

August 30, 2017

I am writing to express my gratitude for being awarded a 2017 Equal Justice America Fellowship. The Fellowship allowed me to work as a housing law intern at Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) in Chicago, IL this summer. Not only did this internship allow me to learn countless skills that I can use in lawyering and life, but also it cemented my desire to work in civil legal services.

As a housing intern at CGLA, I participated in all stages of housing cases. I conducted intakes of potential clients; drafted research memoranda, briefs, and motions; and participated in court proceedings. I learned a great deal about the substantive law governing housing law in Illinois as well as federal regulations governing public housing and other government-subsidized housing. I also participated in other aspects of the organization that helped me learn what it would be like to work in legal aid in the future. I conducted potential client intakes for all of CGLA's practice areas. I also had the opportunity to take a trip to an Illinois prison where interns assisted with a family law course and intakes for incarcerated mothers.

I knew that I wanted to serve others, and I initially came to law school to be a public defender, but this summer helped me realize that I also enjoy working in civil legal services, and that the stakes in a civil case are often just as high as those in a criminal case. At CGLA, the factor that unites every civil client is contact with the criminal legal system. Our housing clients faced eviction from subsidized housing or termination of their vouchers. Because our clients had little to no income, moving out meant homelessness and navigating the shelter system. In one case I worked on, we were able to negotiate not only the dismissal of an eviction case but also a move for a client who was living in an apartment with unhealthy conditions that had been responsible for numerous trips to the emergency for her young son with asthma.

Working at CGLA crystallized for me that it was not just an interest in criminal defense that made me want to be a public defender; it was a desire to work for poor and low-income people. I come from a poor family that had access to public benefits like CGLA's clients, but little knowledge of or access to legal services that would allow us to be confident that those benefits were secure. Working at a place like CGLA was meaningful to me because CGLA reaches out to the entire community and work with community members and clients on advocacy that creates a more sustainable impact than any one case can. I felt like my work there had an impact.

Before interning at CGLA, I already knew that I would spend my career as an attorney in service of the public, but working at CGLA with the help of the Equal Justice America allowed me to work in legal aid and decide that it is a path I want to take when I leave law school. I am in the process of applying for fellowships that will allow me to do just that. I cannot thank you enough for the role you have played in my development as an attorney.

Sincerely,

H. Elenore Wade

The George Washington Law School, J.D. Expected, May 2018

August 9, 2017

Dan Ruben
c/o Katie Toman
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Via email to katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Re: Elenore Wade, 2017 Summer Intern and EJA fellow

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer I had the pleasure of supervising Elenore Wade, a 2017 EJA Fellow. She was a summer intern with our Housing Law Program at Cabrini Green Legal Aid.

I found Elenore to be eager to learn and take on new tasks. Her questions and comments about both current clients' legal issues, as well as potential cases being considered, were insightful. Both her legal work and her commitment to CGLA's mission and our clientele were exceptional. Elenore is one of the best and brightest students I have supervised.

I also wanted to thank you and your organization for supporting students like Elenore. I understand the need to funding like Equal Justice America's summer fellowships in providing financial support to public interest-minded law students. Without these funding resources, organizations like CGLA would have difficulty attracting such high-quality summer interns.

Sincerely,



Ryann Moran
Supervising Attorney, Civil Programs