

August 16, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the financial support that I received as a 2011 Equal Justice America Summer Fellow, as it made my rewarding and exciting summer with Michigan Legal Services in Detroit possible.

I had the opportunity to work with staff attorneys in four different areas: mortgage foreclosure, tax foreclosure, landlord-tenant, and health care access. I had the chance to hone my legal research and writing skills by drafting motions and answers, conducting legal research, and writing memoranda. I had the chance to sharpen my oral communication and advocacy skills by conducting intake, advising and counseling clients, negotiating with opposing counsel, and representing tenants in Michigan's 36th District Court under the supervision of staff attorneys.

My office is willing to fight for clients even when it seems like there is no way to generate a positive outcome, especially when clients are just about out of time. For example, a couple from Southwest Detroit came to our office after a bailiff had come to their house, but had oddly taken the dumpster away without taking out their belongings. We found out that there was already a default judgment entered against them and that a writ had already been signed, which meant that it was only a matter of days before the bailiff would be back again.

It would have been easy to call it a day and say that it was too late, but my executive director had me work on an emergency motion to set aside the judgment, quash the writ, and stay proceedings. That same afternoon, I ran with one of my supervisors to court and we were able to get a judge to give us some additional time, and we worked both on figuring out what case to make and making a referral to a housing placement agency. This case is still unresolved, but my agency's willingness to hustle and ability to think quickly has given this couple time that they otherwise would not have had.

Michigan Legal Services is a co-founder and member of the Coalition to Protect Detroit Health Care. The Coalition was originally founded when the historically non-profit Detroit Medical Center (DMC) was being sold to Vanguard, largely out of a concern that a switch to a for-profit structure would compromise access to care for Detroit's most needy and vulnerable. The sale closed last year, and since then my health law supervisor had started to hear about patients who had been denied care at DMC facilities. My task was to read the governing contract and write a

letter to the DMC's oversight entity on behalf of the coalition concerning DMC's responsibilities to provide charity care and core health services. While this initiative is far from over, I am grateful to have been part of a larger effort to help preserve access to health care for low-income Detroiters.

My experience at Michigan Legal Services reinforced my commitment to public interest law and my desire to work as an advocate for members of low-income communities. Thank you again for making this opportunity possible.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lamoste

Juris Doctor Candidate, Class of 2013

University of Michigan Law School



Anti-poverty Advocates

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August 30, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Elizabeth Lamoste worked as an intern for Michigan Legal Services this past summer, 2011. She was engaged in significant legal research on several health care issues and drafted position papers for MLS and for MichUHCAN (Michigan Universal Health Care Action Network), a statewide coalition advocating for health care reform. The research was always thorough, precise, and very helpful for our efforts to implement national health care reforms and to address other local health care access issues presented by the restructuring of Detroit's major charity care provider.

Examples of her work include letters to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding the implementation of the new federal Affordable Care Act. These were comments drafted for MLS to submit in response to proposed regulations regarding the operation of Accountable Care Organizations [ACO's], the calculation of the Medical Loss Ratio as proposed by the Michigan Insurance Commissioner who requested an exception for the individual market, and regarding the Michigan plan for integration of care for Dual-eligibles.

At the state level, Elizabeth researched rate review regulations and summarized the new rules. On a local level, where Elizabeth directed most of her efforts, we are implementing an Attorney General opinion conditionally approving the sale of Detroit's

safety net hospital system to a for-profit system. The AG required 10 years of charity care and other commitments which we are monitoring. Elizabeth performed a key role in drafting letters to the oversight Board and in following up.

Her work has always been of extremely high quality and clearly drafted. We would be happy to have her back. Members of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation who were engaged in a site visit at Michigan Legal Services while Elizabeth was interning with us took note of her high energy and the many projects she was engaged in with MLS and MichUHCAN.

While the health care work alone was enough for any full time project, Elizabeth also assisted with the housing foreclosure prevention efforts of Michigan Legal Services and its partner agency, the United Community Housing Coalition. She interviewed a number of clients in tax and mortgage foreclosure to determine their legal needs and defenses. She also appeared in the 36th District Court, one of the busiest courts in the nation (with an annual eviction case load of 40,000 for the City of Detroit), with permission of the court under local court rules and under the supervision of MLS attorneys, to argue procedural motions as well as to prepare and enter settlement agreements.

As with her health care endeavors, in the mortgage foreclosure arena, Ms. Lamoste's work was superb. She was competent, creative and compassionate. Her energetic work ethic continues beyond the MLS internship, as she searches for suitable topics for law review articles at the University of Michigan's Race and Law Journal, which could have practical application in current legal efforts to address the foreclosure crisis in urban communities.

We highly recommend Ms. Lamoste for an Equal Justice America fellowship. She is an ideal candidate and would be an excellent addition to any civil legal aid program. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Mullane
Executive Director