

August 1, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I write to thank you for the opportunity to serve as a Summer 2017 Fellow for Equal Justice America. This summer, I have been working at the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) in Los Angeles, California as a Legal Intern. The past nine weeks at NILC have been an incredible experience and the Equal Justice America fellowship program has helped me pursue my interest and dedication to working in immigration law.

NILC is a public interest law firm that is dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants. NILC has three main departments: impact litigation, policy advocacy and strategic communications. The main office is in Los Angeles, where the majority of attorneys are located, and the other office is in DC, which is primarily focused on advocacy. NILC works on a variety of issues affecting low-income immigrants including: DACA, health care, immigration enforcement, and workers' rights. NILC engages in lawsuits that defend the rights of immigrants.

This summer, NILC attorneys have been working on the travel ban lawsuit (*IRAP v. Trump*), a lawsuit concerning access to driver's licenses for DACA recipients (*Brewer v. ADAC*), and a few other high-profile cases. Since NILC is an impact litigation firm, I was not working directly with clients; however, I had the opportunity to work on incredibly meaningful cases throughout the summer. For example, I conducted legal research and writing to help assist NILC's attorneys in the travel ban litigation. NILC, along with the ACLU, filed a lawsuit challenging Trump's revised Muslim ban Executive Order, which was signed in March of this year. NILC attorneys were working tirelessly this summer to prepare for their Supreme Court brief and oral arguments, which will be taking place during the Fall. This lawsuit is a crucial signal to the Trump administration that we will challenge policies that—to borrow wording from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals—“drip[] with religious intolerance, animus, and discrimination.”

In addition to working on *IRAP v. Trump*, I conducted legal research and writing for other important cases where NILC is either lead counsel or co-counsel. For example, I worked on cases challenging Arizona's discriminatory policies relating to driver's licenses. Immigrants in Arizona are often denied driver's license on the sole basis of their immigration status. For these cases, I drafted research memos on class certification, standing, mootness, and discovery requests. I also drafted and edited a section of a preliminary injunction motion on behalf of our plaintiff—a DACA recipient who was deported to Mexico earlier this year.

Outside of the litigation department, I participated in community organizing and other advocacy efforts. I drafted fact sheets on Temporary Protected Status (TPS), courthouse arrests, and healthcare identification requirements. I also attended “Know Your Rights” presentations that were held by staff attorneys from NILC. It was a wonderful experience to gain exposure to NILC’s litigation and advocacy departments and to observe the important role that NILC plays in advancing the rights of low-income immigrants. The attorneys, advocacy and communications teams, and administrative support are all extremely dedicated and passionate about the work that the organization does.

I had a fantastic summer working at NILC. I had the opportunity to work on issues that I am passionate about, alongside attorneys who I admire and who have been inspiring mentors. I was given meaningful and substantive research assignments, where I was also able to improve my research and writing skills. More importantly, I was able to contribute to NILC’s instrumental role in advocating for immigrants’ rights.

Sincerely,

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

Hannah Coleman

Stanford Law School | J.D. Candidate '19