

August 26, 2012

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

Re: Legal Services Fellowship, Summer 2012

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as an Equal Justice America Fellow. I am so grateful for the opportunity this past summer to work in legal services. In my original application, I expressed a desire to build a foundation of skills as a legal advocate for the vulnerable, which I sought towards my long-term goal of working in legal services in the District of Columbia. Following my summer experience with the AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly, I remain committed and feel even more inspired to undertake this public interest career.

During my first week at LCE, I visited a homebound client in a rent nonpayment suit. Having fallen behind by some \$800 while in the hospital, the client faced eviction. She was somewhat skeptical of my youth and inexperience, especially as our intake involved gathering rather intimate details of her financial history. Despite these initial misgivings, we were able to build a relationship of trust, avoid her appearing in court, and successfully negotiated a payment plan to resolve the suit. These and other cases impressed upon me the importance of legal advocates. Even someone as sophisticated as a student—not even a real lawyer—could greatly decrease the likelihood of our clients facing illegal housing conditions, illegal rent increases, and even evictions.

This lesson of the power of advocates to help those in poverty achieve meaningful access to the legal system is one that I will carry with me to future. It will continue to inspire me to serve those less fortunate in my community. For this reason, I thank you again for the opportunity to serve with the Equal Justice America program.

Very sincerely,

Thais-Lyn Trayer

JD Candidate, Class of 2014  
American University Washington College of Law