



Via E-mail to katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

August 29, 2017

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

Re: Ian Padilla Jong, EJA Summer 2017 Fellow, East Bay Community Law Center

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My name is Theo Cuison and I am a Staff Attorney and Clinical Supervisor in the Immigration Unit of the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC). EBCLC is a clinic of UC Berkeley School of Law. I am writing today to provide an evaluation of Ian Padilla Jong, a current 2L at UCLA School of Law. I was Ian's direct supervisor for his summer fellowship at EBCLC.

Ian was an excellent addition to EBCLC's Immigration Unit. Ian worked with vulnerable low-income populations and exhibited a great degree of kindness, professionalism, and humility in his advocacy.

This is often rare to find in newer advocates. Ian, however, brought a sensitivity to the issues facing his clients, and genuinely connected with our clients. Despite his short tenure with the office, Ian assisted with approximately 20 client matters allowing us to serve nearly 400 clients during his ten week service with us.

Ian worked diligently and served more clients than any other summer law student in our Immigration Unit. Under time pressure and working with clients who faced severe trauma, Ian exercised his independent judgment and executed the tasks given to him with minimal supervision. Ian knew when to ask clarifying questions and always checked to make sure that his actions comported with our office's professional responsibility requirements.

Ian is mature, driven, and personable—qualities that are not often displayed in young adults today and qualities that will prepare him for a future of legal advocacy.

I enthusiastically write in support of Ian because I know that the bar of attorneys needs advocates like Ian. At the moment, I am surrounded by files of undocumented survivors of family violence seeking legal status, unaccompanied minors fleeing terrible gender and political violence worried about their futures before an uncaring federal bureaucracy, and long-time residents of the United States jilted out of their life savings by unscrupulous *notarios* promising a path to lawful status. Ian has competently handled himself in as many diverse situations, from helping with a declaration detailing horrendous persecution on the part of gangs directed at a young man in Honduras who witnessed the murder of his brother-in-law, to assisting three severely disabled brothers apply for citizenship, to

providing consultations resulting in the discovery of relief for dozens of desperate community members who have been living in the shadows. There is simply not enough space to list his accomplishments in the time I directly supervised and known him.

In a professional capacity, I have supervised many undergraduate students, paralegals, law students, and lawyers. Ian exceeded my expectations as a fellow advocate.

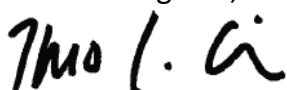
As a Staff Attorney and now clinical Supervisor, I have supervised dozens of undergraduates, law students, paralegals, and lawyers. Ian was one of the best interns I have had the pleasure to supervise—a recommendation I do not make lightly, and a recommendation I make without qualification.

In times when law students worry about their employment prospects, I know that Ian's drive, work ethic, humility, and mind distinguishes him from his peers. I, myself, have benefitted from fellowships like the Equal Justice America fellowship and know that the fellowships allowed me to enter public service directly from law school. I am confident that any organization blessed enough to have Ian as an intern and future attorney will benefit from the training and exposure to issues facing low-income clients he received in his summer at EBCLC.

Ian will find a way to make a contribution to the legal community and to his community. My sincerest hope is that he further develops as an advocate with further public service opportunities. Having Ian as a fellow member of the bar and as a fellow public interest advocate would be an honor. I would strongly and enthusiastically support whatever future endeavor he sets his mind on and thank Equal Justice America for funding his summer with EBCLC.

I would be happy to further discuss his summer experience at EBCLC. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 510-548-4040 or TCuison@EBCLC.org.

With kind regards,



Theo L. Cuison
Staff Attorney and Clinical Supervisor
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East Bay Community Law Center,
a clinic of UC Berkeley School of Law