

Dan Ruben
Executive Director at Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I had the opportunity to work for Public Counsel Law Center's Early Care and Education Law Unit. Public Counsel is the nation's largest Pro Bono Law Firm. The Early Care and Education Law Unit focuses primarily on providing free and low cost legal services to child care providers in low income communities who are either, (a) themselves low income; or (b) serving predominantly low income children.

I spent my summer conducting calls on the intake line, helping clients with their child care provider contracts, and doing legal research and writing. My most significant project this summer focused on demystifying an ambiguous section of the California Health and Safety Code specifically related to child care providers. Our client, a child care provider, was served a 3 Day Notice to Perform Conditions and Covenants or Quit by her Landlord for running her family child care out of her duplex. California has a public policy initiative that protects family child care homes. Any prohibitive language in a lease that disallows family child care homes is considered null and void in the State of California. Furthermore, having a family child care home is not considered a commercial use of the property; under California law, it is considered a residential use. The applicable California Health and Safety Code Section clearly supports the protection of family child care homes in single family residences; however, whether or not the purported protection applies to apartment complexes and duplexes is ambiguous. Our client lives in a duplex.

I spent a couple of weeks researching the legislative history and legislative intent of the applicable section of the California Health and Safety Code, and pulled together a number of arguments that articulate the intent for this section to apply to all types of residences: to apartment complexes, duplexes and single family residences. I strongly asserted that the opposition's argument limiting the California Health and Safety Code Section violates the legislative intent and public policy initiatives set for by the California Legislature. I was excited to learn that my memo is expected to be important in anticipated litigation.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship. This Fellowship gave me the opportunity to work for a wonderful organization, and really solidified in my heart the importance of law and public service. I have never felt more fulfilled, and look forward to using my law degree to truly make a difference in our world, one person at a time.

Anna Goldenhersh
University of Virginia School of Law 2015

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August 14, 2013

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing this evaluation for Anna Goldenhersh, who was a summer clerk for Public Counsel's Early Care & Education ("ECE") Law Unit from the end of May 2013 until the beginning of August 2013.

Public Counsel is the public interest law firm of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations. Public Counsel's ECE Law Unit provides legal assistance on a variety of issues to existing and prospective child care providers, mostly minority women, who care for low-income children. We also work with community partners and policy-makers to advocate for an increase in child care spaces in Los Angeles County and throughout California.

As a staff attorney with Public Counsel's ECE Law Unit, I worked directly with Anna on a regular basis. Anna's duties included: 1) checking the ECE intake line every other week; 2) communicating and corresponding with clients regarding their requests for legal assistance; 3) discussing client intakes at case review on a regular basis; 4) researching various legal issues involving child care licensing regulations, legislative history of specific California Health and Safety code provisions, landlord tenant law, small claims court and procedures, the Americans with Disabilities Act, etc.; 5) drafting parent provider contract and personnel policy for child care provider clients; 6) drafting legal memorandum on California Health and Safety code provisions protecting family child care providers' right to operate their child care businesses in rental properties; 7) outreach to child care providers regarding our direct legal services and legal workshops; and 8) conducting surveys of child care providers who attended our workshops.

Anna always exhibited a great deal of passion and enthusiasm for the work that we do. For example, we decided to represent a client who had been served with an eviction notice because she notified her landlord that she would be operating a family child care home at her residence. Given that the eviction notice was set to expire the day after the client contacted us for assistance, we had to work under considerable time constraints. This matter required reviewing

complex legal history of specific California Health and Safety Code provisions and drafting a letter with legal and public policy arguments to support our position, but Anna eagerly volunteered to assist. Anna scrupulously reviewed documents, researched legal codes and legislative history, and synthesized important legal arguments in a succinct manner.

Anna was also very patient while conducting intake and communicating with clients. On numerous occasions, clients would need extra assistance in understanding legal information and/or were difficult to reach, and Anna happily put in the extra time and energy required to follow up with these clients and ensure they were provided with appropriate legal information. She easily built rapport with clients due to her natural ability to empathize with others.

During the summer, Anna had many opportunities to strengthen her research, writing and client skills. I believe Anna was exposed to a variety of experiences during her summer clerkship, and has a better understanding of the legal needs of low-income communities in Los Angeles County. I had a very positive experience working with Anna.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ritu Mahajan
Staff Attorney
Early Care & Education Law Unit