

May 31st, 2010

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

RE: Equal Justice America Fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This semester I was afforded the opportunity to work with the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia. My internship this semester was invaluable! I have always wanted to pursue a career in public interest law and this experience further confirmed that fact.

While working with the Legal Aid Society I was provided with a number of diverse and very interesting assignments. My assignments were largely focused on family law, an area that I had an interest in exploring. I consistently received substantive assignments that strengthened my practical legal skills. There is no better way to garner firsthand legal experience than by working out in the community. My supervisor was dedicated to ensuring that I got as much exposure to the actual practice of law as possible. I conducted client interviews, prepared documents for court, and engaged in legal research on a variety of both practical and fascinating issues.

The most rewarding part of my work this semester was seeing what a difference the work that I was doing made in the lives of my clients. The ability to identify a problem and develop a solution is a powerful tool. I am excited to use my legal skills in a service-oriented capacity that benefits the lives of those who need it the most. Public interest law often intersects with social justice advocacy. As an intern with the Legal Aid Society I was able to advocate on behalf of my clients to ensure that their rights were recognized and protected. As a law student this was both exciting and inspiring.

Finally, I would like to again offer my sincerest thanks for the fellowship that I was provided this spring by Equal Justice America. There is a huge need for legal-based advocacy in low-income communities and in the lives of low-income citizens. Equal Justice America has identified this need and is dedicated to its satisfaction. I am thankful that organizations like this exist. I will never forget this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Ashley A. Carter
William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, Virginia
Class of 2010