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Legal Internship Selection Committee  
ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project  
125 Broad Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Legal Internship Selection Committee:

I am a second-year student at Harvard Law School and am writing to apply for a Summer 2015 Legal Internship with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Immigrants' Rights Project. I would be interested in working in either the New York or California offices. My commitment to immigrants' rights is what inspired me to become a lawyer, and a summer internship with the Immigrants' Rights Project offers an extraordinary opportunity to further that commitment. Having already spent a summer serving immigrant clients in direct legal services, I am hopeful that further experience in impact litigation and policy advocacy will broaden my understanding of our nation's immigration laws and how they intersect with civil rights issues, and allow me to continue to develop the skills I will need to be an effective advocate for immigrant communities.

Before law school, I worked as a bilingual teacher in a primarily Latino community in Milwaukee's South Side. Many of my students were first generation immigrants or the children of immigrants, and I saw firsthand how their ability to be happy and healthy in school could be compromised by immigration-related fears. This experience made me want to dedicate the rest of my professional life to advocating for children and families threatened by immigration issues.

I have used my time in law school to seek out opportunities to learn more about the legal and policy issues that shape the lives of immigrant individuals and families. This past summer I was able to participate in the Massachusetts Trust Act Campaign through my involvement in the Harvard Immigration Project (HIP). Our organization joined the coalition of immigrant groups pushing the state legislature to pass a bill curtailing state and local law enforcement compliance with federal immigration detainers. As HIP's representative to the coalition, I wrote a letter to the Senate leadership outlining the legal and policy rationale for passing the Act, coordinated call-in and write-in campaigns to legislators to convince them to support the bill, and helped research and draft a sign-on letter to the Mayor of Boston encouraging him to support a Trust policy in the city. Though the campaign did not ultimately succeed in persuading legislative leadership to give the Trust Act a floor vote, it achieved tremendous successes at the local level, including the passage of local Trust policies in Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston. My role in the Trust movement provided me with a valuable introduction to organizing and advocacy, and made me eager to learn more about the role lawyers can play in effecting social change.

I also interned full-time at the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic, where I directly represented clients seeking asylum, cancellation of removal, and other forms of immigration relief. My work with the clinic offered an array of invaluable experiences: I argued motions before an immigration judge, spent weeks drafting and then meticulously revising a pretrial brief for submission to the Boston immigration court, and learned how to conduct effective but compassionate client interviews. More importantly, it provided me with profound, almost-daily reminders of how immigration law often fails to account for the way real people live. Experiences like trying—and failing—to find a way in which a client's customary adoption could be recognized under US law, so that her son could join her here, underscored for me that even a lawyer's best efforts can be stymied by nonsensical policy. With this lesson in mind, I am eager to do further work in a policy-oriented setting to learn more about the strategies lawyers use—both within and outside the context of litigation—to reshape unjust laws.

I have attached a resume further highlighting my work and academic experiences, and would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss the position with you at a later date. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Baker