

August 9, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I wanted to thank you for your generous fellowship. At the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York I was able to assist in a variety of family court and housing court matters. Over the course of the summer, I helped with several client issues and participated in numerous clinics aiding the residents of Binghamton, New York.

My experience these last few weeks consisted of brief stints of work with dozens of cases. Rather than focusing on just a few individuals, I completed research, drafted motions, attended client meetings, compiled discovery, and assisted with client intake at clinics, based on the priority in the office. In doing so, I was able to witness and participate in cases pertaining to custody, child neglect and abuse, tenancy, green cards, wills, and divorce.

For several weeks I assisted with Legal Aid's "Attorney for the Hour" program in housing court. During this process I was able to gather preliminary information regarding clients, observe the Legal Aid attorney negotiate with the opposing counsel or opposing landlord, and watch the Judge adjudicate the matters, all in less than an hour. In many cases, Legal Aid was able to negotiate settlements that satisfied both parties. The opportunity to see these cases from start to finish was both incredibly educational and interesting.

Over the course of the summer, I also assisted an attorney in researching case law to prevent the termination of our client's parental rights at a forthcoming trial. There were a variety of issues linked to this matter. This on-going project really instilled in me an understanding of how important and essential it is to zealously advocate for our clients, regardless of personal feelings.

Again, thank you very much for the fellowship. With your support I was able to help dozens of low-income clients at the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York. My internship exposed me to many subjects and issues I had not witnessed previously. The experience was invaluable to my education, as well as to the development of my legal career. I am very grateful for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Tiffany
Michigan State University College of Law
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2018