

MARIELLA SANCHEZ

12 Everett St., Cambridge, MA 02155 • (617) 555-1234 • msanchez@jd16.law.harvard.edu

September 16, 2014

Criminal Division
Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section
U.S. Department of Justice
1301 New York Avenue, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ho-Gonzalez and the Intern Committee:

I write to you at the suggestion of Stephen Wu, a fellow student at Harvard Law School who interned with your Section in 2013, to apply for a summer internship with the Department of Justice's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section (HRSP). I am committed to a career in international human rights, and am particularly drawn to HRSP's prosecution of complex immigration crimes and international human rights violations, as well as its policy work. I would welcome the opportunity to learn from and support HRSP's work, and I am confident that my interest in international criminal law and my research and writing skills would allow me to make a substantive contribution to the Section.

As an undergraduate at New York University, I designed my own concentration in international human rights, taking courses in international law, human rights in Latin America, and transnational women's rights. While researching LGBT rights in Latin America, I was struck by how often violent attacks on sexual minorities and activists went unprosecuted, and began to focus on the use of law as a tool to promote accountability. I explored this interest through a year-long internship with Lambda Legal, a non-profit working for the rights of LGBT people and those with HIV/AIDS, where I supported public interest litigation and policy work by performing legal research and outreach. After graduating from college a year early, I deepened my public interest experience by spending two years developing curricula and supporting program delivery and evaluation for health education non-profits, carrying out a variety of self-directed writing and data analysis projects.

Since coming to law school, I have focused on the intersection of criminal justice and international human rights. During my 1L year, I worked with Harvard's Law and International Development Society to create a set of guidelines for law enforcement in developing countries, for which I analyzed settlements obtained by the Department of Justice in lawsuits against police departments, along with other documents detailing international best practices. I also worked with Advocates for Human Rights on an amicus brief to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on behalf of a woman imprisoned under El Salvador's anti-abortion laws after suffering a miscarriage. I spent my 1L summer in Colombia, where I analyzed land restitution cases to determine how the law governing restitution can be implemented most effectively to restore victims of forced displacement and avoid impunity for perpetrators. My work in Colombia demonstrated for me both the potential of litigation as a tool to address human rights violations, as well as the challenges of litigating when both accountability and criminal sanctions are limited. This strengthened my interest in working with HRSP to prosecute human rights violators and other international criminals. I am particularly intrigued by HRSP's strategy of using federal statutes, MEJA, and immigration law to prosecute international rights violations, as well as its role in developing an inter-agency approach to preventing and responding to atrocities.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to set up an interview and discuss in more detail my interest in and qualifications for this position. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariella Sanchez