

August 4, 2017

Mr. Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II – Suite 204
13450 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you very much for all of the work that you and your staff do at Equal Justice America (“EJA”). The generosity and commitment to public interest from EJA and its donors makes it possible for students to participate in work that may not have otherwise been available. The EJA’s Fellowship Program is the reason why I was able to participate in my summer internship with Community Action Program Legal Services (CAPLAW). CAPLAW, a nonprofit organization in Boston, Massachusetts, provides legal education, training and advice to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) throughout the United States. CAAs were created to combat against poverty in America, and CAPLAW provides legal assistance to help these nonprofits reach their missions by providing legal guidance regarding program governance, employment, and administrative law matters. CAPLAW’s consultations and technical trainings are essential to helping CAAs operate legally sound and sustainable organizations so that the organizations can focus their time and energy into fighting the cycle of poverty in America.

During my time with CAPLAW, I had the opportunity to work on a variety of legal assignments and interesting areas of law that I would not otherwise have been exposed to. Working closely with CAPLAW’s staff, I was able to consult CAA Executive Directors and staff on several compliance and other related legal issues. I was also able to draft articles for CAPLAW’s e-Bulletin and newsletter. These articles outlined the recent changes to the Head Start Program Performance Standards, particularly on new privacy requirements for Head Start grantees, as well as some significant changes to the requirements for Head Start facilities. In June, I also assisted with CAPLAW’s Annual Training Conference, which brings together CAA members and partners from across the country for three days of learning and networking.

Furthermore, I had the opportunity to work with several different CAAs on a variety of issues. I worked with a CAA on rewriting its nonprofit corporation bylaws in order to ensure that the bylaws were in compliance with federal and state regulations. I also worked on several discrete projects concerning several employment law questions. These often involved CAAs that wanted to make sure that their agencies’ sick leave policies were in compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Working on these issues made me appreciate all of the work that goes into making an organization run smoothly, especially for nonprofit organizations. I realized that the work I was involved in made sure that more resources could go into providing direct services to low-income individuals and families.

The different projects and consultations I was involved with this summer provided me with a tremendous opportunity to learn and gain practical experience. The professional and personal growth I experienced this summer has reinforced my commitment to public interest

work, and it is, in large part, due to the generosity of the EJA Fellowship Program. I cannot thank you and your donors enough for your support.

Sincerely,

Christine Park
Candidate for Juris Doctor, Class of 2018
Boston University School of Law