

September 4, 2008

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I had a fantastic summer working at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)! NYLAG is a not-for-profit law office founded in 1990 to provide free civil legal services to low income New Yorkers. I worked with three attorneys in NYLAG's Housing Project, primarily working on eviction prevention.

I worked on a wide variety of projects. My job ranged from doing advocacy on behalf of clients (e.g. calling Section 8 to try to get a voucher extended), to doing legal research to doing client interview/intake work. I also had the opportunity to go to Housing Court quite a bit (probably 2x a week) and I also wrote a motion to dismiss (including an affidavit).

My favorite part of the summer was interacting with our clients—both in court and in the office. I had two clients whom I called my “regulars” because of how often I spoke with them. One was a senior citizen who had fallen behind on her rent and represented herself in her nonpayment proceedings. After the client filed an order to show cause, my supervisor and I met her in court, settled the nonpayment proceeding, and, later, helped make sure she paid the rent on time. My other “regular” was a mother of two who had lost her job and likewise fallen behind on her rent. I talked her way through applying for a One Shot Deal (public assistance rental subsidy) and she was ultimately able to pay the money she owed. Ensuring that my “regulars”—among others—were able to stay in their (affordable) homes made my work feel extremely worthwhile.

The internship did not change my career plans in any significant way but it reaffirmed them. I knew going in to law school that I wanted a career in civil legal aid (I was a paralegal at a legal aid organization before law school) and I wanted to spend a summer practicing one area of civil legal services that I thought would be interesting. I'm still not sure which practice area I will eventually settle on, but I'm convinced as ever that I want a career in civil legal services.

I would like to thank EJA for helping me fund such a great summer.

Thank you,

Alexa Rosenbloom
NYU School of Law
Class of 2010