

September 30, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I write to thank you for providing funding to support my summer position at Legal Aid at Work (LAAW) in San Francisco. LAAW has a long history of assisting low-income, working families by providing free direct, individualized help through clinics and helplines, bringing class and individual action and impact litigation, and drafting and promoting laws and policies to strengthen the rights of low-wage workers in California.

I had the privilege of primarily working with the National Origin and Immigrants' Rights Program under the supervision of Christopher Ho and Marisa Diaz. It was a tremendous experience to find a place where I could work at the intersection of immigration and employment law, with individuals who have a collaborative approach to the work and who are committed to training future civil rights attorneys.

As a law clerk at LAAW, I had the opportunity to assist many low-wage workers with a full range of employment issues, including but not limited to wage theft, violations of labor law, and various forms of unlawful discrimination. I conducted complex legal research related to a national origin discrimination and the First Amendment right to petition as it relates to undocumented persons. I also conducted fact-finding related to recent ICE arrests at California courthouses which included interviewing deported individuals who had been targeted at courthouses and their family members. Additionally, I counseled many clients in both the Workers' Rights and Wage Claim clinics and had the opportunity to represent a client as a legal advocate in a settlement conference before the California Labor Commissioner.

I sincerely thank you for the honor of having received the EJA fellowship two years in a row. The funding you have provided has helped me to pursue the legal work I am most interested in and has greatly contributed to my growth as an advocate and future attorney.

Sincerely,
Leslie Ruiz
UC Hastings, College of the Law
Class of 2019

Joan Messing Graff
President
Howard Chen
Chief Operating Officer

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Via Email: katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

September 7, 2018

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 2014
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Evaluation for Leslie A. Ruiz

Dear Mr. Ruben:

It is my pleasure to write to describe Leslie Ruiz's work in my program area at Legal Aid at Work during her EJA-funded clerkship this past summer. As EJA well knows, Leslie is a committed social justice advocate whose work and life experiences have well equipped her to use her legal skills in service of underrepresented communities, particularly in conjunction with projects falling within LAAW's National Origin and Immigrants' Rights program, which I direct.

Leslie's litigation projects over the summer included undertaking complex legal research in support of a motion to oppose intrusive discovery into the personnel files of an Afghan client who was subjected to a hostile work environment, and identifying the state law remedies available to our client in a Title VII national origin discrimination case. As well, Leslie was very involved in LAAW's provision of direct legal services, including responding to potential claims of language discrimination through our Language Rights Helpline, staffing LAAW's Workers' Rights and Wage Claims clinics, and taking the lead in representing a wage claimant in a settlement conference before the California Labor Commissioner. Unsurprisingly—because of her legal skills, diligence, and hard work—Leslie excelled in all of these projects.

In particular, I would note that Leslie has been a delightful colleague to us. In contrast to many of her peers, Leslie was deeply invested in the cases and projects she was assigned to, taking ownership and initiative without having to be encouraged to do so. I have also been struck by how focused Leslie has been with respect to getting the very most out of her clinical experiences, including her clear desire to learn as much as possible about real-world lawyering and her offering to continue working with us on an unfunded basis during the school year to engage in further skill-building. These qualities make me very confident in saying that EJA's

funding of Leslie's time here will, without any doubt, further the legal career of someone who will soon be an outstanding social justice attorney.

Thank you very much for supporting Leslie's time with us, and please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Very truly yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Ho', written on a white background with faint horizontal lines.

Christopher Ho