

August 27, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

A rising third-year student at William & Mary School of Law, I am proud to have spent this summer as an intern in the Petersburg office of the Legal Aid Justice Center (“LAJC”). The provision of legal services to low-income members of our community is a commendable aim and is one that LAJC pursues with vigor.

My summer fellowship experience with LAJC has exceeded my expectations in every sense. The opportunity to work in several fields of practice in which LAJC attorneys represent clients has been truly beneficial to my professional development. The staff attorneys are all quite passionate about the work that they do, which is a quality that naturally translates to the summer fellows. The ability to work in the legal profession and to do so with a true sense of purpose is a tremendously fulfilling privilege. The direct and immediate access to clients that I was granted instilled a pressing sense of duty that will remain with me throughout my career. Once I began dealing directly with LAJC clients and their personally impactful issues, I truly realized the gravity of the work that is executed here on a daily basis. Often times, one’s livelihood and well-being are at stake. It is a powerful and humbling situation in which to be involved.

The highlights of the summer were many, but all followed a common theme. The ability to help those in need is a tremendous motivator and is one that is ever-present in the work supported by Equal Justice America and by LAJC. There were a number of instances over the summer when I met with clients who believed themselves to be in hopeless situations. The services provided by LAJC, services of which I was a part, helped to resolve those situations amicably. Simply put, Equal Justice America and LAJC help to provide legal services to those who may otherwise be forced to face seemingly catastrophic legal dilemmas alone. The general ability to help those that need help the most, has been for me, the most profound benefit of the summer.

I remain immensely appreciative for the opportunity that Equal Justice America and the Legal Aid Justice Center have bestowed upon me. I have learned a tremendous amount this summer, both in a practical and in a fundamental sense. Thank you very much for your time and support.

Most Sincerely,

Brock Smith