

Alexis del Rio
Evaluation

I am so thankful for my time spent at Texas Riogrande Legal Aid. I was nervous to begin my legal career at first. I had never before had any kind of employment at a law firm and was anxious to have my first job in this profession.

I could not believe the experience I had at TRLA. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to work with such fantastic individuals. My supervisor, Polly Bone, was one of the most hardworking individuals that I have ever worked alongside. I had zero experience with federal income tax law at the start of my externship. Mrs. Bone was extremely helpful and supportive of me while I learned this new trait. She was patient and kind. I was given constant feedback about all of the assignments I turned in and was given clear direction.

Aside from working alongside Mrs. Bone, I also had the opportunity to expand my skills. At the start of my externship I was able to make a connection with another attorney for TRLA, Rick Roman. Mr. Roman valued my experience in property management and allowed me to help with several eviction cases. I took a liking to property law and the fair housing laws quickly.

I felt expanding my knowledge in different areas of the law assisted in my overall summer experience. I was able to not only learn federal income tax, but also expand my knowledge of property law. More so than expanding my knowledge, I was able to expand my network of friends.

I had the pleasure to meet not only attorneys but also get to know my peers on a personal level. What I was most surprised to find was a friendship with individuals who I attend school with, but did not have the pleasure to know due to having been in different sections.

I could not be more thankful to Equal Justice America for providing me with a fellowship to help fund my summer internship. If there was anything that stood out to me this summer was the amount of people that need assistance. It was disheartening to see the amount of individuals that needed legal assistance that simply could not afford it.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid has made a commitment to helping those less fortunate achieve their legal goals. I had the opportunity to meet such wonderful clients and assist them in bettering their lives. One instance in particular that stood out to me was a woman who was fighting her leasing agreement. A new management team had taken over records for the property and lost her most recent rent check. Although she had the receipt from the property manger, the property refused to honor her check. My supervising attorney represented this client in eviction court and presented overwhelming evidence to show that the check in question had been lost by the management company. After the client won her case, she had tears of joy. She hugged me and my supervising attorney and thanked us for fighting for her home and her fairness.

This incident was only one of the many wonderful and rewarding experiences that I had during the course of this summer. I could not be more thankful to Equal Justice America for allowing me the opportunity to have this experience.

Working during the summer made such an impact on me that I decided I should continue employment during the fall semester. I secured a position working for the Bexar County Criminal District Court Administration department and could not be more excited. I believe this summer helped me find my passion for law and am grateful for the opportunity.

**LAW OFFICE OF
TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID, INC.**

San Antonio Office
1111 N. Main Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78212
Telephone (210) 212-3700 Toll Free (800) 369-0356
Fax (210) 229-9328

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

Re: Alexis Del Rio , EJA Fellowship Recipient Summer 2018

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to provide a report on the work and experience of Ms. Alexis Del Rio this summer at the San Antonio Office of Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid Inc. (TRLA). Ms. Del Rio's application caught our attention because of the flexibility she expressed in receiving various assignments as well as the fact she speaks Spanish fluently. Her performance was exceptional as we had hoped. Ms. Del Rio was available to several attorneys in this office but worked most closely with Polly Bone in our Tax Unit and with me in the Housing Unit.

Ms. Del Rio was able to assist me on several housing matters with the goal of avoiding eviction and possible homelessness. Her previous experience includes having worked in the field of property management, managing residential units. She brought that experience to the table when evaluating the actions of landlords, who we successfully argued, had done their jobs poorly. She was especially helpful to me in evaluating the records keeping practices of landlords on two or three cases.

During her time under my supervision she developed the trust and confidence of clients quickly. This is a desirable ability for an attorney to have. She accepted all assignments given to her without hesitation. She completed work in a timely manner. Although she has only completed one year of law school her performance equaled that of prior students under my supervision who had completed their second year. She did legal and non-legal research at my request and was able to put legal concepts into motions and pleadings to be filed with the court. She also assisted with first drafts of demand letters that required only minor modification before being utilized.

The supervisor of the tax unit praised her writing skills. Her work ethic or attitude was also praised. Finally, the supervisor indicates that performance was better than that normally expected from a student who had only completed one year of law school.

The summer fellowships are particularly helpful since summer vacations leave temporary gaps in service. . EJA helped us provide service to persons who might otherwise received little or no service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

RICARDO A. ROMAN
Attorney at Law

 LSC