

Clinic Client Grateful For Immigration Services

Several years ago, Amita (name changed to preserve confidentiality), who experienced a traumatic beginning to her life in the United States, retained the Clinic to obtain a work permit and the right to stay in the U.S. In late 2019, she finally won her case after a long (but unfortunately common) administrative delay. She would later refer to the Law Clinic as a “Godsend.”

After moving to the U.S. in 2010, Amita was abused by her husband for several years. Although the abuse began very early in the marriage, she did not find the strength to report it until she was encouraged by family members to do so. It is common for noncitizen victims to suffer in silence for fear of jeopardizing their immigration status or being deported, sometimes while their children stay in the U.S. with the abusive parent. Because Amita cooperated with police to put her abuser in jail, she qualified for a victim-witness visa known as a U-visa.

With the criminal matter behind her and her abuser in jail, Amita was ready to pursue her U-visa and begin again as a newly divorced single mother. A referral made to the Clinic from the YWCA started her journey towards obtaining lawful status. Clinic intern **Rodney L. Wilson, '15**, prepared Amita’s initial petition for a U-visa in 2015. The request to grant our client a U-visa was the first step in the journey to help her feel safe. Still, she waited four long years for her U-visa approval to finally arrive.

In 2019, after anxiously awaiting word from the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), good news finally came to Amita in the form of a work authorization card pursuant to U-visa status. She was now

able to work, provide for her family, and contribute in a way she always dreamed of in the U.S.

Amita is very grateful to Rodney for his help and guidance in the early stages of her immigration journey. Upon receiving her work authorization, Rodney was the first person she wanted to tell the news. **“I am very happy with the services I received at the Washburn Law Clinic. I am grateful the attorneys and interns showed me there was a path I could travel on to fulfill my dreams. The clinic was a Godsend to me,”** said Amita.