August 31, 2015

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 E. Boundary Rd.
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to express my appreciation for my Equal Justice America Fellowship this summer that allowed me to work with the Elder, Health, and Disability Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). The Equal Justice America fellowship permitted me to work with a passionate group of experienced attorneys devoted to ensuring that individuals have access to adequate medical care. Working with clients was an incredibly rewarding experience.

During the course of the summer I worked with a senior attorney to write on behalf of clients who had initially been denied their Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. I spent many hours reading client's medical records to find medical evidence to support claims for disability. I also met with the clients numerous times to understand their medical conditions and how their unique combination of physical and mental impairments has affected their ability to work full-time.

The most fulfilling part of my summer was working with an individual who was initially denied disability benefits and had a hearing in front of an administrative law judge. This individual suffered from a host of mental problems that manifested themselves as physical pain. After numerous meeting with the individual, I was able to craft a cohesive narrative in my brief to the judge about the individual's medical problems and the steps he was taking to mitigate his condition. While the work was challenging, it felt great seeing a client gain a tangible benefit from my efforts.

My experience at GBLS gave me the opportunity to gain substantive legal skills in a real world setting. Without the Equal Justice America Fellowship, I would not have been able to dedicate my summer to pro bono work and make a difference in the lives of many underserved clients.

Sincerely,

Lewis Osterman
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2017
Boston University School of Law