

August 29, 2010

Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Rd.  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My summer working on the Senior Project at the Legal Assistance Foundation provided a diverse learning experience. One of my first assignments was to draft a complaint on behalf of an elderly woman who fell victim to a fraudulent real estate transaction. This involved lengthy conversations with the client and learning a new writing style as I had previously only worked on criminal cases. That case is still pending, but due in part to my efforts, the client is still in her home where she otherwise might have been evicted.

After several weeks at LAF I began to take on my own case load. I interviewed new clients and investigated their cases. Many of my clients only needed relatively simple legal advice on dealing with creditors. But just letting a client know that their Social Security benefits will not be garnished can have a big impact and relieve their stress. I helped stop harassing phone calls from debt collectors so they could get back to their normal lives.

I was able to get a significant amount of client contact during my summer at LAF. This made the job more rewarding, but also more challenging. I had to learn how to deal with difficult clients, many of whom had multiple problems that we could not help them with. For instance, one client had an ongoing feud with his townhome association board but we were only involved to help him deal with an impending foreclosure of his home. After helping clients with one problem, it is sometimes hard for them to understand why we cannot help them with all of their problems, legal or non-legal. However, I know that as long as I practice law I will have challenging clients, and this summer helped me to prepare for that.

Overall my internship gave me a good mixture of experience in civil litigation drafting, legal research, and client counseling. Further, my commitment to public interest law remains strong. I thank LAF and Equal Justice America for giving me this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wrona

September 2, 2010

Dan Ruben,

I was Andrew Wrona's supervisor this summer at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. The Chicago Seniors/Consumer Law Project serves approximately 1200 elderly Chicagoans every year, in a wide variety of legal matters including Social Security and public benefits, housing and homeownership, consumer protection and debtor's rights, family, and planning for incapacity.

Andy quickly became part of our team, interviewing new clients and gathering documents and information, assisting in the evaluation of cases, passing on advice from attorneys, legal research and writing, and engaging in advocacy on behalf of clients with merchants, landlords, and other parties. He also appeared in court under a "7-11" license. Andy handled approximately 25 cases this summer.

His work was outstanding. I have worked with numerous law students and clerks, and Andy was among the very best. Every assignment I gave him he accomplished promptly and thoroughly. His writing, legal analysis, and advocacy skills are excellent. I only wish he could have stayed longer.

Michelle Weinberg  
Chicago Seniors/Consumer Law Project  
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago