Jordan B. Wilkinson
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Dan Ruben
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Dear Mr. Ruben

My summer at the Greater Boston Legal Services was an unforgettable experience. I engaged in many tasks that most certainly enhanced my knowledge in housing law as it pertains to the Greater Boston area. Boston is undergoing an extreme crisis as many neighborhoods are going through a rapid form of gentrification. The cost of beauty and renovation comes with a harsh price as many families are being flushed out of their neighborhoods which they have grown to love and become strongly attached to due to high priced investors who buy dilapidated property to convert into profit at the cost of these families' expense of happiness and home security. The clients that I served suffered from this epidemic in the harshest ways imaginable. One family for example dealt with a landlord that did not take very good care of the building and the tenant's roof actually collapsed and nearly injured her infant child. The landlord was hastily trying to clear out the building so that he could sell to an investor who was then going to renovate the building to appropriate standards once the building was sold and all the tenants were evacuated. The tenant had withheld several month's rent due to the fact that the conditions of the building were so bad, and in the end, was ordered to pay back that money in a suit against the landlord. The tenant was unrepresented and thus was unable to properly win a battle against her witty landlord. This level of injustice clearly did not go unchallenged as we worked in an effort to win an appeal. Most of the work that I was able to engage in dealt mostly with doing legal research,

drafting motions for summary judgment, going to court to witness housing litigation, and settling with landlords in the housing court halls. Trying to settle on an agreement with landlords in the hall was perhaps the most entertaining and most frequent experience that I had. I often enjoyed and looked forward to the process of reasoning, and trying to get the landlord to understand the tenant's point of view and then seeing the look of satisfaction on the tenant's face when we were able to come to an agreement that benefited both parties. I also very much enjoyed interviewing clients, and engaging in community outreach. We certainly did a significant amount of community outreach with Chelsea Collaborative and City life Urbana, attending several meetings to talk about the issues facing these Boston communities as it pertains to the epidemic and ways of resolving the issue.