

August 9, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Over the course of my summer 2018 internship at with Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston's St. Frances Cabrini Center, I have learned a great deal while working alongside the teams of the Family Visa Program (FVP) and the Crime Victims Program (CVP). I have had the opportunity to work on a vast array of cases such as; DACA, adjustments of status and work authorization's for Cuban immigrants, U-Visa certifications and applications, attending a USCIS adjustment of status interview, attending a master calendar hearing for an asylum case, assisting in the preparation of a 601A waiver, as well as the preparation of a brief regarding the exception to the one year deadline for an asylum case. Additionally, I had the opportunity to work as an interpreter alongside Pro Bono Attorneys that conducted Pro Se Asylum intakes applications for juveniles currently living at one of the local shelters. Catholic Charities strives to provide caring, compassionate services, and advocating for social justice in collaboration with parishes and communities.

I am most thankful, for the hands-on experience that Catholic Charities has provided me with this internship. I have had the chance to use my legal research and writing skills while also having one-on-one contact with clients. It was a wonderful balance that provided me with an invaluable experience that I know will be helpful in my pursuit of becoming a successful practice ready attorney.

Throughout the course of my internship, I felt very rewarded while working with various clients and their cases. A client that stands out to me the most, would be the client I had the most contact with; who I got know from the very beginning of my internship up till the very end. I first met this client while shadowing a U-Visa intake. All of the potential U-Visa clients, have experienced horrendous ordeals, but this particular intake surpassed many as it dealt with the sexual assault of a minor by a family member. I was able to submit the certification to two agencies, and weeks later received a signed certification. Then,

I had the opportunity to conduct the U-Visa follow-up appointment, and prepare the application. While working with the client, I got to know her, her family, and the difficulties they have faced as a result of the crime. More importantly, I witnessed how as a family, they persevered this horrendous ordeal against all odds. I admire their strength and am grateful to have had the chance to assist this family in their greatest time of need. The client's thanks and blessings were the greatest reward of all.

I am truly grateful for EJA supporting my internship opportunity at Catholic Charities. I have always been interested in pursuing a career in immigration law. My internship with Catholic Charities made this interest that much stronger. As frustrating and difficult a time we currently are facing in immigration law, I am thankful to being working alongside an organization that not only seeks to fight to protect the rights of immigrants, but who also strives to make the community aware and who encourages change for the betterment of our community and for our country.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Garbanzo

Ruth E. Garbanzo
J.D. Candidate - Class of 2020
South Texas College of Law



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creating hope.*

August 9, 2018

Equal Justice America
Attn: Summer Fellowship Program
Building II- Suite 204
23540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

**RE: Internship Evaluation, Summer 2018
Ruth Garbanzo**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the Senior Managing Attorney for the Crime Victims Assistance Program for the Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance, a department of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Catholic Charities was founded in 1943, incorporated in 1952, and functions with the vision of having our board, staff and volunteers serve as people of faith who help people in need achieve self-sufficiency and live with dignity. Our agency provides a wide range of services, reaching out to almost 87,629 people a year at locations in Harris, Fort Bend and Galveston Counties. Our services are made available to all – without regard to religious affiliation – with ninety-two cents of every dollar dedicated to program services. The Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance, one such program, has offered low-cost, high-quality legal relief to the Houston community for more than 25 years.

Catholic Charities was delighted to offer an internship to Ms. Ruth Garbanzo, a juris doctorate candidate, for the summer of 2018. Ms. Garbanzo spent her 10 week internship with the Cabrini Center, working in both the Crime Victims Assistance Program and General Immigration Program. During that time, she conducted legal intakes, helped clients draft documents for immigration applications, and assisted in advocacy for clients with USCIS, the Immigration Court, and various law enforcement agencies. We tasked Ruth with various research projects, to draft memoranda or other pleadings, and preparing cover letters for applications for relief. She staffed workshops to renew work authorization for Cuban refugees, for young people applying for DACA benefits, and for unaccompanied minor children seeking asylum relief. Necessary to these tasks, she also spent hours working on correspondence, client data entry, and assisting clients in crisis.

Ruth proved herself to be a helpful and dedicated legal intern, and she provided invaluable assistance to our programs and clients. She is friendly, intelligent, efficient, and extremely dedicated. She is proficient in legal research and a careful, persuasive writer. Ruth showed great compassion for every client she encountered, while still maintaining her efficiency in her duties. She successfully managed a high volume of cases, projects, and phone calls, and can prioritize



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her work effectively. Many of our clients suffer from depression, trauma-induced mental illness, and other problems, but Ruth showed incredible patience in working with them, often in very frustrating circumstances. Not all law students or attorneys have the empathy and passion for working with low-income and immigrant clients, but I believe Ruth is one of the few who does. Her love of the work and of the clients she serves is evident in everything she does. She maintained professional relationships with clients, co-workers, and supervisors alike, always without changing her friendly disposition. We were very pleased with Ruth's contribution to the agency and very grateful to Equal Justice America for providing her with the opportunity.

Thank you again for allowing Ruth to participate in the fellowship program. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me at (713)874-6570 or at egriesmyer@catholiccharities.org.

Sincerely,

Elise Griesmyer
Senior Managing Attorney