

August 31, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I would like to thank you and Equal Justice America for making my summer internship a financial possibility. Without financial support, I would have been unable to gain this important career experience.

My summer internship was with the Legal and Policy Department of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST). Most of my time at CAST was spent working on the immigration petitions of victims of human trafficking, including victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The immigration remedies I helped clients access included T nonimmigrant visas specially designed for victims of human trafficking and their derivative family members; U nonimmigrant visas for victims of crime more generally and their derivative family members; employment authorization; continued presence for victims of human trafficking assisting law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting traffickers; and adjustment of status to legal permanent resident. For many, I screened their case for qualification as a trafficking victim under the federal definition, participated in an initial consultation interview to understand the legal services they were seeking, and explained the legal options available to them. I also prepared applications including declarations of victims developed over the course of several interviews. For other clients, I assisted them to gather the necessary documents for their application, including multi-year proof of residence and replacement of passports stolen by traffickers. In some cases, I conducted legal research regarding grounds of inadmissibility waivers that would allow clients to qualify for an immigration remedy otherwise unattainable. In addition to immigration assistance, I helped several clients to access restraining orders against their traffickers, and in family law matters (divorce, child custody, spousal support) related to their trafficking.

My work also included a policy aspect; I assisted staff with advocacy for passage of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2011 and the California Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, both of which

would help prevent human trafficking. I met with state senate staffers, prepared city council testimony, drafted legislative fact sheets/action alerts, and collected constituent signatures urging bill passage. The most rewarding aspect of this policy work was being able to stand side by side with victims of human trafficking as they personally talked with legislators and the press about how proposed legislation would have helped prevent the exploitation they personally endured.

Although I worked with many clients who inspired me with their strength and perseverance despite the terrible abuse and exploitation they had suffered, I am unable to discuss their stories because of the risk to their safety from their traffickers who continue to search for them. Their lives and my experiences this summer have reinforced my commitment to working in public interest law on behalf of victims of human trafficking and other gender-related violence.

Sincerely,

Sandra K. Fluke  
Georgetown University Law Center Class of 2012