

August 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My summer experience at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A has been an incredible journey to remember. From the moment I walked into the office, every staff member made me feel welcome. I truly felt like they were just as excited for me to start working there as I was.

Working in the development department at Brooklyn A allowed me to gain experience and skills in fundraising as well as legal writing and research. I was able to assist Brooklyn A in getting funding by writing proposal letters, speaking with lawyers and law firms who were previous donors, and planning some events. I did extensive research on lawyers and law firms who were contributors to either Brooklyn A or Legal Services NYC. I also did research on prominent cases they worked on. In addition, I attended very educational trainings at the Foundation Center, which helped further my fundraising and research skills, as well as taught me how to use a whole new resource.

In addition to my work for the Development Department, I was also able to assist with writing memos and briefs (as well as proofreading them) to help residents in Brooklyn A's service area. Most of the people we represented were elderly or low-income residents of rent-controlled or rent-stabilized apartments who were trying to be evicted by their landlords. It was shocking to see the lengths these landlords would go to just to try and get these people out, so that they could rent out the units at a higher price. Some landlords would change the locks or turn off the hot water; others would just refuse to fix a health hazard.

Additionally, I attended many meetings with Brooklyn Legal Services and local community organizations. It is there that I learned more about our many different clients and how important Brooklyn A is to the community. I sat in on meetings regarding the Broadway Triangle, and the city's failure to comply with a court order halting the discriminatory housing plan that was designed to segregate the community.

In conclusion, my summer at Brooklyn A furthered my knowledge of public interest law, landlord-tenant law, the broad and diverse needs to low-income clients in Brooklyn and the various ways that non-profit organizations try to help all of the people that come to them. I am now definitely more committed to pursuing a career in public interest law.

Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to have this summer experience!

Sincerely,

Anastasia Sushko
Fordham Law School JD Candidate 2014