

August 19, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer interned as a law clerk for Texas Advocacy Project (TAP). TAP is a nonprofit organization that provides legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As a law clerk at Texas Advocacy Project, I had an amazing opportunity to participate in a number of projects that contributed to serving clients looking to escape the cycle of violence and to obtain the remedies they deserve.

A large majority of my time at TAP was devoted to direct client contact. Throughout the course of the summer, I was assigned to about seven different Assisted Pro Se clients. I often spoke directly with these clients about their cases, and built a connection with them as an advocate against domestic violence. Most of TAP's Assisted Pro Se clients were seeking divorce from abusive husbands. Accordingly, I gained experience drafting petitions and other documents to be filed in court for issues including divorces, orders for protection, and child support. For most of these clients, I took the lead in communicating with them throughout the case, and often guided the case through the final divorce proceedings. Throughout this process, I was able to experience first-hand how a family law lawyer progresses through a case. Many of the clients were extremely thankful for TAP's assistance and I could hear the growing sense of relief in their voices as the process neared completion.

Another important learning experience during my clerkship with TAP came in the large amount of time I devoted to legal research projects for our Justice Initiative Litigation department. In addition to the other services the organization provides, Texas Advocacy Project focuses on ensuring that the court processes provide appropriate relief and justice to victims of domestic violence. Getting to participate in this aspect of TAP's services first hand was extremely rewarding. For example, I wrote demand letters to

district clerks who failed to follow the law (and saw change as a result). I also researched and wrote memos on issues ranging from magistrates' failure to issue mandatory orders of emergency protection under Texas law to the chances of success for an asylum applicant who faced severe domestic abuse in her home country of El Salvador. The research I did in these areas has already or will soon contribute to assisting a number of TAP's clients.

Spending my first summer of law school at Texas Advocacy Project was an invaluable experience. Working with the clients, attending court hearings, learning the applicable law and drafting documents all confirmed for me that navigating the legal system without an attorney's assistance is a difficult, frightening task; it confirmed for me that I want to dedicate my legal career to serving people who would otherwise be faced with that situation. At TAP I was able to help our clients gain independence from their abusers, seek safety, and find legal resolutions to their problems. Throughout all of this, I repeatedly saw that public interest law does produce amazing results; it does fill an extremely important need; it does increase access to justice for the people who often need justice the most. As a result, thanks to TAP, Equal Justice America, and the clients I served, I am more passionate and dedicated than ever before to continuing down the public interest path.

<First>K. <Last>

University of Texas



August 18, 2010

Equal Justice America
Summer Corps Program
Attn: Dan Ruben

RE: Sara Puls Internship Evaluation

Dear Mr. Ruben,

We greatly enjoyed having Sara work for us this summer. She was an asset to the organization and her work for our clients was much appreciated. Sara was exposed to many different facets of the organization during her time here. She completed several trainings geared towards our law clerks, attended other trainings conducted by staff for the community, observed court proceedings, and drafted legal documents for filing.

Sara participated in trainings on topics such as the cycle of domestic violence, ProDoc legal document drafting software, effective techniques for legal writing, and the rights of Texas youth. She also attended trainings conducted by staff given to legal advocates and law enforcement in various cities across the state. These trainings focused on assisted pro se in Texas courts, the divorce process, and protective orders. Sara seemed most interested in the presentation regarding the legal rights of young people in Texas, specifically involving emancipation and protective orders.

Sara was able to attend hearings and observe court proceedings related to family law cases. She experienced several final hearings in divorce cases and also helped prepare for and attend a temporary orders hearing. We are very grateful for her hard work in helping the attorneys prepare for these hearings by conducting legal research and drafting the documents needed for the cases.

While at the organization, Sara was assigned several of our Assisted Pro Se divorce clients. With the supervision of an attorney, Sara made client contact, gathered information needed for filing the divorce, and drafted the Original Petition. She also assisted in drafting several complex Final Decrees of Divorce involving custody and

community property division. All of Sara's work with the clients was very professional and thorough.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with Sara this summer. I believe she enjoyed her experience, and we enjoyed having her.

Sincerely,

Emily Garza
Senior Attorney