

August 31, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

First, thank you so much for awarding me an Equal Justice America Fellowship, which allowed me to work as a summer law clerk in the Homelessness Prevention Law Project (HPLP) at Public Counsel Law Center this past summer. Without such funding, I probably would not have been able to take a public interest internship.

I had an absolutely wonderful summer at Public Counsel. As an HPLP summer law clerk, I assisted impoverished and homeless individuals attain shelter, food, health, transportation, and social services. In particular, I served as a trainer and supervisor for Public Counsel's General Relief Advocacy Program (GRAP), managing and assisting volunteer law students in their advocacy efforts at Los Angeles Department of Social Services offices. Each day brought untold challenges and triumphs to me and my fellow HPLP interns. By the end of the summer, we all had countless stories of individuals we had been able to help through our intense advocacy efforts. Clients would come to us because they were having difficulty navigating the complex rules surrounding the General Relief and Food Stamp programs, and we would work with them to ensure they received all the benefits to which they were entitled. Our successes were both exhilarating as well as frustrating. It was always very rewarding for me to successfully help a client. However, it always a bit startling to me that many times we were able to achieve results in just one afternoon, while the clients had been trying for days, weeks, or even months.

This is why I strongly believe in the work that organizations such as Public Counsel do for the less fortunate members of our communities. We must ensure that information and power inequalities be remedied through strong advocacy and legal representation for those who cannot provide it for themselves, and I am grateful that organizations such as yours allow law students to make a difference and participate in these efforts. I cannot think of a more worthwhile manner in which to have spent my summer than helping poor people attain the benefits and resources necessary in order to ensure their survival. Thank you again for making this experience possible for me.

Sincerely,

Karen Ho
UCLA School of Law
Class of 2010