

August 28, 2011

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director, Equal Justice America  
Building II-Suite 204  
13450 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Due to the exceedingly generous support of Equal Justice America I was afforded the opportunity to work this summer at the Loyola New Orleans Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice. The Loyola Law Clinic provides pro-bono legal services in various practice areas such as family law, employment law, criminal defense, immigration law, and community justice. One of the main goals of the Loyola Law Clinic is to help indigent residents obtain legal representation largely in the state of Louisiana but also in Mississippi. I interned with the immigration clinic. The majority of the caseload was comprised of clients in removal proceedings at risk of being deported along with a few affirmative asylum and visa applications.

One of the best features about the Clinic is that it is designed to be a teaching institution. I cannot be thankful enough for the knowledge and practical experience I gained this summer while not only learning the law with hands-on experience, but also learning how to be the best advocate I can be for my clients. I intend to practice in immigration law upon graduation.

A monthly program that the Loyola Law Clinic organizes is the "Know Your Rights" campaigns for immigration detention center detainees. The immigration clinic and volunteers drive to a detention center to provide free information and answer basic legal questions in English and Spanish for the detainees at the detention center. I went on four of these detention center trips and aided in providing information such as what a bond is, how to understand when your court date is, what the legal process is, and what the various forms of relief are for all clients. We also make phone calls on behalf of the detainees at their request and make sure that the detention center standards are up to par. One trip in particular I was speaking with a detainee who had been forced to sign papers under threats of criminal charges. By accessing the proper channels we were able to get the detainee released on bond instead of immediately deported and were able to take his case as he petitions for status. This was a huge victory for both the Loyola Law Clinic and the client.

On another level, the Loyola Law Clinic likes to reach out to the immigrant community in general. A major source of discord in the immigrant community is the lack of communication with the police departments. The problem with this situation is twofold. First, the immigrants do not report crimes for fear of deportation and are often targeted as a result in robberies and assaults. Second, the police department often needs the help of immigrant community witnesses in order to solve crimes but the immigrants do not come forward with tips because they are afraid of any ulterior consequences. To help with this problem myself along with other interns and local immigrant advocacy organizations teamed up with the Hattiesburg Police Department to reach out to the immigrant community in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The event focused on creating a safe place to ask questions and to inform both the police department and the immigrant community

about the U-Visa to aid in solving crimes in the area. The event was successful and the Loyola Law Clinic along with its partners hope to set-up a similar event in other cities in Mississippi.

First and foremost, besides the amazing programs run by the Loyola Law Clinic, they represent people from all over the world with a mix of backgrounds and a variety of claims in attaining the legal representation they need. I had the opportunity to have more than five clients this summer each from a different country and with a different claim. Having “clients” at the clinic means that I was able to arrange meetings with the clients, do their sworn declarations and affidavits, collect any support needed (expert or otherwise), write memorandums of law for applications, submit applications, and attend interviews under the direct supervision of the attorneys at the immigration clinic. I was helping the community directly and seeing the results of hard work. Nothing felt better than calling the clients after spending countless hours working with them on their declaration or application to tell them it had been submitted, or even better, that their application had been approved. That is the positive effect the Loyola Law Clinic has in the community and on individuals each and every day.

The Clinic promotes advocacy so much that they even afforded me the opportunity to travel to Houston, Texas for an asylum interview. This is a rare opportunity because it is quite far from New Orleans and normally someone from a Houston Law Clinic attends the interview with our client due to costs and other factors. The Clinic enabled me to make the trip and act as counsel with my supervisor for our client during the interview. This was truly amazing because the case was one I was able to start from scratch, an application I turned in, and I was able to attend the interview. This not only meant worlds to me, but also to the client. I realized at that point how important the work the Clinic does and the type of advocate that I want to be in the future. I want to be an advocate that not only performs on a high-level legally, but also one that is hands-on and truly helps clients in every way possible. I thank both Equal Justice America and the Loyola Law Clinic for this and could not be more grateful for the opportunity and the work that each organization does on a daily basis.

Yours truly,

Krystal D. Norton

Loyola University New Orleans College of Law - Class of 2013



LOYOLA  
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Law Clinic/Catholic Legal Immigration Network Detention Project

August 29, 2011

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

**RE: Letter of Evaluation for Krystal Norton**

Dear Dan,

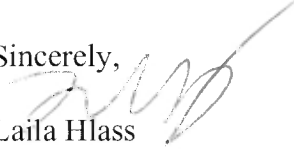
Thanks again for all the work that EJA does to support law students and public interest. I am writing to provide my end of the summer evaluation of Krystal Norton.

Krystal was a fantastic intern—and completed a mountain of work this summer. She completed from start to finish an asylum application for someone fleeing persecution in Ethiopia and attended the asylum interview in Houston. She responded to request from Citizen and Immigration Services in support of a family based petition (which we received an approval notice by the end of the summer!). She prepared a stay of removal application for an immigrant facing immediate deportation. She helped plan a community immigrant outreach event in conjunction with social service agencies and police in Hattiesburg, MS, which was very successful and received some news coverage: <http://www.wdam.com/story/15302514/hpd-wants-crime-solving-help-from-immigrant-community>. She also participated in three know your rights presentations for detained immigrants in Waterproof, LA. Lastly, she conducted and responded to dozens of phone intake interviews and letters. All of her work was of an excellent quality and she was truly a pleasure to work with.

We are so grateful Krystal was able to work with us and hope that we continue to have EJA Summer Fellows.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

  
Laila Hlass  
Staff Attorney

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