

August 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer, I have the opportunity to intern with the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. GBLS provides free civil legal assistance to low-income people in Boston and the surrounding areas and towns. It assists both clients on an individual level as well as addressing systemic problems. GBLS has many other units besides housing, including but not limited to elder law, health and disabilities, family law, and employment law.

Over the course of the summer, I received the chance to do a wide variety of work. I was able to perform legal research on the requirements to file for supplementary process in order to collect on a previously won judgment, assist with client intake, and file papers in the Cambridge court. Currently, I am working on drafting a complaint to file on behalf of a client who was wrongly rejected for a government housing subsidy.

Beyond my opportunities to perform work myself, I also had the chance to learn from the attorneys I work with by seeing them in action. For example, I was able to accompany my supervisor to a meeting with a tenant association. At this meeting, they planned what legal strategy they would pursue to fight the proposed demolition of a government subsidized apartment building. Getting to see the real world implications and meet the people directly impacted by my work has made this an all the more meaningful opportunity for me this summer.

The clients I served were all in the process of varying stages of eviction proceedings. They ranged from the informal conference stage all the way to having received a Notice to Quit, which begins the countdown until a summary process eviction trial. One such client came to GBLS having received a Notice to Quit for clutter and untidiness. However, the landlord had blatantly not followed the necessary procedural requirements for an eviction. Therefore, GBLS was able to get the Notice to Quit rescinded and keep the client in her home.

If not for Equal Justice America, I would not have had the opportunity to spend my summer at GBLS. GBLS cannot afford to pay its interns and without EJA, I could not have otherwise afforded to live in Boston. I am very appreciative of EJA for helping to make my summer possible. I hope that EJA is able to provide help to many law

students in the future, as allowing students to experience a summer of public interest is a worthwhile and important goal.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rich
Georgetown May 2011