

Dan Ruben

Executive Director

Equal Justice America Building II, Suite 204

13540 East Boundary Road

Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Amir Naim and I worked this summer at the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) in Austin, Texas. While at TCRP, I worked with a variety of attorneys on a number of different cases related to civil rights. I got the opportunity to help the attorneys draft documents for the court, interview clients, and participate in the other aspects of running a small public interest non-profit such as conducting the initial interviews with potential clients over the phone.

The cases that I worked on included a case about heat in Texas prisons. In the past few years, several prisoners have died while in state prisons in Texas because of the extreme heat. The prisons do not have air conditioning and are poorly constructed and as a result they heat up during the summer, with the temperature inside the prisons often being hotter than the outdoor temperature. I worked with an attorney on the case to interview potential plaintiffs in the prison system and put together a case against the prison administration to force it to install some form of climate control in the prisons. Towards the end of the summer the case was filed and I got to see some of the media coverage, which made it feel like the work I did actually had some impact.

I also worked on TCRP's annual summer disability rights campaign. Every summer each intern is assigned several potential lawsuits against businesses and others who are not complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. One of the cases assigned to me was that of an elderly deaf man who was not given an interpreter when he was admitted to the hospital with a serious illness. He found the experience of not fully understanding what was going on and being unable to communicate with the doctors to be very frightening. To make matters worse, this was not the first time he had received that type of treatment from the same hospital. Although his case extended beyond the summer, I was able to help draft his complaint and other initial documents with the court and interview him several times to gather the facts for the case. I found it very satisfying that not only would this help this particular man, but it would also help other deaf people who went to this hospital. It was especially satisfying because the main purpose of the lawsuit

was not to get damages for the client, but to force the hospital to start providing interpreters. I found that advocating for systemic change, no matter how small, to be very fulfilling.

I would also like to thank your organization for its support, which helped to make my experience this summer possible.

Sincerely,

Amir Naim

George Washington University Law School

Class of 2015

TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT

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September 2, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I coordinate the Texas Civil Rights Project's law clerk program and I am writing this letter to evaluate Amir Naim, who interned with us for ten weeks this past summer.

Amir worked with several attorneys over the course of the summer on a variety of projects, including our annual disability rights campaign, a case regarding religious liberty, and another case involving prison conditions here in Texas. Some of the tasks he performed for these cases included drafting affidavits, reading and summarizing discovery requests, writing brief legal research memos, drafting complaints, and contacting clients.

The feedback we received from Amir's attorney supervisors on each of these projects was overwhelmingly positive. They reported that Amir worked efficiently and was able to complete tasks on short notice without sacrificing the quality of his work. He also had a great attitude and was easy to work with. It did not go unnoticed that he was willing to help out with other tasks around the office. During the summer we moved offices, and Amir was cheerfully willing to assist with moving furniture and boxes in addition to his regular legal work.

Our law clerks also help us with intake, answering calls we get requesting legal representation. Amir has an excellent phone manner and his supervising attorneys noted that he was able to communicate clearly with clients and potential clients, conveying the information they needed to receive from us and getting the facts we needed from them.

As a part of our summer disability rights campaign, Amir took charge of the initial stages of several cases of inaccessible businesses brought to us by ADAPT, a local disability rights group. Amir investigated the claims, took measurements, contacted our potential plaintiffs, and filed the preliminary paperwork with the court for several of our cases. His investigations were thorough and the pleadings he drafted were incredibly compelling.

We were very impressed with Amir's work this summer and wish him the best in his future legal career. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions about Amir or his work.

Sincerely,



Abby Frank