

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This past summer, I worked at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), a national women's rights organization in Washington, D.C. The NWLC works predominantly in four program areas: Education and Employment (mainly litigation under Title IX and Title VII); Health and Reproductive Rights (legislative research and advocacy efforts, with some litigation); Family and Economic Security (advocacy and legislative research on issues concerning poor women and children, including taxation, tax policy, welfare and social security policy); and Judicial Nominations (including a substantial amount of work on the Sotomayor confirmation hearings).

While I had the opportunity to work in all of the program areas, the bulk of my summer was spent in the Family and Economic Security program. There, I conducted legislative and statutory research, with a particular focus on policies that affect low-income women and children. I researched and wrote on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, and the Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009, a proposed House bill that would change how poverty is measured in the U.S. In preparation for the NWLC's tax credit outreach campaign, I conducted a 50-state survey on changes to state and federal working family tax credits for tax year 2009 and wrote a memorandum summarizing major statutory changes. This information has now been disseminated nationally to assist volunteer tax preparers and low-income families in the upcoming tax year.

In the NWLC's extensive report on Judge Sotomayor's judicial record, I contributed the section on cases concerning the loss of public benefits. I also researched regulations and statutes pertaining to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and wrote a memorandum outlining important policies and legal issues to be considered when TANF is reauthorized in 2010.

Over the course of my summer internship, I found that my prior experience working with low-income women and children, and my familiarity with issues of poverty have been very useful for my internships at the National Women's Law Center and the Fair Housing Justice Center. I believe that these skills will serve me well in the context of my career in civil rights law. Though the bulk of my work this past summer was focused on policy, I found that my direct work with homeless mothers, domestic violence victims, and prospective tenants who have experienced housing discrimination gave me a more tangible understanding of certain policies' effects on low-income women and children. As a result, I could better understand the ramifications that proposed legislation would have on these populations.

I believe that one can be most successful at client representation, whether for an individual or for a class of individuals, if one has a solid understanding of and commitment to the realities of the

populations one is trying to help. I have significant experience in direct service work, and next summer, I intend to further my work on assisting indigent women and families by working on plaintiff-side litigation that features multiple plaintiffs.

I greatly appreciate the wonderful opportunity and support that your organization provided me during my 1L summer, and I am confident that I will continue to do important civil rights work, over the next year and throughout my legal career.

Please let me know if you require anything else or have further questions.

Sincerely,

Kinara Flagg

Columbia Law School, Class of 2011