

August 30, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

During the summer of 2011, I had the pleasure to work with the Family Law Project in Ann Arbor, MI. The Family Law Project is an office of the Legal Services of South Central Michigan. Our office primarily served indigent victims of domestic violence in family law cases.

As a summer law clerk, I was able to work directly with our clients in every aspect of their cases. I conducted initial intake interviews, drafted and filed pleadings, drafted discovery requests, and appeared in court. I appreciated each of these activities and was particularly pleased with the amount of client contact that I enjoyed in the office. Throughout the experience, I felt as though I was truly making a difference in the community and in our clients' lives.

The clients the Family Law Project serves are in particularly troubling situations. As survivors of domestic violence, they have often lived through years of abuse and isolation from their family and friends. Thus, when they make the decision to end the relationship, they often have nowhere to turn and are in fear for their personal safety. This disturbing situation is compounded by the fact that our clients often do not have the resources to find housing on their own and are living in temporary shelters.

During my time at the Family Law Project, I felt that I was able to improve the quality of life for our clients. Our clients would turn to our office at what was often the most difficult time of their lives. By providing legal assistance, we were able to help them remove themselves from abusive relationships and re-build their lives. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to work for the community this summer. It was an experience that I will never forget and truly the most fulfilling work that I have ever done.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Christensen
University of Michigan Law School, Class of 2013

LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Family Law Project • P.O. Box 8294, Ann Arbor, MI 48107 • (734) 998-9454 • FAX: (734) 998-9125

July 30, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

During the summer of 2011, we were pleased to have Alyssa Christensen as an EJA intern at the Family Law Project (FLP), an office of Legal Services of South Central Michigan. Our office priorities include providing legal advice and representation to indigent survivors of domestic violence in family law cases. Alyssa was hired as a full-time summer law clerk.

As a summer law clerk, Alyssa assisted the staff attorneys with all aspects of our work. Alyssa interviewed clients, drafted pleadings, drafted letters, conducted legal research, filed pleadings with the court, arranged for service of process, and appeared in court to represent clients at motion hearings under Michigan's student practice rules. Alyssa excelled in each of these areas. She is smart, resourceful, a quick learner, eager to help out, able to balance several different tasks at once, and a pleasure to have around the office!

Because of Alyssa's participation in the EJA program and her work at FLP, we were able to assist more survivors of domestic violence during the critical stage of separation from their abusive partners. Alyssa gained valuable experience particularly in working with poverty clients and we are confident she will build on these skills in the next few years in law school and post-graduation.

Sincerely,

Alyson Robbins
Staff Attorney

cc: Alyssa Christensen

Calhoun/Branch/Hillsdale Office: 70 East Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49017 • (616) 965-3951 or (800) 688-3951 • FAX (616) 965-4874
Ingham/Eaton/Clinton/Barry/Shiawassee Office: 3490 Belle Chase Way, Ste. 50, Lansing, MI 48911 • (517) 394-3121 • FAX (517) 394-4276
Jackson County Office: 180 W. Michigan Ave., 800 Harris Bldg., Jackson, MI 49201 • (517) 787-6111 • FAX (517) 787-5805
Monroe/Lenawee County Office: 502 West Elm Street, Ste E103, Monroe, MI 48162 • (734) 241-8310 • FAX (734) 241-1381
Michigan Poverty Law Program: 220 East Huron St., Suite 600A, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • (734) 998-6100 • FAX (734) 998-9125
Farm worker Legal Services: Berrien Springs Office: P.O. Box 208, 4445 E. Shawnee Rd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103 • (616) 471-2819 • FAX (616) 471-7664
Farm worker Legal Services: Kent County Office: 668 Three Mile Rd. NW, Ste. C, Grand Rapids, MI 49544-8219 • (616) 785-8666 • FAX (616) 785-8840
Washtenaw County Office: 420 N. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1104 • (734) 665-6181 • FAX (734) 665-2974



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