



October 2, 2017

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

Sent via e-mail

Re: Hana Kommel Internship with ACLU of Southern California

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Victor Leung and I am the Deputy Director of Advocacy and Staff Attorney at the ACLU of Southern California. I had the pleasure of supervising Hana Kommel this summer in the ACLU's Education Equity project.

Hana was a very impressive intern and significantly advanced our work this summer. She assisted us on a variety of projects and – mainly because she took a lot of initiative – she was exposed to a wide range of advocacy strategies. For example, Hana helped organize students for our #StudentsNotSuspects action at a Los Angeles Unified School District Board meeting to protest metal detector searches to performing key research to support our lawsuit enforcing California's new funding law. Hana showed a talent for working with students effectively and for building trust with them in a very short period of time. The action convinced the board members and superintendent to convene a hearing in September to re-assess the effectiveness of the policy.

Hana also performed a lot of legal research and writing that was instrumental in our ongoing litigation. For example, Hana researched some very complex questions about administrative deference that shaped our legal strategy in *Community Coalition v. LAUSD*, which is the first lawsuit to enforce California's new education finance law. In large part due to Hana's comprehensive research, we were able to assess our likelihood of success and negotiated a settlement with the offending district that will divert hundreds of millions of dollars towards high need students.

Finally, Hana took full advantage of our internship program, attending all of our internal and external brown bags. The speakers include district court and circuit judges, professors, and practitioners of all types. Hana and I had some very engaging conversations following the presentations; it was clear that she had a very deep and thoughtful engagement with the material and I learned a lot from her perspective. She also visited the Adelanto Immigration Detention Facility and worked with detainees for a lawsuit our office is in the early stages of developing.

We were thrilled with Hana's internship and I hope she found the experience valuable. We hope to work with her again in the future. Please feel free to contact me at vleung@clusocal.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Leung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized "V".

Victor Leung
Staff Attorney
ACLU Foundation of Southern California
1313 West Eighth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

