

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

The fellowship funds I received from Equal Justice America allowed me to intern with the HIV Unit at Manhattan Legal Services this summer. My internship was a great experience that enhanced my desire to practice public interest law with a focus on legal services in particular. Throughout the internship I worked on legal issues for low-income New Yorkers suffering from HIV/AIDS related to public benefits, HIV-status based discrimination, housing, and health care. I also had the opportunity to work on an excessive force/false imprisonment case against the NYPD that was unrelated to HIV/AIDS.

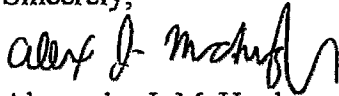
One significant case I worked on this summer involved a disability benefits appeal to the New York Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. The client was a 51-year old HIV-positive man with a myriad of other health problems including chronic liver disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hepatitis C, and depression. I spent a significant amount of time preparing authorizations, writing letters, and compiling the client's medical records so that they could be submitted to the judge before the disability hearing. I also did research on the social security disability listings and prepared a pre-hearing brief laying out the client's disability claim. I met with the client several times and rehearsed the questions and answers that would be asked at the hearing. Finally, I represented the client at his disability hearing on August 7, 2013. My supervising was present but I represented the client at the hearing.

Another case I worked on this summer involved an eleven year-old boy who was arrested, handcuffed, and taken to the police station by the NYPD after his school principal discovered he had a plastic toy gun in his backpack. The child was not charged with any crime and he won a suspension hearing that had him reinstated at his school. My responsibilities for the case included meeting with the client and his grandmother several times for interviews, researching

relevant law related to the possible causes of action against the NYPD and the school, preparing an inter-office memorandum on the case, and drafting a complaint.

My summer with Manhattan Legal Services was the exact type of internship experience that I was looking for. I am currently staying on with the organization as an extern this fall. I also hope to obtain a fellowship that will allow me to work here after I graduate next year. Thank you and EJA for affording me this tremendous opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex J. McHugh", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexander J. McHugh  
Fordham University School of Law  
J.D. Candidate May 2014

Manhattan  
Legal  
Services

Legal  
Services NYC

September 5, 2013

Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America

**RE: Alexander McHugh**

Dear Dan Ruben:

I am an attorney at Manhattan Legal Services and have a broad general poverty law practice focused on people living with HIV. Alexander McHugh worked as an intern for me in the Summer of 2013 and will continue as an extern in the Fall of 2013. Alexander stands out as one of the best interns that I have worked with - he is passionate and hard-working and exceeded the expectations of an intern.

Alexander helped me draft motions and briefs, provided me with memorandums, performed client intakes and represented clients in hearings. Alexander has performed research in a variety of areas including due process violations in arresting minors and the implications of the repeal of DOMA on same-sex couples. As I'm sure you can imagine, practicing in so many areas can be challenging. Alexander quickly learned and understood the areas we cover. Alexander demonstrated exceptional research skills, which are evident in his clever oral explanations and in his clear, well-organized and worthwhile written work. Alexander possesses a natural depth that leads him to carefully consider issues and articulately convey them. Alexander expresses himself with a thoughtfulness and passion that I rarely experience.

The majority of my clients are extremely vulnerable and come from some of the most marginalized populations – in particular, gay men and transgender women with HIV and young LGBT immigrants. Alexander is a natural and sincere person who continuously demonstrated his ability to be empathetic and understanding while ensuring that clients are informed and able to make thoughtful decisions.

If you would like more information, I will be happy to provide it. I can be reached at 646-442-3144.

I have no doubt that Alexander will have remarkable achievements in his career and I am so glad that Equal Justice America's support of him allowed me to participate in his development.

Manhattan Legal Services  
One West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, Floor 2 New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-348-7449 Fax: 212-227-9798  
[www.MLS.LegalServicesNYC.org](http://www.MLS.LegalServicesNYC.org)  
Peggy Earisman, Project Director

 LSC

Sincerely,

A long, horizontal, slightly wavy line representing a handwritten signature, starting with a small loop on the left and ending with a dot on the right.

Daniel F. Pepitone  
Staff Attorney