

Dalton Randall
19 Everett Street
Apartment 32
Cambridge, MA 02138

September 4, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I write to share a few thoughts on my experiences as a summer clinical fellow in the housing unit at the Wilmerhale Legal Services Center in Boston. Overall, my experience was extremely positive due in large part to excellent training and supervision, the opportunity to do substantive work, and the pleasure of seeing the impact of my work on the lives of those individuals we were able to help.

The summer program started off with a few days of intense training, followed by immersion into the real work of helping people who were facing eviction and possible homelessness. Over the ten-week period, I actively engaged in activities such as client interviewing and intake, negotiating with opposing counsel and providing assistance to pro-se defendants in housing court and at the Legal Services Center.

In addition to the initial training period, all clinical fellows were given the opportunity to attend additional training sessions at the Wilmerhale law offices in Boston. All the housing unit supervisors were available to students in the unit and constantly provided direction, advice and guidance. My personal supervisor, Maureen McDonagh, encouraged me to voice my opinions in all situations. I was able to approach problems creatively and confidently, secure in the knowledge that I was fully supported by a caring and capable mentor who would ensure that my actions were in the best interest of my clients.

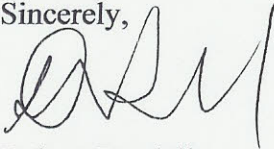
In one case, a single mother and her three children were facing eviction from their apartment. Although conditions in the apartment were less than ideal, she did not have the financial ability or the time to find and move into another one. The Boston Housing Authority had terminated her section 8 benefits and her prospects for finding an apartment on her own were bleak, especially since her limited income meant that she could only pay a small fraction of the cost of market rent. Furthermore, termination of her section 8 benefits meant she would be barred from almost all public housing programs, including homeless shelters, for the rest of her life. Working closely with my supervisor, I was able to negotiate a settlement among my client, the Boston Housing

Authority, and the landlord that resulted in a restoration of my client's housing subsidy and allowed her to stay in her apartment with ample time to find more suitable accommodations.

Whether it was negotiating a settlement that merely gave a client time to move, or negotiating a financial award, it was always gratifying to provide tangible results for my clients. In fact, the only drawback to working in this setting was the stark reality that due to a variety of reasons (scarce resources, policy reasons, etc.) we were unable to help many who came to us as a last resort.

The camaraderie among diverse individuals united in the shared goal of providing services to the underserved also contributed to making this a very worthwhile experience. I wish to thank Equal Justice America for helping to make this experience possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dalton Randall', written in a cursive style.

Dalton Randall
Harvard Law School
Class of 2009