

JOAN R. ROTHENBERG

May 29, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Let me first thank you and your organization for the opportunity to participate as a an Equal Justice America Spring 2008 Fellowship recipient. This Fellowship allowed me to serve as the office manager with the George Mason University School of Law VBA Pro Bono Society Intake Initiative, a collaborative project between the Pro Bono Society and Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV). In this capacity, I managed a student-run intake hotline of nearly 30 students to interview applicants for legal aid. I drafted and oversaw students' drafting and editing of memoranda summarizing interviews; and executed the procedures for the management and communication of this information to LSNV.

While all of the volunteers were given the chance to apply skills in interviewing clients and writing cogent summary memorandum, for me, knowing that the work was relevant in helping those most in need of aid was the most impressive part of this experience. This is one of the main reasons I believe this project to be a meaningful effort for students. We are often given imaginary scenarios in which we work to develop legal skills, but such a real-life and real time responsibility truly drives home the importance of developing this competence for applications in the legal system. In addition, learning of the various situations that LSNV applicants confront gave me the chance to both serve my community and maintain an appropriate balance to the challenges of law school.

Regardless of my eventual field of practice, I am grateful for this experience and know that pro bono service is likely to be part of my future efforts in some way. I will encourage others to participate in the GMUSL Pro Bono Society and volunteer their assistance to the community as I have, knowing that it will be a rewarding and enriching service. I thank you again for allowing me to participate in this Fellowship.

Sincerely,

Joan R. Rothenberg

J.D. Candidate May 2009
George Mason University School of Law