

August 10, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you for awarding me an Equal Justice America Summer 2017 Fellowship. My experience at Greater Boston Legal Services has been extremely rewarding and memorable.

Over the course of the summer, my amazing supervisors allowed me to have an active role with many clients. Through the casework, I gained valuable client interaction experience and some insight into the legal process. I was able to provide legal assistance to several elders who were ages 60 years old and older. Providing assistance to vulnerable individuals was gratifying yet also eye-opening because the need for support is so great. Helping elders avoid evictions and remain in the comfort of their homes, was the predominate goal of our clients and the result achieved.

From the initial client intake, negotiating an agreement with the opposing attorney, to the signing of the nine month move out agreement with the landlord paying a substantial amount of money to our client, was my favorite client success story. This agreement allowed our client to live peacefully in her apartment for an additional nine months while she searches for a new place to call home. Working on all aspects of this case was extremely rewarding because it provided me with a small sense of obstacles attorneys may encounter while acting on behalf of a client. Another eviction case I worked on was partially settled in mediation. The client has severe health concerns which prevented the client from being able to maintain the premise in accordance with the lease. With increased cleaning services and support from the client's family, the client will be able to remain in the apartment. The clients that we were unable to provide direct legal assistance to, we were able to refer them to other services that could help.

Along with Housing Cases, providing support and advice on financial exploitation incidents were other cases that I worked on this summer. Negotiating agreements with opposing counsel, client interactions, drafting memorandums, performing legal research, and participating in mediation were some of the opportunities I had at Greater Boston Legal Services. Assisting in presentations that educated elders on the prevalence of elder abuse and protective measures that can be used to try to prevent the growing problem was another piece of my work this summer.

Having the opportunity to work at Greater Boston Legal Services and help those in need was an incredibly rewarding experience that I will carry with me as I move forward in my legal career.

Sincerely,

Briana Mansour
Suffolk University Law School, Class of 2019



August 23, 2017

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

RE: Briana Mansour

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Briana Mansour worked as an Americorp JD with the Elder Abuse Prevention Project of Greater Boston Legal Services from June, 2017 until August, 2017. During her time here, Briana gained an in-depth understanding of elder abuse issues through legal research and case preparation and by viewing webinars and attending presentations. She did extensive work on multiple cases—responding to client concerns, negotiating an Agreement for Judgement with opposing counsel in a self neglect eviction case, and offering legal advice via legal advice letters. She observed court sessions and participated in a mediation and a client meeting at a client's home. Briana also composed a formal legal memorandum on the legal issues surrounding security deposits and researched elder abuse legislation within Massachusetts. Finally, Briana presented on elder abuse issues to a group of older adults and drafted a blog post on elder abuse.

Briana's legal skills improved very quickly as she gained confidence working with her clients. Due to her high level of competency, she was assigned work that a first-year intern typically would not be assigned. She especially excelled in working with difficult clients and with opposing counsel. At the beginning of her internship, Briana's legal writing wasn't as succinct as it could be. Over the course of her internship, with guidance from her supervisor, her writing noticeably improved. By the close of her internship, she was able to produce a top quality and very succinct formal legal memorandum. I was very impressed by her ability to take critical feedback and really work on sharpening her skills.

Briana has a wonderful work ethic. She had to deal with a very challenging client, and she never shied away from that task, but rather rose to it. She took on assignments, like negotiating an agreement with opposing counsel, which would have intimidated most first-year interns. Additionally, Briana approached every day with fresh energy and professionalism, and was a delight to work with.

Page 2

Sincerely,

Betsey Crimmins
Senior Attorney