

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

July 29, 2016

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I want to thank you for the generous fellowship from Equal Justice America this summer. I have had an amazing experience working in the Housing Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. Through my internship I was able to have the opportunity to work directly with clients of GBLS and help the organization to provide vital legal services to the community. This summer provided me with the opportunity to develop not only my legal research and writing skills, but also my advocacy abilities.

Over the course of my summer, I spent the majority of my time on two of GBLS' long-term projects. On one project, I was working with a tenant association of a subsidized building to lobby the city government to act on their behalf in the sale of their apartment building. Many of the tenants did not speak English as their first language and navigating the complex legal structure of negotiating with the city government was very difficult. However, it was incredibly rewarding to work with this tenant group because it was an opportunity to help empower a group of people that often do not have access to such control over their own building. Further, helping to create a compelling argument for the city on behalf of these tenants using legal reasoning was a unique experience for me. Perhaps the most memorable aspect of this project for me, however, was witnessing the dedication not just of tenant group, but also the GBLS attorneys in advocating for their clients.

The other long-term case I was a part of involved an appeal in a housing discrimination suit for tenants in subsidized housing. The tenants who were there on government subsidies had not been allowed to move to renovated units within the building, leaving them in deteriorating, lower quality apartments. Through this case, I was able to speak with some of the clients involved, as well as do substantive legal research in the brief for their appeal. Helping my supervisor with this brief certainly improved my legal writing and research abilities. Further, being able to put faces or voices to the research and writing I did helped to motivate me and also made me realize the direct impact of the work that GBLS, and organizations like GBLS, have.

I sincerely thank you for your support of my summer internship, as well as your support of public service.

Sincerely,

Amy Albanese  
University of Michigan Law School '17