

Equal Justice America  
Dan Ruben  
Executive Director

August 28, 2012

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am John R. Antia, and I was a legal intern in the Immigration and Workers Rights Project at the Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF) in Chicago, Illinois. I am profoundly grateful to Equal Justice America for providing me with the opportunity to work with passionate legal practitioners in the field of immigration. I am inspired by the work and services provided by LAF, and look forward to my future in the field of public interest.

As an intern at LAF, I translated many legal documents into Spanish (Affidavits, birth certificates, correspondence, etc.), conducted research into matters of immigration visas, spoke and met with clients regularly, and assisted in putting together U visa applications. I was able to receive the mentorship necessary to feel confident in my work and complete each component of the U visa applications with success. One of the most important lessons I learned while at LAF was to find different strategies to manage the human emotions and stress involved in the cases with the legal work.

A majority of the U visa applicants I worked with were women who were survivors of domestic violence. And, one of the components of the U visa application is for the principal to write a personal letter describing their abuse, and to explain the hardship if they are denied a U visa. I spent many hours translating my clients' letters, and I would learn about some of their most profound, and life-changing events. I was also able to meet many of the clients for which I prepared U visa applications. And, in the first couple of weeks I realized the importance of developing the many hats a lawyer must be able to wear in the field of immigration. That is to say, as lawyers we must be able to adopt various roles in order to be a powerful advocate on behalf of our clients. In all, the work I performed had the capacity to dramatically change the lives of the principal, and his or her family, and this was a fact that I would never forget.

My brief time at LAF allowed me to reflect on how I would want to pursue my professional career. It renewed my conviction to advocate on behalf of indigent clients, particularly those in the field of immigration. It is amazing how much practical experience I received at LAF, and I am grateful to Equal Justice America for providing me with the fellowship in order to pursue such rewarding work. There is a great need for pro-bono legal service, and I am honored to have been part of an extraordinary team at LAF, and it could not have been made possible without the support of EJA.

Best,

John R. Antia  
The John Marshall Law School  
Juris Doctor Candidate – May 2013

GREATER BOSTON  
LEGAL SERVICES  
*...and justice for all*



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August 8, 2012

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

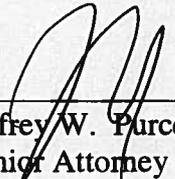
I am writing to give Jon Lautin, a Boston University Law student who worked with me in the summer of 2012 my highest recommendation. Jon exhibits exceptional resourcefulness, leadership, intellectual curiosity, persistence, and advocacy.

Jon assisted in interviewing clients, doing factual investigation and preparing cases for trial. Because of Jon's abilities, I had him interview the most difficult clients with whom he instantly established a good rapport. Jon's knack for identifying problems and proposing innovative solutions was remarkable. Jon's work with low income clients was outstanding in all respects. I had him do a draft motion for summary judgment which was very well done.

His work was excellent both with clients and in relation to other members of the office staff. Jon Lautin was exceptional in all of the areas of advocacy.

Again, I give Jon Lautin my highest recommendation for public interest advocacy. If you have any questions please call me at 617-603-1648.

Very truly yours,

  
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Jeffrey W. Purcell  
Senior Attorney