensive family ties in this country, his work and education history, and his successful rehabilitation. I prepared a lengthy packet of evidence and wrote a cover letter for the judge. My client's hearing was in mid-August and he won his case. He will return to legal permanent resident status.

These cases were just a few examples of the varied experiences of my clients. I had an opportunity to get to know their stories and form relationships with them while fighting their immigration cases. My experience at the Nationalities Service Center was incredibly valuable, and confirmed my conviction that I want to pursue a career in immigration direct services. I am incredibly appreciative of the financial support Equal Justice America was able to provide for my fellowship this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Hufstader", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebecca Hufstader

New York University Law School '15



Nationalities Service Center

September 12, 2014

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rebecca Hufstader. Rebecca worked as a summer intern at Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia under my supervision from May to August 2014. When I think of all the work that Rebecca accomplished—from conducting countless client intakes with Spanish speakers, researching complex criminal and immigration issues, preparing a legal brief, and completing applications and drafting affidavits for several clients—it is difficult to believe she was only with us for one summer.

Rebecca's performance as a legal intern at Nationalities Service Center was outstanding. Early on in her internship, she impressed me with her diligence, dedication, and ability to advocate for clients. Rebecca was quick to develop her understanding of the intersection of criminal and immigration law as well as the skills necessary to represent clients effectively, including assembling documentary evidence and drafting complicated legal briefs. Rebecca also displayed excellent courtroom skills, having represented clients in multiple hearings under my supervision.

In addition to her excellent writing and courtroom skills, Rebecca was an effective advocate because of her interpersonal skills and thoughtfulness. Whether she was representing someone in immigration court, interviewing a client in a detention facility, or preparing an affidavit with a victim of abuse, Rebecca demonstrated great poise and maturity. Many of our clients are from vulnerable populations and have suffered trauma. Rebecca demonstrated a natural ability to act as a relentless advocate for clients while exuding great calm and sensitivity in their presence.

If I can offer any further insight with regard to Rebecca's performance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-804-2207 or arodriguez@nscphila.org.

Sincerely,

Abel Rodríguez
Staff Attorney

Serving immigrants and refugees in the Philadelphia region since 1921.

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