

Dan Ruben,

My summer working at Bread for the City was a rich and memorable experience. Bread for the City provides medical, legal, food, and social services all under one roof. Low-income District of Columbia residents often walk into the “Bread” office not knowing what type of professional can help them, but knowing that Bread’s scope of expertise and commitment to service guarantees that they will be welcomed and pointed in the right direction. The legal department at Bread for the City focuses on family law, landlord-tenant law, and public benefits.

One of my major responsibilities as an intern was to perform legal intake. This work involved interviewing potential clients in order to identify their legal problem and then decide in what capacity Bread for the City could assist them. I interviewed at least twenty potential clients each week. This one on one contact with individuals was a rich and fulfilling part of my work.

I interviewed a non-english speaking El Salvadorean man named David that had a problem with a local landlord. He explained that he met with the landlord and paid him \$800 for a deposit on an apartment and \$800 for the first month’s rent. The landlord promised to meet with David later that week to give him the apartment key. However, when they met later that week, the landlord, with the help of a translator, told David that he never received any money from him and that he would not give him the key. David brought receipts of his deposit and first month’s rent payment, which were signed by the landlord, to the interview.

David explained that he had no money left and that he and his wife and their two children were living in his brother’s tiny apartment. David had lost the little money he had to a wealthy land owner and he was desperate to not only get his money back, but to have his voice heard.

I spoke with a Bread for the City attorney and she agreed to work with David to file a claim in small claims court. I acted as interpreter between the attorney and David. I also served the landlord his notice to appear in court. Lastly, I helped to produce an essential witness that helped David win his \$1600 back in small claims court. I was happy for David that he stood up for himself and finally got back the money he deserved. I was also proud that I could help David have a voice in his conflict. The landlord probably assumed that as a non-english speaker, David would be powerless to defend himself. Bread for

the City gave David his power back and I will always remember being a part of that effort with David and throughout the summer.



10th ANNIVERSARY

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Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II – Suite 204 13540 East Boundary Rd.
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Evaluation for Bryan Evans

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Byran Evans, a rising third-year law student at American University Washington College of Law, served as a legal intern this summer at Bread for the City (BFC). BFC is a non-profit organization that provides free legal assistance, medical care, food, clothing, and social services to low-income residents of the District. The Legal Clinic practices mainly in the areas of landlord-tenant, family, and public benefits law.

As a legal intern, Bryan assisted the Legal Clinic in almost every aspect of our representation of clients. Generally, his responsibilities included interviewing clients; reviewing agency files; collecting medical documents to evaluate disability benefits cases pending before the Social Security Administration; conducting legal research; and drafting pleadings, correspondence, and memoranda of law.

With his excellent Spanish-speaking abilities, Bryan was incredibly helpful in assisting our Spanish-speaking clients. He obtained from clients further information necessary to develop their case and helped explain to clients what was happening in their cases. For both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking clients, Bryan assisted our attorneys in preparing for hearings, including accompanying an attorney at Small Claims Court to help a tenant obtain a judgment against a landlord who owed the tenant money and helping a family attorney analyze and prepare documents for a child support hearing. The pleadings that Bryan drafted included a motion to compel a landlord to make required repairs and a tenant grievance challenging the overcharging of a tenant's rent by the DC Housing Authority.

Bryan also assisted our public benefits attorney with a couple of projects, including contacting Bread for the City food pantry clients to inform them of a change in the District of Columbia's Food Stamps law that might have made them eligible to receive Food Stamps. With these clients, he interviewed the clients to

offer an estimate of the level of benefits they could receive and provided information on how to apply for these benefits. Without Bryan's help this summer, Bread for the City would not have been able to carry out this project of informing our food pantry clients about the change in the Food Stamps law.

Bryan was effective in working with our clients. His calm demeanor was an asset in Bread for the City's often hectic work environment. He was very patient and dealt with each client with dignity and respect. His research and writing was solid. He also got along well with our staff. Bryan was always willing to pitch in to help, particularly in meeting with Bread for the City clients who came through our doors without an appointment seeking legal help.

The Legal Clinic at Bread for the City is grateful for the work Bryan did for the Legal Clinic and our clients. We are glad that Equal Justice America was able to support Bryan financially with a summer stipend.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 386-7010, if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



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NW Legal Clinic Supervisor