

August 31, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I had the opportunity to spend ten weeks at Legal Services for Children in San Francisco (“LSC”). LSC is a legal non-profit organization that provides legal and social work services to minors in the fields of education, guardianship, dependency, and immigration. By providing conjunctive legal and social work services, LSC promotes a holistic approach that seeks the best interest of the client. Over the ten weeks I was there, I first handedly witnessed the power of collaboration between the two fields, and the direct power such impact has on the children. As a law student with no previous legal experience, LSC provided me with the opportunity to delve into different fields and work on a wide range of legal matters. It was an amazing experience that helped me further define my desire to work for an organization that seeks to help others.

While at LSC, I was given the opportunity to work in just about every field of law available at the office. I hit the ground running from day one and was able to work on a school expulsion case, a complete guardianship filing, multiple home visits, and even got to interpret at an asylum hearing. No two days were ever the same and they kept me on my toes. Whether it was doing research or working directly with clients, I was able to value the impact both kinds of work has on the client. The mix of social work services in the office gave me a chance to work closely with the social workers. The conversations and brainstorming session I joined them for

always gave me an opportunity to gain a new perspective that differed from the legal framework I was constantly in.

One of the most impactful experiences of my time at LSC was the constant client interaction. Whether through in person clinics or hotline intake, working with clients directly offered an opportunity to get to know them better and understand their situations. I have to admit it made having to give them bad news even more difficult, but I was always in awe of their resilience and determination. Clearly my time at LSC has left me with many lessons and motivation moving forward, but most importantly, I met great people who are all working hard to help our community. It is in them that I was reminded why I went to law school in the first place and who I hope to be one day. Thank you to Equal Justice America for providing grants to law students to be able to do this work. I hope to one day return the favor to a law student wishing to pursue public interest work.

Sincerely,

Inés Sosa

Santa Clara University School of Law

J.D. Candidate, Class of 2020