

## Augusto Alberto Cividini

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

Dear Mr Ruben:

I first off want to thank you and the entire Equal Justice America team for giving me the amazing opportunity to work with the Community Justice Project in Miami, Florida this past summer. As someone who grew up in Miami, it was invaluable to be able to come back to my community and provide critically important legal services for those most in need. During my time with the Community Justice Project, I worked within their deportation defense, anti-displacement, and workers/immigrant rights projects.

With the anti-deportation project, I had the opportunity to play a significant role in the legal research and drafting critically important impact litigation to protect the rights undocumented people living in the state of Florida. In the research and drafting of this complaint I was able to work with and meet various stakeholders in the South Florida community as well as local activists. Working across sectors and institutions we were able to build collective power through class action impact litigation. In this litigation project we worked with nine groups including: city governments, non-profit organizations, and churches to defend the constitutionally protected rights of undocumented individuals in the state of Florida.

With the anti-displacement project we worked with local community-based organizations to voice their concerns in response to megadevelopment projects aiming to set up shop in their neighborhoods. These collaborative efforts included advocating before the quasi-judicial city planning and zoning committee to achieve intervenor status for community members who were poised to experience detrimental effects of the megadevelopment. We specifically represented two community members and one nonprofit organization to attempt to achieve intervenor status.

In regard to workers rights advocacy I was able to assist a migrant women who suffered fraud in foreign contracting and human trafficking in the United States when she was brought to South Florida to work as a domestic worker. With this project I was able to work directly with a

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person who shared a story very similar story to that of my own family. My parents came to the United States fleeing political and economic instability in Argentina in the wake of the Dirty War. My mother worked as a domestic worker and my father washing dishes in a local restaurant in the United States Virgin Islands. With this client at the Community Justice Project we were able to successfully and timely file her UVISA petition which was already certified by the department of labor and very likely to have a favorable outcome. If granted her UVISA this client would have a pathway for permanent residency in the United States not just for herself but also for her son who has been struggling economically in their home country of Colombia.

This past summer has truly opened my eyes to the many ways lawyers can be of service to my community in South Florida. The Community Justice Project's dedication to upholding justice and championing for the rights of those facing systemic violence was extremely inspiring to witness and participate in first hand. I am grateful for the opportunity to join and contribute to continuous and conscientious good Equal Justice America does for those often forgotten by our society.