

# MISHA J. SEAY

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August 31, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I want to thank you and Equal Justice America for your generous support this past summer. My fellowship at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) was exactly the experience and training I was hoping for.

EBCLC provides free legal services to the low-income community in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in the areas of housing, welfare, HIV & health, immigration, and homelessness. As part of the Health & Immigration Unit, I was assigned to work with immigrants living with HIV/AIDS, or families seen through the medical-legal partnership with Children's Hospital in Oakland. Primarily, I helped prepare an asylum application for an HIV+ individual from Mexico who had suffered years of past abuse for being gay. Although my supervising attorney was there to help me whenever I needed it, I was given the responsibility of preparing his affirmative asylum application from start to finish, culminating in his asylum interview at the San Francisco Asylum Office.

In addition to the asylum case, I prepared a U-Visa inadmissibility waiver, as well as a family-based Adjustment of Status application. At other times, I performed intake interviews with individuals seeking help with their immigration status. These clients came from very diverse backgrounds with varying needs. Learning to "spot the issues," one of those concepts that you hear about in law school but never really seem to understand, became an important skill that I was able to develop and hone.

Working with such a diverse group of clients was professionally and personally challenging. In addition to working on my communication and interviewing skills, I learned to work around various cultural and language barriers. Also, besides a crash course on the substantive areas of immigration and asylum law, I got first-hand experience in seeing how these laws affect people in real life. One of the aspects of my internship that I enjoyed most was the amount of interaction I had with my clients. After a year of studying the law in books, it was refreshing and enlightening to finally work directly with people and find ways to solve their legal problems.

I approached EBCLC because of their excellent clinical training opportunities and high-quality supervision, and that's what I got. My supervisor treated me as a professional and valued my opinion. The friendly and relaxed working environment also contributed to making my summer internship an enjoyable one. Overall, my internship was extremely positive and an invaluable learning experience.

Thank you again for your support and making my internship this summer possible.

Sincerely,

Misha Seay  
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J.D. Candidate 2011