

22 Everett Street, Apt 1
Cambridge, MA 02138

January 27, 2015

Bill Beardall
Executive Director
Equal Justice Center
510 South Congress Avenue, Suite 206
Austin, TX 78704

Dear Mr. Beardall:

Note any students or graduates you spoke with about the employer and/or position to show that you researched the organization

I am a first year student at Harvard Law School and I am writing to apply for a summer internship with the Equal Justice Center. I learned about the Equal Justice Center through Grace Harper, a fellow classmate in the Harvard Immigration Project who interned with your office prior to law school. After hearing about my passion for partnering with immigrant communities to advocate for legal reform, she recommended your office as one that shares my interest in empowering communities through direct representation, education, and advocacy.

Highlight prior experience related to the organization's work; it does not have to be legal work

My interest in both community advocacy and immigrant rights stems from my work as the director of the Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment (RYSE), a community-based English as a Second Language summer program for recent immigrant and refugee high school students in Boston. At RYSE, I witnessed the daily challenges faced by students as they struggled to serve as their families' primary translator, advocate, and even breadwinner. I listened to my students' stories of fleeing violence in Iraq and Sudan, of missing their mothers and siblings whom they had left behind in the Dominican Republic, and of their goals to become the first in their families to graduate from high school and college. I saw the tremendous courage, hard work, and determination it takes for them to seek a better future for themselves and their families far from the only home they had ever known.

My experience at RYSE has motivated my commitment to serving low-income and immigrant communities as a legal advocate. During my first year at Harvard Law School, I joined both Harvard Defenders and the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project (PLAP). As a student representative in these organizations, I gained experience interviewing witnesses, conducting legal research and writing, and directly representing clients in legal proceedings. Through my work in PLAP, I further developed my legal research and writing skills by drafting a petition for an incarcerated client seeking to commute his mandatory minimum sentence.

I am excited about the opportunity to work with the Equal Justice Center on initiatives that help empower immigration workers to achieve fair-treatment regardless of immigration status. Moreover, I look forward to working with low-income immigrant communities in Texas, as I have family in the state and plan to settle there after graduation.

Include your contact information in the last paragraph only if you do not have a header at the top of the letter with your email and phone number

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you further about summer positions in your office. I can be reached at (412) 849-1420 or lgabriel@jd17.law.harvard.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mattie Mahoney