

Interview Assessment #6

Name of Professional: Anna Rupani

Profession/Title: Staff Attorney and Pro Bono Coordinator

Business/Company Name: Mosaic Family Services, Inc.

Date of Interview: Wednesday, November 15th

Assessment:

My sixth interview was with Ms. Anna Rupani from Mosaic Family Services in Dallas, Texas. I was so happy to have the chance to interview with Ms. Rupani, because Mosaic was a nonprofit I became interested in after speaking with Ms. Doom. I had asked Ms. Doom for further interview recommendations and Mosaic came up. After learning a little about the nonprofit I got to speak with a staff attorney and the Pro Bono Coordinator at Mosaic, Anna Rupani.

In contrast from my previous interviews, Ms. Rupani works mostly with family and domestic violence cases, as opposed to that of immigration. I really liked the opportunity to speak with her because I could particularly see that she was incredibly passionate about the work that she did, and even though, like Ms. Doom, recognized that it was hard work and could get emotionally taxing, still was committed to helping people through her legal services. She definitely knew that it could be hard, as she explained that the legal team at Mosaic often experiences changes in staff because in variations in grants and the mental stress of the job, but that she really enjoyed her work and was very committed to it.

Similar to the other lawyers I have interviewed, she honed in specifically on one main area of law, but her expertise was in domestic violence and family law. She explained to me that she never intended to be doing the litigation work of family law, however she was happy to be doing it now because it gave her great experience and enjoyed the excitement of being in court speaking on what you think it right, working for your case. I appreciate the candor, because in ISM, we have all of these opportunities to go out and do incredible things, but it can become overwhelming because of how broad

it is. Ms. Rupani showed me that even though we might not always end up where we thought we would be, you can still make the best of it and might even turn out to love it.

I really liked the office, too, because the size of the law staff was small enough that I felt like it wouldn't be hard to know everyone and still big enough that I could get the opportunity to see more beyond just one person and their experiences, such as with Ms. Whitehouse and Ms. Albano who were essentially independent in all aspects of their work. I would still like to know if Ms. Rupani has worked in bigger firms before and how that compares to what she does now.

Additionally, one of the most interesting questions was when I asked her if she feels like she makes a difference. Ms. Rupani explained that making a difference can occur on so many different levels, and that even though she may not be directly affecting things on a national level, she's making a difference in her world and she has a huge impact on the lives of her clients. I particularly like this question because it reminded me why I got so interested in nonprofit law in the first place: I wanted to find a way to help people in a capacity that would genuinely benefit the lives of some.

Overall, I really enjoyed this interview. It was probably my favorite that I went on because it truly felt like Mosaic was the culmination of so many different aspects that I wanted to explore this year in ISM. It had law services, a small, but not singly-run organization, and overall it was a nonprofit with an emphasis on helping others more than anything else. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to speak to Ms. Rupani and from here, I have to work to finalize my mentor and find a way to take everything I have learned from all six interviews I've been on, and put them into action in creating my Original Work and Final Product.