

One Page Report EJA Fellowship

This summer I worked as an intern in the immigration branch of Greater Boston Legal Services. I worked on a few cases which involved asylum applications. The clients were from various countries, but the majority were from Central America.

I spent many hours in client interviews, with the help of an interpreter, listening to traumatic stories from people who picked up and left their lives at home for fear of what would have happened if they had stayed. I helped to formulate questions to try to pick out what parts of their stories back home would allow us to present a case for asylum in front of the Immigration Court Judges in Boston.

I also spent a lot of time reviewing these interview notes and doing legal research for the attorneys I was working for. Some of the cases we were working on dealt with cases that were right on the border of what the law determines to be asylum worthy and it required many hours of legal research to try to determine just where that line was. Moreover, the law changed a few times throughout the summer, as the immigration courts are under the purview of the executive branch and the Attorney General overturned and clarified certain administrative law precedents from the Board of Immigration Appeals.

I also helped write numerous motions and hand delivered them to the Boston Immigration Court and opposing counsel. Overall, I felt this to be a rewarding summer and that our office was able to do a lot of really important work for our clients.

Michael Divers
Cornell Law School


GREATER BOSTON
LEGAL SERVICES
...and justice for all

September 30, 2018

BY EMAIL to emma@equaljusticeamerica.org

Emma Ruben
Liason to EJA Fellows
Equal Justice America

Re: Michael Diver

Dear Ms. Ruben:

I supervised Michael Diver this past summer when he worked for the Greater Boston Legal Services Immigration Unit as an Equal Justice America Fellow.

Michael worked primarily for a client in removal proceedings who is seeking asylum. During the course of our work with the client to prepare her asylum case, we also worked on a T visa case for her. Michael worked on both the asylum hearing preparation and the T visa case. Over the course of the summer he: (1) drafted documents; (2) completed legal and evidentiary research; (3) met with the client and assisted in preparing her testimony; (4) met with an expert witness and assisted in the preparation of the expert's testimony; (5) assisted in developing strategy for the client's cases; (6) worked on the assembly and filing of her case with the Boston Immigration Court; (7) worked on the preparation of her T visa application; and (8) drafted and filed motions with the Boston Immigration Court.

During the course of our work on these cases, Michael was called upon in several important ways, particularly to assist me in strategizing and responding to three recent legal decisions with significant consequence for the cases.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if any further information about Michael's work this past summer would be helpful to you.

Very truly yours,



Margaret Moran
Staff Attorney