

SONIA GUTIERREZ

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

First of all, I would like to thank you and Equal Justice America again for your support this summer. I had a wonderful experience working as a law clerk in the Immigrants' Rights Project (IRP) at Public Counsel in Los Angeles, CA. In this position, I was able to rely and build upon my direct client services experience, as well as develop my legal research and writing skills. I met directly with clients to help them prepare various types of applications – including, for example, applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and legal permanent residency. I also helped do client intakes in a Legal Orientation Program (LOP) at two immigration detention facilities, and completed several research projects.

It was extremely fulfilling to be able to serve clients once again. One case that I particularly enjoyed working on was that of a high school student applying for DACA. The client's father had been recently deported and his mother sold fruit to support him and his three younger siblings. By helping this client, I felt I helped his entire family. Having a work permit will allow the client to obtain a job to help his hard-working mother support their family. It will also allow him to save money for future college expenses. In addition to helping the client apply for DACA, I helped draft a letter requesting a police report that could potentially help the client in applying for a U Visa (a type of immigration benefit for victims of crime). Given that the client's father was a victim of the same crime, he could potentially obtain the same benefit, allowing him to return to the United States legally and reunite with his family.

Being able to reunite and keep together families such as this one, and help improve their quality of life, is why I want to pursue a career in immigration law. My summer experience has only reinforced my commitment to this type of work. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with passionate, talented individuals, and to contribute to the amazing work that they do for underserved immigrant communities.

Thank you again for contributing to this great experience.

Sincerely,



Sonia Gutierrez
UCLA School of Law | Class of 2016