

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben:

The majority of my work involved advocating for my clients. As a member of the AIDS Legal Council program, I was involved with various projects that helped my clients, who are HIV positive and often low-income.

The bulk of my work was about appealing my clients' cases to the Social Security Administration (SSA). My clients, who are disabled physically or mentally, applied for disability benefits to the SSA, but SSA found their symptoms to be not severe enough, and rejected their applications. In order to appeal, I was in charge of perusing and summarizing my clients' medical records, and comparing them to the SSA's disability evaluation criteria. After that, I drafted the prehearing statement, which my supervisor, Ms. Ruth Edwards, presented in front of the administrative law judge (ALJ).

A significant time was spent for conducting legal research. I conducted legal research on immigration and criminal laws for an undocumented immigrant to advise him on the likelihood of deportation; because of his HIV status, he needs to stay in the United States for his medications. Also, I researched possible changes to a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipient's obligations when he or she reaches retirement age. Another legal research project was researching whether HIV criminal transmission has a statute of limitations in the state of Illinois.

I also conducted regulatory work by drafting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request letter regarding Hepatitis C medicine. Hepatitis C is a deadly liver disease, but a breakthrough medicine was recently invented that is much more effective than the conventional ones. The medicine is really expensive, however, and Medicaid in Illinois subsidizes the medicine only for those with advanced liver disease. In order to address this problem, a fellow intern and I drafted a FOIA request letter to push the Illinois Health Services to provide us information on this issue.

In between these projects, I was involved with administrative duties at the Legal Council, such as: drafting closing letters for clients whose cases were being closed for my supervisors, contacting Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) to inquire about a client's status, contacting a union pension to inquire about its requirements, and contacting the Legal Assistance Foundation to inquire about back-benefits regarding SSDI cases.

Also, I attended trainings for various topics, such as on family law, HIV criminal transmission, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and health insurance. Furthermore, I visited the court with my supervisors and observed court

hearings regarding class actions. I believe these experiences also helped me understand what a legal career is like.

My work at the Legal Council meant a lot to me because I was bringing actual, positive changes to my clients' lives. I talked to my clients either in person or on the phone, and could feel their plights. I met my last client in person, who had mental disorders as well as physical problems, and it was evident that he was unable to work and therefore needed disability benefits. Without the benefits, he would have had a hard time feeding himself. Also, I talked to clients and advised them on various issues, and by doing so, learned how to understand and respond to the clients' emotions as well as their legal needs.

Sincerely,
Jun Oh Lee
/s/ Jun Oh Lee
The University of Chicago Law School
Class of 2018

LEGAL COUNCIL

FOR HEALTH JUSTICE

August 26, 2016

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Rd.
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for sponsoring an internship for Jun Oh Lee with the Legal Council for Health Justice this summer. As a non-profit legal office, we value the hard work of committed law students. This assistance would not be possible without organizations like Equal Justice America to provide funding to students with a passion for public interest work.

In the summer of 2016, Jun Oh worked under my supervision as a law student intern for the AIDS Legal Council, a program of the Legal Council for Health Justice. Although he had completed only one year of law school, Jun Oh proved to be a skilled and resourceful advocate for our clients, many of whom are marginalized and stigmatized by society due to poverty and HIV status.

In his time at the Legal Council, Jun Oh assisted in a variety of cases. He reviewed, organized, and summarized complex medical records in preparation for hearings before an administrative law judge. He researched Social Security listings and regulations and prepared pre-hearing briefs. He participated actively in our weekly case conference meetings, and frequently offered to do necessary research or administrative tasks for the cases discussed.

In addition to his work on cases, Jun Oh had the opportunity to attend hearings in federal court for a lawsuit about Medicaid benefits the Legal Council is pursuing against the state of Illinois. He also attended several subject-matter training on legal issues like the Illinois HIV criminal transmission law and recent changes to the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution Act.

One of the tasks that students most often assist with is in doing in-depth legal research that a high volume legal services practice often precludes. Jun Oh worked on a number of research projects throughout the summer. He drafted a Freedom of Information Act request to the state of Illinois requesting information about coverage for medications under the Medicaid program. He also prepared a memo to staff on criminal and immigration laws regarding identity theft.

Jun Oh's work was always very thorough and he was reliably cheerful and polite. We enjoyed having him. Please feel free to call me at (312)605-1970 if you need any further information about Jun Oh's work here.

Yours Truly,

Ruth Edwards
ALC Program Director