

Reflections by Rachel Lieb, New York Women's Bar Association Fellow at Her Justice

My best and worst day at Her Justice was the day after the election. Even though my internship was only ten weeks long, I considered calling in sick that day because I did not want to face reality. I'm so glad I didn't. Despite the shared sense of dismay, everyone was motivated to impact as many lives as possible.

At Her Justice, I worked on immigration and women's rights cases. As part of my immigration work, I compiled documents for T and U visa applications, reading the stories of women who have suffered incredible injustices and simply want to make a life for themselves and their children, and conducted research regarding hardships these women would suffer if they returned to their countries of origin. My work helped me understand the impact of major international bodies, like the UN, on individuals throughout the world and helped me see how the legal system functions.

On the women's rights side, I met with clients and discussed options for their particular situations, from securing an uncontested divorce for a survivor of domestic violence to challenging a foreign divorce to which our client never consented and that left her destitute. I also conducted research and drafted briefs, ultimately giving a voice to women who had been silenced.

My mentors explained the legal and personal difficulties our clients faced. Her Justice provided a space for me to learn and grow as a law student. I conducted substantive legal work to do and was guided every step of the way.

I will continue fighting for women's rights throughout my career. I greatly enjoyed my immigration work and feel that now, more than ever, it is essential for these women to speak up without fear of deportation instead of continuing to suffer in silence. I fear that women will die at

the hands of their abusers and traffickers because they have no avenue to escape the cycle of abuse and feel safe and secure in a country that once promised those things to all of its people. I feel better knowing that organizations like Her Justice will keep fighting to ensure that the promise is upheld. Thank you to the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation for providing me the opportunity to work at Her Justice.

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