

AISA VILLAROSA

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Founder & Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II – Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 2311

August 18, 2009

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, I worked as a law clerk at the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP) in Ann Arbor, Michigan with a concentration in Public Benefits law. My first assignment at the Michigan Poverty Law Program involved a Medicaid benefits case in which a client had been sanctioned for noncompliance stemming from her disabilities. Lisa Ruby, my managing attorney, handed me the case file on my first day at work and instructed me to dive in. From this point on, I knew that my time working at the MPLP would be unique.

Over the next several weeks, I was exposed to a refreshing blend of on-the-job learning experiences and invaluable guidance from Lisa and the rest of the MPLP staff. Whether it was posting online healthcare updates for the MPLP website or going over the steps of obtaining preliminary injunctions in Lisa's office, my time at the MPLP was both memorable and eye-opening. After a year of bearing through the redundancy and tediousness of a law school – with heavy emphasis placed on business and corporate careers – clerking at the MPLP was exactly what I wanted and needed in a summer position.

The majority of my clerkship was spent on a case involving the state department's mishandling of a client's public benefits. The client received an unreasonably large spend down for his Medicaid, an error made by calculations in his family's monthly budget. I wrote several memos on his behalf, some concerning general topics and the rest focusing on specific issues of

his case. In order to complete these assignments and address the problems of his case, I spoke with my client on a regular basis and received invaluable direct legal experience.

An administrative hearing was held in which I represented the client with my managing attorney. The administrative law judge favored our argument and we ultimately restored our client's benefits and corrected the error in budgeting. Aside from the professional benefits of working at MPLP, I was honored to share office space with a passionate group of law students and attorneys. The experience is one I will long cherish, and I am still committed to a career in the public sector. I am incredibly grateful to the EJA fellowship for financing my summer and assisting me in my work at the MPLP.

Sincerely,

Aisa M. Villarosa
Wayne State University Law School '11