

Beile Lindner

August 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My summer working at the Brooklyn Family Defense Project (BFDP) was simply outstanding. I knew before going there that the attorneys and other staff working there were some of the most passionate advocates in New York City, but I did not know that I would love working there so much.

BFDP is a small project within Legal Services of New York City. They are the institutional assigned counsel to parents in family court when the Administration for Children's Services charges those parents with abuse or neglect.

BFDP provided me with comprehensive training, and the attorneys I was paired with, Megan Brown and Eileen Choi, were incredible supervisors. They gave me timely and helpful feedback on writing assignments, checked in regularly on my progress and my satisfaction with the work, and made sure I had the experiences I wanted to have while working there.

While interning, I worked on a number of projects. I wrote many litigation-related documents, including several motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment, motions for unsupervised visitation, a consent order, and a custody petition. I also interviewed and met with clients to discuss their cases and interviewed potential witnesses for trial. I also reviewed and organized discovery.

One of the highlights of the summer was when I wrote a motion for unsupervised visitation and was then able to argue it on the record in family court. I enjoyed being part of that process from the beginning to end – reviewing the file, interviewing the client, writing the motion, compiling the papers, and finally arguing the motion in court. Usually as a law student, one only gets to work on a small part of a case, such as researching one issue or writing a section of a brief. However, being able to claim complete responsibility for the unsupervised visit motion was very exciting.

Another highlight of the summer was working with one particular client whose infant daughter had been removed from her custody at birth because she had other children already in foster care. I met this client and discussed her case with her, and then wrote a motion to ask for her baby to be returned to her. The Administration for Children's Services then consented to let her baby come home. This was a tremendous feeling – knowing that I had a part in the reunification of mother and child – and I had the pleasure of meeting with this client again later in the summer and seeing how well she was doing with the baby back in her care.

For these reasons, and many more too numerous to write in this letter, thank you and Equal Justice America very much for helping me make this work possible. Without the funding you provided, I would not have been able to accomplish so much with BFD.

Sincerely,

Beile Lindner
Candidate for Juris Doctor, 2013
Brooklyn Law School



August 10, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director of Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I supervised Beile Lindner at the Brooklyn Family Defense Project for her summer legal internship. I was consistently impressed by her work this summer.

Beile performed every assignment in an efficient and professional manner. No task was too complicated or difficult for Beile this summer. Her legal research and writing was on point and her oral in-court advocacy was excellent. In addition, Beile did excellent trial preparation work: she organized evidence; articulated the “theory of the case” and possible defenses; she interviewed potential witnesses; and drafted cross examinations and summations. Not only was her approach to trial prep organized, but it was also creative.

In this high-volume practice, Beile’s direct service work with clients was invaluable. She is a natural when it comes to discussing intimate and sensitive details with clients while pulling the relevant information. My clients enjoyed working with Beile, perhaps because of the kindness and respect with which she treated them.

Finally, because of Beile’s experience working in fields related to the shelter system and the immigration system, I learned from her every day.

Sincerely,

Megan S. Brown
Staff Attorney
(347)592-2560