

Mindy Walker

1773 Pearl St. #503

Denver, CO 80203

October 1, 2006

Ms. Nardos Lemma
Center for Constitutional Rights
Assistant to the Legal Director
666 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10012

RE: Ella Baker Internship Application

Dear Ms. Lemma:

I have worked with U.S. permanent residents from Iran who are detained because they are from Iran and with day laborers who work and are not paid because their employers can get away with it. I have also worked with women who have been raped and beaten, yet when the police show up, the woman is arrested. These experiences are the reasons I went to law school and they are the reasons I want to work for social change at the Center for Constitutional Rights.

My first semester of law school, I wrote a paper on the revival of the Alien Tort Claims Act. This paper was my introduction to the CCR. I was captivated by the work CCR has done in the past and equally so with the checks CCR provides on the government and multi national corporations today.

Since August I have been working with a group of law students to bring accountability to employers who exploit day laborers. The problem is huge. Employers, from small cleaning companies to large construction firms building expensive lofts, hire undocumented workers and take advantage of their vulnerable status by not paying them. We found a criminal statute in Colorado that spells out that these actions are criminal. However, the statute has never been enforced. At this time, we have formed a community coalition, and are working toward the enforcement of this statute.

Last summer I created a pro bono immigration project at a domestic violence shelter. I recruited over twenty-five immigration lawyers to donate a case to the shelter, and law students work to put the cases together. With this project, a population that likely would not otherwise have legal representation now does.

My interest is focused on the ability to positively effect social change through litigation, whether it is corporate accountability, international human rights or social and economic justice. CCR would allow me to use my skills and experiences to make contributions in these areas. I look forward to having an opportunity to discuss my interest in CCR and the internship in an interview. I will contact you in a week to follow up on the status of my application.

Sincerely,

Mindy Walker

Enclosures