

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Mr. Ruben,

This past summer I interned at Indiana Legal Services in South Bend, Indiana. I helped them with research on a variety of topics ranging from housing to probate to procedural issues. The experience exposed me to law that I was not very familiar with, but have learned that I want to learn more about. It also reminded me that I went to law school to practice law and help people with legal problems, something that can be hard to remember during the chaos of law school.

I was able to watch the attorneys at Indiana Legal Services try to help their clients. There was one case on which I helped with which Indiana Legal Services had just gotten involved. I started right before an emergency hearing to get the water turned back on in the client's property after the landlord had turned it off. I saw the case progress from that hearing to the completion of the trial. I could see the client's motivation for the case, the effort by the attorney to fight for the client's rights under Indiana landlord-tenant law, and was able to help by researching issues for the attorney I was working under and helping draft documents. It was a good reminder that I went to law school to help individuals solve legal problems and use the legal institutions that we have to help those that they are supposed to help.

I enjoyed the time I spent at Indiana Legal Services and am thankful for the funding that helped make it possible.

Thank you,

Adrian Bottomley
Notre Dame Law School, 2019

INDIANA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.



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August 4, 2017

VIA EMAIL

Equal Justice America
c/o Katie Toman
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Midlothian, VA 23112
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Dear Ms. Toman:

Adrian worked as an intern with our office this summer. As a first-year law student, Adrian sought a broad experience in civil law. Throughout his time with our office, we tried to expose him to several areas of law, including consumer law, government benefits, estate planning and advanced directives, and landlord-tenant law. We also informed him about the rationale and purpose of our work in providing legal services to indigent clients.

Adrian was willing and able to perform all requested tasks, which were broad in nature. In addition to routine clerical work, Adrian performed significant legal work. He prepared litigation documents for ongoing cases, prepared internal memos, communicated with clients and applicants, and prepared a report on a topic of legal concern for our statewide organization.

Although Adrian "shadowed" attorneys during litigation, he also provided beneficial assistance through the process of litigation. He prepared pleadings, discovery requests, drafts of motions for cases, and provided general litigation support in preparing exhibits and files for hearings.

Adrian assisted with client-contact, and helped us process applications. He helped our office screen cases by reviewing applicable law to help us determine whether to accept or deny certain cases that required additional legal research. Adrian reviewed client files and prepared memos applying the applicable laws to the client's facts.

Indiana Legal Services, Inc. is a non-profit organization funded by grants and donations. The generosity of many, assist us in providing no cost legal services to our community. If you would like to make a donation to Indiana Legal Services, you may do so by mailing your contribution to Indiana Legal Services, Inc., 401 E. Colfax Ave., Ste. 116, South Bend, IN 46617.



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Our Litigation Director tasked Adrian with completing a review of Indiana landlord-tenant law to help our state-wide organization strategically advocate for tenants. Adrian researched applicable law concerning “habitability,” and focused on addressing the growing problem of unlawful rent/purchase agreements that attempt to deprive tenants-buyers of legal protections. Adrian reviewed current statutes and case law, and persuasive authority in other states, to help guide our litigation strategies. He prepared a substantial research paper summarizing his findings. His research and report will benefit our organization.

Having Adrian with us this summer was beneficial to our organization and to our clients. Thank you for providing the resources to facilitate his internship with our program.

Sincerely,

INDIANA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

Adam E. Taylor
Staff Attorney