

August 30, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to thank Equal Justice America for opening the door to a great legal opportunity this summer. Thanks to your generous fellowship, I gained a wealth of experience working for justice. This summer's fellowship will have a lasting impact on my life and work, and I certainly hope to pursue a career in the legal nonprofit field.

This summer, I divided my work between two nonprofit law firms: the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project (MiUI) and the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center (GLELC). Working for MiUI, I handled claims for workers seeking unemployment insurance benefits. I handled cases from start to finish, beginning with the client intake, and culminating with a hearing in front of an administrative law judge, and, if necessary, an appeal. I gained valuable experience presenting oral arguments and examining witnesses in front of a judge, as well as performing client communication and legal writing. Most importantly, I made a real difference to those in need. By and large, my clients were living in poverty. Some of them were even homeless. Without MiUI to navigate the legal system, many of them would not have been able to win the benefits they deserved, which provided them with essential aid in hard economic times.

I will forever remember those instances where my work made a difference. In one case, I successfully waived thousands of dollars of restitution for a client. The state made a technical error in the client's unemployment benefits, and erroneously demanded the client pay a large sum of money in restitution, which the client in fact did not owe. The client had been trying to waive

the restitution with no success. Working with MiUI, I was able to bring the case in front of a judge and waive the restitution, bringing much needed justice to the client.

In addition, my work with GLELC helped further the cause of environmental justice that so disproportionately affects the poorest of our society. GLELC takes environmental cases for those who cannot afford representation, and cases where a client cannot find for-profit assistance because the statute does not provide for attorney's fees. Working with GLELC, I conducted important legal research on water quality and sewage contamination issues that endanger the region's Great Lakes and those who depend on them for their livelihood.

Again, thank you for the opportunity!

Sincerely,



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Matthew Clark  
Wayne State University Law School  
Juris Doctor Candidate, 2012

# The Great Lakes Environmental Law Center

*Protecting the world's greatest freshwater resource  
and the communities that depend upon it*

440 Burroughs Street, Box 70  
Detroit, Michigan 48202  
[www.glelc.org](http://www.glelc.org)

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

By email to: Katie Toman at [katie@equaljusticeamerica.org](mailto:katie@equaljusticeamerica.org)

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I write to offer an evaluation of the work performed by Matthew Clark this summer under the Equal Justice America fellowship program. In short, Mr. Clark was a superb employee and he exceeded my expectations for a summer fellow. He completed assignments on time and produced high quality work product.

Mr. Clark completed a variety of projects this summer. First, he researched and drafted an amicus brief for a case before the Michigan Supreme Court. After discussing the case and providing background materials to Mr. Clark, he researched Michigan caselaw and statutory interpretation involving illegal sewer discharges into the Great Lakes and the rights and responsibilities of municipalities under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Mr. Clark completed a first draft of the amicus brief, and after responding to my comments and questions, he produced a final brief that will be filed with the Court this fall term. I also asked Mr. Clark to draft a short memorandum on the filing rules for amicus briefs in state Supreme Court that our organization will use as a reference in future cases.

Further, Mr. Clark drafted a comprehensive memorandum on legal issues pertaining to the St. Lawrence Seaway. He looked into the various pieces of enabling legislation and international agreements that grant the Seaway operating authority and explored ways to prevent further introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes. His research was thorough and the memorandum will form the basis of a long term Great Lakes Environmental Law Center project aimed at altering the Seaway's operations to protect the ecological health of the region.

Finally, Mr. Clark completed two smaller projects that were no less important. He drafted a memorandum explaining the Michigan court rules for filing a motion for stay or abeyance in Circuit Court. His memo included a detailed discussion of caselaw on the subject, and the necessary elements we would have to prove for a successful motion. Also, Mr. Clark assisted me in drafting testimony on the Great Lakes Compact that I delivered to the Ohio State Senate Environment Committee. The testimony had to be pulled together quickly, and Mr. Clark worked over a weekend to make sure that we provided the most detailed and accurate testimony possible.

I was very satisfied with the quality of work Mr. Clark produced this summer. He was punctual and a pleasure to work with. He responded well to comments and constructive criticism and his final drafts reflected the amount of effort he put into his assignments.

I am happy to provide more detail on the excellent job performance of Mr. Clark. I can be reached at the phone number and email address below.

Thank you to Equal Justice America for supporting Mr. Clark's fellowship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Schroeck', written in a cursive style.

Nick Schroeck  
Executive Director  
Great Lakes Environmental Law Center  
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