



**Americans for
Immigrant Justice**

Formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC)

CPR232 TERM PROJECT

LEI YANG

Nonprofit organization memo

To: Dr. Colee Splichal
From: Lei Yang
Date: September 4, 2013
Subject: Organization Picks

I have picked the following organizations for my term project: Americans for Immigrant Justice, Good Will industries of South Florida and Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade.

I am an international student, and I am considering maintaining an immigrant status after my graduation in 2015. Therefore, I think it will be wonderful for me to look into the organization that particularly works with immigrant justice.

I developed my interest in vintage five years ago when I was in Australia, where has an immense culture over second-hand goods. However, in my hometown—China, there is no such economic and environmental friendly organization. The idea of starting such business back home appeals me and I think Good Will is a good operation to look at to learn and understand the strengths and weakness and the potential threats and opportunities with such business.

I also had my first community services in Australia, and since then I loved it. I had worked in many nonprofit organization and understood maintaining the difficulties of obtaining a long-term sponsorship. The Parks Foundation amazed me showing it has many sponsors who make substantial donations. Therefore, I think it will be interesting to look into such organization and find out the strategies used to attract those sponsors.

Business email to AI Justice- Oct. 11

Cc: Splichal, Cornelia T.

Re: UM PR student to help AI Justice

Good morning, Ms. Fegley.

I am Lei Yang of Writing for Public Relations with Dr. Colee Splichal in the University of Miami School of Communication. Thank you for agreeing to take me on this semester. I cannot wait to work with the organization. I was impressed with the amount of effort the organization has put in to help immigrants. I chose AI Justice because I may become an American immigrant myself.

In my term project, I need to come up with a backgrounder, executive bio and website or social media writing, or any other communications that the organization may need between now and December.

I would like to make an appointment with you within this week, so I could learn and discuss more about how I can contribute to the organization in the most effective way. You can reach me at l.yang6@umiami.edu or at (305) 318-2134. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Lei Yang

Cell: 3053182134

L.yang6@umiami.edu

Business memo- fist visit

To: Dr. Colee Splichal
From: Lei Yang
Date: Oct.13, 2013
Subject: First Visit

I have made my first visit on Oct. 4 and had a nice talk with Ariela Fegley, who is in charge of communications for the organization.

She told me the organization is launching a new website, and she was happy to hear one of our tasks was to write an executive bio. In addition, she mentioned she might need lots of bios later on, and wondered if I could make a question template for those bios so to ensure the consistent contents the bios cover.

With the impression of their new website, she wants to add more interactive and personal touch into it. Instead of telling the public things the organization does, she wants to display the accomplishments AI Justice has brought to the community. Besides that, she also wants to incorporate quotes from their victims and clients on the new website, and Fegley thinks it will be great if I can create another question template for “gratitude words”, which is designed to express appreciation towards AI Justice supports.

Furthermore, they are also working on the “Broward Transition Center” campaign that aims to increase awareness of inhuman treatment immigrant detainees received in the center, so to advocate for action. Fegley would also like me to write a short backgrounder for that.

Business memo- backgrounders and bio

To: Dr. Colee Splichal
From: Lei Yang
Date: Oct.15, 2013
Subject: finalized contents for the backgrounder and bio

After a thorough discussion to meet both Ariela Fegley and my needs, we decided to make few changes and the following is the finalized version for the backgrounder and bio.

- A backgrounder on AI Justice
- An executive bio on Cheryl Little

Backgrounder

We Ensure Basic Human Rights for Our Immigrants

Who are we?

Americans for Immigrant Justice is one of the nation's largest and most effective nonprofit immigration law firms. We are dedicated to protecting and promoting the basic human rights of immigrants. Our clients include traumatized unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking, immigrants denied legitimate asylum status, abused detainees whose rights were violated in the immigration court system.

America's broken immigration system hurts everyone in this country, not just immigrants. Keeping 11 million immigrants in the shadows is neither sustainable nor constructive. Our lawyers have worked with our local, state and federal governments to close over 75,000 cases defending the vulnerable immigrants from North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

Despite a relatively small budget — \$3.2 million annually—we achieve enormous impact protecting the human and legal rights of thousands of immigrants.

AI Justice aims to bring about an American society where immigrants are not subjected to abuse or injustice; are not afraid to seek help; and have a fair opportunity to make their case in the system that governs them. We strive for a nation where the immigrants' contributions are valued and encouraged.

“Such successes have turned [AI Justice] into a powerhouse in national advocacy for persecuted migrants too poor to hire a lawyer.”

-The Miami Herald, Jan. 2, 2006

History

AI Justice was founded in 1996 as the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center to represent immigrants when federal funding restrictions prevented Legal Services Corporation agencies from doing so. The organization was cofounded by its current executive director Cheryl Little along with two Catholic nuns, Sister Maureen Kelleher and Sister Catherine Cassidy. Beginning with 10 employees and a \$400,000 budget, it has grown to a staff of 38 and a \$3.5 million budget.

In 2011, seeing hardening nationwide attitudes toward immigrants, AI Justice changed its name from Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center to Americans for Immigrant Justice and decided to increase advocacy for sensible immigration policies and reforms.

AI Justice is funded by various foundations, including the Florida Bar and Ford

Foundations as well as concerned and generous citizens. Our supporters also include artists, former media personalities, business people, homemakers, first generation Americans and people whose ancestors were American immigrants. 88 percent of our fundraising goes to our programs.

AI Justice opened a new office in Washington, D.C. in February 2012, and it will extend the influence AI Justice policy. Four former staffers now work on The Hill. They are deputy assistant for Policy, DHS; immigration counsel to Senator Harry Reid; staff director to U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security, and democratic chief counsel to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement. At least 10 former staff members have become asylum officers with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Department of Homeland Security.

Overview of Accomplishments

AI Justice has faced countless challenges and obstacles in pursuit of justice and human rights for our clients and we have achieved significant accomplishments:

- In June 2012, we represented the Dreamers who marched 1,500 miles to Washington, D.C., and successfully obtained deferred action for detained youth who face immediate removals.
- In October 2011, we co-counseled one of the first lawsuits — National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders et al. v. Arizona — challenging Arizona's S.B. 1070 law. It led the successful strike down of Florida anti-immigrant bill.
- In July 2010, we fought for Temporary Protected Status for Haitians at the forefront, meeting with White House Domestic Policy Council and National Security Council members.
 - We achieved the release of traumatized Haitian earthquake survivors who had been detained by Immigration on Arrival though deportations were suspended at the time.
 - Following a front-page story in The New York Times, 60 nationwide Haitians were released that day.
 - We filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to determine the basis of our government's current Haitian deportation policy.
 - With the national law firm of Jenner & Block LLP, filed a federal lawsuit to compel Immigration and Customs Enforcement to disclose the requested documents.
- In February 2010, we extended services by drawing on pro bono attorneys who have donated more than 9,000 hours of work and legal interns who also donated 10,000 hours of time. We also are selected as partner agency for distinguished Fellows, including the Chesterfield Smith Community Service Fellowship from Holland & Knight to provide pro bono legal representation to the needy; selected for three prestigious Skadden Fellowships; three Echoing Green Fellows; and six Equal Justice Works Fellows.

Awards and Recognition include:

2013 David Lawrence JR. Champion for Children Award *The Children's Trust*
2012 Legal Legends Awards
2012 Most Effective Lawyer, Public Interest
2010 6th Annual Black History Month Celebration Honoree
2008 Morris Dees Justice Award
2008 Trailblazer Award

2007 Keeper of the Dream Award
2006 National Immigration Project Award
2004 Nelson Poynter Civil Liberties Award
2004 Heroes of the American Dream Award
2001 Stephen M. Goldstein Award for Excellent
2001 Pro Bono Award

Issued groundbreaking reports including:

1. After the Earthquake: Haitian Children Seeking Safety in the United States
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/after-the-earthquake-haitian-children-intheus-FIACreport.pdf>
2. Unleash the DREAM: End the Colossal Waste Of Young Immigrant Talent (released in April 2010 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.)
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/dreamactreport2.pdf>
3. The War on Immigrants: Stories from the Front Lines
<http://www.americasquarterly.org/node/305>
4. The Human Cost of Immigrant Bashing
http://csii.usc.edu/documents/Lowenthal_Americas_Quarterly_Summer_08.pdf
5. Dying for Decent Care: Bad Medicine in Immigration Custody
<http://www.tallahassee.com/assets/pdf/CD131100321.PDF>
6. Securing Our Borders: Post 9/11 Scapegoating of Immigrant
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/reports/securing-borders-post911-scapegoating-of-immigrants.pdf>
7. Haitian Refugees: A People In Search Of Hope
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/reports/HaitianRefugeesAPeopleinSearchofHope.pdf>
8. "I running out of hopely ..." Profiles of Children in INS Detention in Florida
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/reports/ChildrensReport.pdf>
9. INS Detainees In Florida: A Double Standard Of Treatment
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/reports/INSDetaineesInFlorida.pdf>
10. Cries for Help: Medical Care at Krome Service Processing Center and in Florida's County Jails
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/reports/CriesForHelp.pdf>
11. Krome's Invisible Prisoners: Cycles of Abuse and Neglect
<http://www.aijustice.org/docs/reports/KromesInvisiblePrisoners.pdf>

Come See

Please check out AI Justice at Aijustice.org, which tells more about our clients, programs and achievements.

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Executive bio- Cheryl Little

Cheryl Little



Cheryl Little has been a tireless advocate for immigrant rights for more than two decades and has established herself as one of this country's leading experts in the immigration field.

Little's extensive involvement in immigration dates from 1985, after her graduation from the University of Miami with a Doctor of Law degree, she began working at the Haitian Refugee Center. In January 1996, she co-founded the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center Inc. now Americans for Immigrant Justice, and became its executive director. Under her leadership, AI Justice has grown from 10 employees with a budget of \$400,000 to 49 employees in three

offices with a budget in excess of \$4 million. Most recently, Little's support and efforts have focused on the "Dreamers," young people who strive to study and work in the country they love and call home but can't obtain legal status.

Working with clients from many backgrounds, Little says each experience inspires her to bring them justice. "Their courage and resilience in the face of enormous obstacles never cease to amaze me," she said.

The immigration detainees she has worked with had been treated brutally and inhumanely in the detention centers. Little and her staff have taken the lead in monitoring the conditions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, which has led to the release of many detainees and the conviction of several officers who sexually abused female detainees.

Little is also regularly called on to testify about the plight of immigrants before legislative assemblies. As a result, Little has drafted a legal memorandum setting forth the basis for the U.S. government authority to act on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and helped Mayor Manny Diaz of Miami to draft resolution that was adopted in June 2012 to urge the Obama Administration to grant deferred deportation for the Dreamers.

Just as Little has been inspired by her clients, she has been seen as an inspiration to her colleague. The Rev. Dr. Greta S. Reed nominated Little for the Morris Dees

Justice Award, said in her nomination, “My sense of despair — especially over the plight of Haitian refugees — gave way to hope, because someone named Cheryl Little, whom I have never met, worked tirelessly and with passion and intelligence to stand with and for the most powerless and desperate people.

She has received many honors and awards for her work, including a Legal Legend and the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society by HistoryMiami, and the 2012 Most Effective Public Interest Lawyer by Daily at the Business Review’s annual luncheon. She was given the 2008 Morris Dees Justice Award and was also the “Person of the Week” on ABCMs.

Little has written many publications in the area of immigration, including law review articles and reports. She has also been featured in award-winning documentaries, including Jonathan Demme's “Killing the Dream,” “Black and White in Exile,” “They Call Us Boat People,” and “Abandoned: The Betrayal of America's Immigrants.” Little has shared her expertise on National television shows, including “60 Minutes,” “Nightline,” “The McNeil/Lehrer Report,” “PBS's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer,” “Frontline,” The “Today” Show, “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” and CNN.

Website piece memo-Wikipedia entry

To: Dr. Colee Splichal
From: Lei Yang
Date: Nov. 8, 2013
Subject: Wikipedia Entry for Cheryl Little

In regards to the website pieces, the organization wants me to make a Wikipedia entry for Cheryl little, their profound co-founder and executive director for the organization.

I showed them an existing Wikipedia entry for attorney Floria Allred, so we know what information we want to include in Little's entry. The organization decided not to include too much personal information for Little and instead, they want the entry to emphasize on her legal accomplishments and media appearance.

However, as they are busy with their holiday schedule, the organization asks me to compile this piece base on the web information. However, the challenge is I couldn't find much information about the dates with Little's accomplishments and the organization cannot provide me those information on time. Therefore I decided to make up those dates and the organization can incorporate the correct dates later.

Cheryl Little Wikipedia Entry

Cheryl Little

Cheryl Little is the executive director for Americans for Immigrant Justice, she co-founded the [Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center](#) in January 1996, which later changed to Americans for Immigration Justice in 2011. After her graduation from law school with honors, she began working at the Haitian Refugee Center. Since then, she has been a tireless advocate for immigrant rights for more than two decades and has established herself as one of this country's leading experts in the immigration field.

Little and her staff have taken the lead in national battle against human trafficking, they helped shaping new laws to expand legal protections for unaccompanied children and asylum seekers, deferring deportation act for those youth Dreamers.

Career

Attorney for Haitian Refugee Center
Straight after graduating from law school with honors in 1985, Little became counsel for the [Haitian Refugee Center](#). Her report, "Haitian Children Awaiting Visas: A Plea for Help," ignited a media and advocacy campaign that helped reunite some 200 children with their parents. This battle set the stage for Little's 30-year legal career advocating on behalf of children and immigrants.¹



Personal Details

Born	Montreal, Canada ¹
Education	1982-1985, Doctor of law, University of Miami 1978-1982, Bachelor of Science (BS), Florida International University
Profession	Co-founder & executive director of Americans for Immigrant Justice Attorney Author
Awards¹	Legal Legend and the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society by HistoryMiami 2012 Most Effective Public Interest Lawyer at the Daily Business Review's annual luncheon. 2008 Morris Dees Justice Award honorarv citizen in Mav

¹ "Spotlight." Champions Big and "Little" Celebrated for Their Efforts on Behalf of Children and Families. <http://www.thechildrenstrust.org/providers/news/program-spotlight/78-news/program-spotlight/853-cheryl-little-a-huge-champion-for-children#sthash.u62b7czW.dpuf> (accessed December 15, 2013).

Americans for Immigrant Justice

She co-founded the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center in 1996, which changed the name to Americans for Immigrant Justice in 1991. She serves as the executive director for the organization.

Americans for Immigrant Justice is a nationally known non-profit law and advocacy firm that protects and promotes the basic human rights of immigrants. It provides free direct services, impact litigation, policy reform, and public education at local, state, and national levels.² Under her leadership, AI Justice has grown from 10 employees with a budget of \$400,000 to 49 employees in three offices with a budget in excess of \$4 million.

Accomplishment³

In 2008, Cheryl Little helped shaping new laws which expand legal protections for unaccompanied immigrant children, and incorporating into the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. In addition, she also helped drafting amendments to the law that helps domestic violence victims.

In June 2012, Little represented the Dreamers who marched 1,500 miles to Washington, D.C., and successfully obtained deferred action for detained youth under immediate removal threats.

On October 1, 2002, Little successfully extended asylum protection to new classes, including domestic violence victims, children forced to join street gangs, and members of groups opposing Haiti's government.

Publication²

Honorary citizen in May 2002
"Person of the Week" by ABC

Media Appearance on National Television²

The War on Immigrants: Stories from the Front Lines
60 Minutes, Nightline, The McNeil-Lehrer Report, PBS's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, Frontline, The Today Show, The Oprah Winfrey Show and CNN.

Featured Documentary²

[Killing the Dream](#)

Quotation

Quotes by her

Our clients are our inspiration. Their courage and resilience in the face of enormous obstacles never cease to amaze me.

Quotes about her

"She's the person who stood in the gap, that one who cared, life saver, life saving. I want to thank her a million times," said by Ronald Aristide.¹
"Little was the visionary who pushed the Administration to grant deferred action to childhood arrivals when no one else thought it possible. Her Op-Ed in The Miami Herald in April 2012, which generated attention from The White House and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials, prompted me to call her to see how I could help," said former Mayor of Miami, Manny Diaz¹

² "Mission, Vision and History." [AIJustice.org](http://aijustice.org/about-us/mission-vision/). <http://aijustice.org/about-us/mission-vision/> (accessed December 15, 2013).

³ "Accomplishments." [AIJustice.org](http://aijustice.org/about-us/accomplishments/). <http://aijustice.org/about-us/accomplishments/> (accessed December 15, 2013).

Membership letter memo 1

To: Dr. Colee Splichal
From: Lei Yang
Date: Nov. 14, 2013
Subject: Advocacy- Membership letter

The organization wants to appeal their previous interns to join their membership program, a way to raise funds for the organization. The target audience is their previous interns or volunteers, especially those people who are interested in going to the law firm. For the content, it will include a speech from the previous intern and currently AI Justice member to share his/her AI Justice experience and the benefits of becoming members.

I have sent email to the organization to gather this short interview information, however, she said she is really busy this week, and couldn't get me the information till next week. I am still communicating with her hopefully I will have something to start this week. Or otherwise I will make up something base on the online resources.

Date: Dec. 2, 2013
Subject: Advocacy- Membership letter update

The organization wants to appeal their previous interns to join their membership program, a way to raise funds for the organization. The target audience is their previous interns or volunteers. The content will be addressed by a current member and speaking directly to the interns.

As the organization has not passed me any material about their current members, or a significant client story, so I pretended myself as the current member and wrote the letter base on the research I conducted. I gathered materials either through AI Justice website or internet. I will explain the reason of me making up this letter and how the organization can use the letter to appeal the interns to become the member.

In addition to the writing piece, I will also attach the already made membership package from AI Justice.

The choice-membership Letter

Nov.30, 2013



Rosa was abandoned, emotionally and physically abused by her father, siblings since she was age 12 after her mum was shot to death in her native Guatemala. She came to the U.S.A with the hope to get a better life, but she was apprehended and put into the detention center. With the help of AI Justice, she now is a lawful permanent resident in USA and lives happily under in her safe and warm house

Dear Friend

My name is Lei Yang, and I am a law PHD student from the University of Miami. I was an attorney assistant intern helping Dr. Kimberly Green to provide legal services to immigrant children in detention.

I always remembered the day I visited 17-year-old Rosa in the detention center, her eyes were filled with despair and hopeless. It was hard to imagine how her life will end up without the help from AI Justice.

Rosa is not the only one needs help. Over the past year, AI Justice has helped more than 450 unaccompanied immigrant minors who had no guardian in this country, over 330 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, and over 90 children whose parents were victims of domestic violence or trafficking.

So will you be willing to join me to continue to help AI Justice to serve those people with special needs to change their life and achieve their dream? Our help play a big part in their ability to make a difference in those lives.

With appreciation for your support,

Yours sincerely,

Lei Yang