

**ABIGAIL L. PRESSLER**

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August 30, 2011

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, with the help of Equal Justice America, I was able to work for the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP) in Ann Arbor, Michigan. MPLP works in affiliation with Legal Services of South Central Michigan to provide support to legal aid attorneys in the region. I worked primarily on low-income housing issues with Jim Schaafsma, the housing attorney at MPLP, researching issues related to Section 8 housing vouchers, procedural due process protection for housing benefits, and other topics currently affecting low-income housing.

One particularly rewarding assignment involved a Native American low-income housing tenant who was being evicted from her home without due process. By researching the case law surrounding procedural due process requirements for low-income housing in Michigan, as well as laws applicable to Native American housing, I was able to contribute to her attorney's arguments. Although I was not able to see the case through to completion, the chance to help strengthen the tenant's case was gratifying in and of itself.

I also worked extensively on writing new content for MPLP's website for self-represented litigants. Specifically, I outlined instructions, frequently asked questions, and detailed explanations for how to file a motion to set aside a default judgment in a debt collection case. By contributing to a website that will eventually offer legal assistance to those who normally cannot afford it, I was able to offer help to more people than I could otherwise, had I been working one-on-one with individual clients.

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work in public interest this summer, especially because I had previously worked only in private law firms. The immediate gratification of helping those in need was a welcomed change and an invaluable experience.

Sincerely,

Abigail L. Preissler  
University of Michigan Law School  
J.D. expected May, 2013



**MICHIGAN  
POVERTY  
LAW  
PROGRAM**

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August 10, 2011

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

Re: Clerkship of Abigail Preissler, University of Michigan School of Law

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to report back on Abby Preissler's clerkship with the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP), for which she was given a grant from Equal Justice America. Ms. Preissler, like many of our law clerks, helped our office in many different ways. Ms. Preissler primarily conducted research and writing projects for MPLP's Housing Law specialist, Jim Schaafsma. MPLP is the statewide support office for the legal aid programs throughout Michigan, providing case-specific assistance to field office staff, as well as conducting trainings and regular task force meetings, and acting as co-counsel on impact litigation cases. MPLP substantive law attorneys (such as Mr. Schaafsma) often assist field staff with research and writing tasks, as well as draft articles for various legal publications and prepare presentations for trainings. Ms. Preissler assisted Mr. Schaafsma with these tasks, often by conducting legal research and writing memoranda (both formal and informal) summarizing her findings.

Ms. Preissler also assisted me with a web content development project. MPLP is building a new statewide legal assistance website for self-represented litigants. Ms. Preissler drafted content for the website in the area of consumer law – drafting topical articles, “frequently asked questions” lists, and procedural instructions for pro se litigants facing debt collection lawsuits. This task required in-depth research in that particular topic area, and then synthesizing that information into easy-to-understand articles and instructions.

Ms. Preissler performed extremely well at her duties while with the Michigan Poverty Law Program. We were grateful for her assistance and grateful for the Equal Justice America grant as well, so that she could be compensated for her work. Should you have any further questions about Ms. Preissler or her clerkship, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Angela S. Tripp  
Co-Managing Attorney