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

Dear Dan Ruben,

       This summer I worked at Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. My work schedule while working at LAF was very flexible. This summer my work has included working on seventeen U Visa cases, three VAWA cases, one involving a misrepresentation issue, and a VAWA adjustment of status case, also involving a complex misrepresentation issue. I also assisted in the representation of two client's in removal proceedings.
       The highlights of my work revolved around several cases which I was able to take on in an in depth manner. One of these cases was the case of a young Pakistani girl in her early twenties who had been involved in an arranged marriage and brought to the United States to live her with husband, whom she barely knew. To her surprise, when she arrived her husband showed no interest in her and in fact seemed angry that she had come into his life, blaming his parents for the arranged marriage. Her husband, also had a girlfriend and a child, much to my client's dismay. My client's husband was immediately emotionally and verbally abusive, however within a short time, my client's husband became physically abusive as well, throwing her down a flight of stairs on one occasion, and also beating and raping her on several occasions. My client's husband eventually asked my client to return to Pakistan, however as a divorced woman, my client risked death by way of an honor killing if she returned. My client ended up at a shelter and was eventually linked up to LAFMC. In my work with my client, we were able to put together a VAWA application for her to self-petition for immigration status, since her abusive husband was threatening to call immigration and have her deported from the country.
       Another example of a case which I really enjoyed working on was that of a young man in his early twenties from Mexico. He came to the United States at the age of two years old with his mother and his father. His parents had since become citizens along with the rest of his uncles and aunts. He also had a younger brother whom he helped to raise, who was a U.S. Citizen. He had recently married a U.S. Citizen and had three U.S. Citizen biological children, and one U.S. Citizen son, the son of his new wife, whom he had essentially adopted. He and his wife, with the help of his mother, had bought a home here close to the city and were beginning their lives together. Unfortunately, several years ago, he had traveled to Mexico to visit his dying grandmother. Upon returning to the United States, he we ineligible to enter the country, because of a conviction for possession of marijuana he had received as a teenager, for which he had received minimal supervision and a four hour class as a sentence. While this conviction did not make him removable here in the United States, it barred him from re-entering the country once he left. Of course, he was not aware of this when he traveled to see his dying grandmother, who was his families' last contact in the country of Mexico. Together with my supervising attorney on the case, Geoff Heeren, I prepared the client's court documents, prepped the client and witness for their appearances in court, wrote the direct for one of the witnesses, and co-

represented the client in front of the Immigration Court. It was a great experience and it was quite an emotional experience to see the joy on the client's face and the immense relief of his family when we walked out of court, having won his case.

The two cases above are just two examples of what I did all summer. My work at LAFMC convinced me that I want to practice immigration law when I graduate and I have Equal Justice America to thank in part for that experience. Thank you Equal Justice Works for helping to provide me with the opportunity to have such a great summer experience, which without your help and funding might not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Rose Rivera
DePaul University College of Law
J.D. expected May 2009