August 25, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My name is Norah Sloss. I am a third year law student at the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. As a recipient of an Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship, I was able to work as a law student intern at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia this summer. I worked within the Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit while at Legal Aid. The Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit represents low-income clients in civil protection order, child support, child custody and divorce cases. In addition to providing excellent direct client representation, the Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit focuses on systemic efforts to make justice real for families living in poverty in D.C.

As an intern in the Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit, I worked primarily on civil protection order cases. I worked closely with my supervisor to assist her throughout intake, case preparation and civil protection order hearings. The clients I worked with this summer were low-income women seeking protection from abusive relationships. Many of these clients were mothers seeking protection for themselves and their children. I helped these clients through collecting evidence, answering their questions about the civil protection order process, preparing them for their hearings and supporting them during the day of their hearings.

It was especially meaningful for me to work with women and children on such a personal level. I felt incredible knowing that some of the work I had done helped them to find safety from abuse and peace of mind. It was especially rewarding because I saw that without the help of a Legal Aid attorney, all of these women would have been forced to represent themselves, which would have been a challenege for many of them. While working with the Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit, I was able to focus more on my specific areas of interest and learn from excellent attorneys. By spending time at Legal Aid, I saw the power of legal services in action, which helped my commitment to public interest law grow stronger. I am very grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting my work this summer.

Sincerely,

Norah Sloss
Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Class of 2016

September 1, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Oluwemimo Peters, I am a staff attorney in the Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. The attorneys in the Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit represent low income clients in child support, child custody, divorce and domestic violence cases. This summer, I supervised Norah Sloss during her Equal Justice America fellowship at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia.

During her fellowship, Norah assisted me in domestic violence cases where I obtained civil protection orders for survivors of domestic violence. Norah interviewed clients, drafted direct and cross examinations in preparation for litigation, drafted motions and created well written research memos on relevant topics.

In a particularly difficult domestic violence case involving a severe form of stalking, Norah helped calm and prepare a client before a possibly contentious hearing. Her calm demeanor and professional manner were essential and extremely helpful in cases that were otherwise contentious and tension filled. During her internship, I came to depend on Norah. She demonstrated good judgment, a great work ethic and a passion for the clients that we served. In addition, she was receptive to feedback and provided well done work product that I was able to use in some of my cases.

It was my pleasure to supervise her. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wemi Peters

Wemi Peters
Staff Attorney
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia