

# R A M O N B E C E R R A A L C A N T A R

August 31, 2018

Equal Justice America  
13540 E. Boundary Rd. Ste. 204 Building II  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Katie,

This summer I interned at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) in Berkeley. My time at EBCLC went by too fast because I was truly enjoying myself. Thus, I stayed a week longer since I had free time before classes began. I learned a lot while interning at EBCLC and I had the privilege of representing two individuals in master calendar hearings before the San Francisco Immigration Court. Both times, the court room was crowded and there were children in the room waiting for either their case to be called or their parents' cases. A lot of the individuals were there without an attorney. I was extremely nervous even when I knew the law and held a script in my hand. I could only imagine what someone who does not speak English, has minimal knowledge of immigration law, and is there without an attorney could be feeling. A lot of the cases are life or death. Thus, I realized the importance of having an attorney to represent individuals. Both days I was in court, there was an attorney of the day who represented individuals who did not have an attorney for the day. It was empowering to know what is going on in court and to have immigration law explained in your language. I think the program is important to the undocumented community because it helps to continue to protect immigrant families and advance universal access to counsel.

Additionally, I prepared two asylum applications including, declarations, letter brief, and country conditions. It was time consuming but worthwhile because of the relationships I developed with both clients. This is why I love this work. The clients are individuals who are relentless and admirable. Their stories are motivating and I love hearing people's stories. All of them unique in their own way. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to work with these individuals while interning at EBCLC. Undocumented folks are living in times of a lot of uncertainty. This summer the law and immigration

practice were changing constantly. It felt like every week there was something new on the news that changed the way immigration law was practiced. Sometimes it was bad news and individuals were affected negatively. Sometimes there were good news. However, as a practitioner all one can do is adapt and keep learning in order to serve the community the best way possible.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to grow professionally and learn from great attorney's at EBCLC.

Warm Regards,

Ramon Becerra Alcantar  
UC Hastings College of the Law



*Via E-mail to [emma@equaljusticeamerica.org](mailto:emma@equaljusticeamerica.org)*

**July 29, 2017**

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

**Re: Ramon Becerra Alcantar, EJA Summer 2018 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 Ramon Becerra Alcantar, a rising 2L at UC Hastings College of the Law. I was Ramon's direct supervisor for his summer fellowship at EBCLC.

**Ramon was an excellent addition to EBCLC's Immigration Unit. Ramon 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. Ramon, however, brought a sensitivity to the issues facing his clients, and genuinely connected with our clients. Despite his short tenure with the office, Ramon assisted with approximately 20 client matters during his ten week service with us.

Some examples of the work that Ramon did include representing clients before the San Francisco Immigration Court, preparing complex affirmative asylum applications for asylum seekers fleeing terrible gender and political violence, and presenting at a Know Your Rights presentation and conducting consultations to identify potential immigration relief.

**Ramon is tenacious, driven, and personable—qualities that will prepare him for a future of legal advocacy.**

I enthusiastically write in support of Ramon because I know that the bar of attorneys needs advocates like Ramon. 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. Ramon has competently handled himself in as many diverse situations, from helping with a declaration detailing horrendous child abuse and sexual violence directed at a woman from Guatemala whose own children were subjected to gender-based and gang violence, to assisting several clients renew their DACA and provide a screening for more permanent relief, and drafting captivating and moving

declarations for sexual minorities fleeing violence against LGBT and HIV-positive people. Ramon approached each client matter eagerly, studiously familiarizing himself with the legal requirements required in the relief sought and with reflecting on how to make his interactions with clients trauma-informed and respect.

Furthermore, Ramon displayed great humility in recognizing that when advocates come from the communities they serve, more care must be taken to ensure that advocates are prepared, not just in their legal knowledge, but in their knowledge of how trauma affects them. Ramon recognizes that as a future public interest attorney, our calling is to tell our clients' stories to seek recognition a human being worthy of being heard and respected.

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

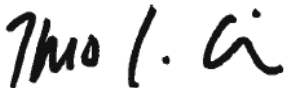
As a Deputy Director and Clinical Supervisor, I have supervised dozens of undergraduates, law students, paralegals, and lawyers. Ramon was one of the best interns I have had the pleasure to supervise—a recommendation I do not make lightly, and a recommendation I make without qualification.

In times when law students worry about their employment prospects, I know that Ramon'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 Ramon 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.

Ramon 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 Ramon 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](mailto:TCuison@EBCLC.org).

With kind regards,



Theo L. Cuison  
Deputy Director and Clinical Supervisor  
Immigration Unit  
East Bay Community Law Center,  
a clinic of UC Berkeley School of Law