

Mr. Dan Ruben,

My summer at Whitman-Walker consisted of a wide-range of tasks, from research to writing to transactional work to direct client contact. I experience so many areas of law and I feel incredibly grateful to have been able to do that.

My primary task this summer was working within the Name and Gender Change Department. My supervisor Sam was head of the department and would assign me tasks after clients called in looking for help. Essentially, a client would request help changing their gender marker on one or more legal documents and I would fill out the necessary paperwork. This usually involved filling out an application and a personal affidavit, and obtaining a doctor's letter. Because Whitman-Walker is a medical-legal clinic, I could contact the client's physician easily to get the letter. Then I would follow up with the client to get them what they needed and would explain how to file the forms.

Whitman-Walker hosts a monthly clinic for Name and Gender Change services and I was a part of that as well. The tasks were essentially the same, but condensed into a smaller time period and with more clients. Additionally, every month I put together the folders for the attorneys volunteering at the clinic. Attorneys from around the city would come to help walk-in clients, so we compiled folders with the necessary materials for name changes in Maryland, DC, and Virginia to guide the attorneys. I also helped oversee the general clinic process, and do the intake for all the clients who came to clinic the following morning.

I also completed various research projects related to name and gender change issues. I spent most of the summer putting together a chart explaining how to change a gender marker on a birth certificate in all 50 states. The work mostly required me to call the Vital Records Department in every state and dig through their website. I additionally worked with the Trans

Health Coordinator at the DC Department of Health to help a client who had received an incorrect birth certificate. I also spent some time learning how to change a gender marker on a consular report of birth abroad, (ie: a birth certificate for someone born on a US military base abroad). Finally, I researched how to change a gender marker on a TSA pre-check given that living in DC, we had a lot of military and federal government-based clients with pre-check.

While name and gender change work was my primary task, I was able to do much more. I worked on two memorandums for an attorney working with transgender immigrants. The first memorandum was my compiled research of damages awarded in public accommodations discrimination cases to aid the attorney in his mediation for a client who was denied a public accommodation because of her gender identity. I also drafted a memorandum for an asylum filing for a transgender woman from Mexico that discussed the treatment of the LGBTQ+ community in Mexico and provided reasons why the client would be safer in the United States.

Working at Whitman-Walker allowed me a lot of client contact, which I think is invaluable experience. Oftentimes, I would meet with clients in person to discuss what documents they needed update and other legal help they needed. When doing the research projects, I spent a lot of time getting to know clients as we worked through their specific issues. I was exposed to the difficulties that all of our clients face, whether it be related to their gender-identity, their sexual orientation, their HIV-status, their low-income status, their race, or any number of identifying factors that led them to be subjected to hardships. My work this summer felt extremely rewarding knowing that I was working at an organization that did so much to help these people. Though I'm only a 2L and have had only this one legal internship experience, I am worried that future internships will not live up to this one. I had an amazing work environment

and was surrounded by smart, talented people. Again, I am eternally grateful to Whitman-Walker for the experience.

Stephanie Todd, Class of 2019

American University Washington College of Law



WHITMAN-WALKER HEALTH

Mailing Address:

Whitman-Walker (ETMC)

1342 Florida Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20009

September 12, 2017

Sent via email to Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Dan Ruben

Executive Director

Equal Justice America

RE: Successful 2017 Summer Internship Completed by Stephanie Todd at Whitman-Walker Health Legal Services Program

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the work completed this past summer by Stephanie Todd, a law student at American University's Washington College of Law. Ms. Todd was a dedicated intern who worked for the Whitman-Walker Health Legal Services Program on a full-time basis from May 15, 2017 to August 2, 2017.

Whitman-Walker Health (WWH) is a community health center guided by the principles of dignity, affirmation, and respect, and specializing in care for those facing barriers to care, including LGBT individuals and those living with HIV. WWH grew out of responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, and as client needs evolved, WWH's goals broadened beyond HIV, transforming WWH into a full service health center. Today, WWH's services include primary medical and HIV specialty care; behavioral health; public benefits and insurance navigation; dental care; medical case management; testing and prevention services for HIV/STIs; and free civil legal services.

WWH's Legal Services Program was established in 1986 to provide pro bono legal assistance on matters related to HIV/AIDS, including end of life legal planning and discrimination. Since then, WWH Legal Services has expanded to serve not only individuals living with HIV, but also to LGBT individuals and families, and to patients of WWH, regardless of their LGBT or HIV status. The legal program now provides legal representation on a range of issues including immigration; discrimination in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and public accommodations; federal and local public benefit programs; private health and disability insurance; preparation of wills and advance directives; medical confidentiality; debtors' rights; and name and gender marker changes in legal records for transgender individuals. WWH also partners with an extensive network of volunteer attorneys to secure pro bono representation on select matters.

September 12, 2017

Page 2

In the calendar year 2016, WWH Legal Services Program served 3,120 unique clients with 6,069 cases. Of those 3,120 clients, 72% were receiving other services from Whitman-Walker Health; 49% of our clients are living with HIV; 40% identify as LGB; and 20% identify as transgender. Our clients vary in age ranging from 5 to 93. Of all legal clients, 25% report unstable housing; 55% reported incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level; and 26% reported incomes between 101 and 200% of the poverty level.

Ms. Todd's primary tasks involved supporting our monthly Name and Gender Change Clinic. Prior to each clinic, she updated relevant client and volunteer materials and created working files for each volunteer. At the clinic (and between clinics), she assisted clients with the intake process; completed subsequent follow-up work based on clients' factual situations; and worked with staff attorneys to draft appropriate client documents. She worked with medical providers to secure signatures and followed up with clients to deliver their paperwork. She also assisted during the clinic by working with clients to draft gender marker letters.

Ms. Todd also created resources concerning birth certificate requirements in all 50 states by contacting the Vital Records Office of each state to confirm the requirements for an individual planning to change the gender marker on their birth certificate. She drafted memos regarding monetary damages awarded in various public accommodations discrimination cases to aid in mediation for a client who was refused service by a commercial driver; and drafted a memo discussing the treatment of trans individuals in Mexico for an asylum case. She also contacted various health providers that had not properly filed Medicare claims for our clients. Finally, she drafted motions to seal certain proceedings related to name and gender change petitions.

We were very pleased to work with Ms. Todd this past summer. She was a highly motivated volunteer whose many contributions benefited our staff and clients. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely yours,



Amy Nelson
Director of Legal Services
Whitman-Walker Health
1342 Florida Ave NW
Washington DC 20009
(202) 939-7625
anelson@whitman-walker.org