

SARAH H. LICHT

August 5, 2011

Dan Ruben
Executive Director, Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I worked in the Immigration Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), in affiliation with the Harvard Law School's Immigration and Refugee Clinic. While at GBLS, I worked daily with clients seeking asylum in the United States. My work was quite varied, and much of it was conducted exclusively in Spanish. I drafted appellate briefs, motions for federal immigration court, and personal affidavits from asylum seekers. I conducted research into legal issues for appeals and into country conditions regarding the violent aftermath of the Guatemalan Civil War. I developed strong relationships with clients and delivered a closing statement at the conclusion of an asylum interview. Though I was already a fluent Spanish speaker, my work experience at GBLS further enhanced my ability to utilize my written and oral language skills in a legal environment. My time at GBLS strengthened my skills at developing and maintaining professional relationships with clients and has made me excited to apply those skills to clients outside the scope of immigration law.

Working at GBLS was a very interesting experience and I had the pleasure of meeting many unique people. One of our clients was an asylum seeker from Guatemala who was still not open about his sexuality, and was dealing with some very severe personal issues throughout the process of applying for asylum and preparing him for his interview with the Citizenship and Immigration Service. After spending several weeks working closely with him, it was wonderful to see him happy and lighthearted after his interview. Upon walking out of the federal building, he threw his hands in the air and exclaimed, "I am free! I feel free." Even though it is currently unclear if he will actually be granted asylum, I am so happy that he finally feels better about speaking about his traumatic experiences and seems much more ready and able to move on with his life.

This summer was a meaningful personal experience as well as an opportunity for professional growth. I learned a great deal from the attorneys with whom I worked, but more than anything, I learned a great deal about perseverance and optimism from my clients.

Sincerely,

Sarah H. Licht

University of Michigan Law School
Anticipated Graduation May 2013

Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic
of
Greater Boston Legal Services, Inc.
and
Harvard Law School

Deborah Anker

Clinical Professor/Attorney

Nancy Kelly

Co-Managing Atty of Clinic/ Unit Managing Atty

Jane Rocamora

Clinical Supervisor/Senior Attorney

John Willshire Carrera

Co-Managing Atty of Clinic/Lead Atty

Jeroboam Tisme

Clinical Assistant/Paralegal

August 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ms. Sarah Licht based on her work as a Summer Law Clerk in the Immigration Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services and the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic of Harvard Law School. She was one of nine law clerks who worked with us for ten weeks during the summer of 2011. During her tenure with us she proved herself to be an excellent writer, a zealous legal advocate, a fast learner, and an invaluable member of our Summer Program.

Sarah worked primarily with clients seeking asylum in the United States. She, for example, played a major role in completing an asylum claim for one of our Guatemalan indigenous clients. She completed a lengthy and very well crafted final affidavit, and compiled a very persuasive packet of corroborating evidence. Additionally, Ms. Licht supported her client through the process of a psychiatric evaluation, researched country conditions in Guatemala, and completed an excellent legal memorandum addressing a crucial aspect of her client's claim. Ms. Licht spent numerous hours preparing her client for his claim, as well as second chaired his interview with me. Being fluent in Spanish and having developed excellent cross-cultural skills, combined with her excellent organization and leadership qualities, enabled her to work independently with her client with minimal supervision.

Throughout her work with me this summer, Sarah has demonstrated superior writing and communication skills. She always formed strong rapport with clients who, for the most part, are traumatized and living under very trying circumstances. Sarah proved herself to be a very fast learner, able to jump right into projects and make an immediate impact. I recommend her to you without any reservations. I am certain that she will be an excellent addition to your organization.

Should you have any further questions, please at jwillshire@gbls.org or jwillshire@law.harvard.edu or 617-515-3042.

Sincerely,



John Willshire Carrera

Co-Managing Attorney/Lead Attorney

Greater Boston Legal Services, Immigration Unit
Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic