

August 30, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I first want to say thank you very much for supporting me in my summer internship at the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). I am truly honored to have been selected for an Equal Justice America Summer 2014 Fellowship. I am very grateful to you and Equal Justice America for making this Fellowship possible.

Thinking back on my ten weeks with the Housing Unit, I feel very blessed to have had such a powerful experience. My two supervising attorneys gave me a range of responsibilities, from which I learned a great deal. My research skills were expanded through the many different research projects I was given. On certain legal issues, such as Massachusetts and federal fair housing law and disability law, I was also asked to write up memoranda, which challenged me to push my writing abilities. Most of the research I did was directly related to ongoing client cases, such as a case on behalf of clients fighting to keep their housing affordable. Knowing that in a small way I contributed to helping obtain the best possible outcome for these clients is very rewarding.

I also worked with my supervisor on the case of an individual who was currently living in a shelter as he had previously been unfairly evicted. Interacting with this client, partaking in meetings with him led by my supervisor and speaking to third parties on his behalf collectively taught me many lessons about client counseling and about being a strong advocate for your client. Before my internship ended, I assisted my supervisor in connecting this client with another organization that is going to advocate for him with the ultimate goal of obtaining his own housing. I was glad to have been part of the effort to help this client get to this next crucial step.

Being a part of the work of the Housing Unit showed me how critical this work is in literally changing lives, such as by keeping families in their homes and keeping housing affordable. I think one experience that really illustrated to me the scope of the impact of the Housing Unit was when I helped with one of the weekly housing clinics. Approximately twelve women came in that day for help completing their Answer and Discovery forms to be filed with the court. Providing support to my supervisor, helping answer the women's questions and hearing about their situations made that day one of the most memorable of the summer. I know that the help provided by the clinic gave these tenants a greater likelihood of staying in their homes. Knowing that they and others facing similar injustices can come to GBLS for assistance and empowerment made me especially proud to be a part of these efforts.

From working with my supervisors and clients to collaborating with fellow interns, I could not have asked for a better internship experience than my summer with the Housing Unit at GBLS. It was a privilege to have been a part of GBLS in serving the greater Boston community.

Having seen the immeasurable impact that public interest work has in helping those in need, I want to continue to be a part of such efforts. I plan to apply the skills I learned at the Housing Unit and to build on them throughout school and in my life in general. Thank you, Mr. Ruben, for enabling my experience to be funded, and more importantly for choosing me as one of the Equal Justice America Fellows.

With sincere gratitude,

Nicole Cardamone
Boston College Law School
Class of 2016