

August 30, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I worked as a legal intern at the Safety Net Project, one of the clinics housed by the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School. The Legal Services Center (“LSC”) aims to provide high quality legal services to low income individuals in the Boston community while providing comprehensive training and opportunities for meaningful, practical experience to law students. The Safety Net Project advocates on behalf of individuals with mental and physical disabilities who have been denied Social Security benefits.

Over the course of my internship I produced case strategy memoranda, drafted a joint status report with an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and corresponded with the Social Security Administration (“SSA”) on behalf of my clients. In one instance, I coordinated with the Estate Planning clinic at the LSC in order to provide my client with more holistic representation. This particular client was denied Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) because the SSA determined her income level to be too high to qualify. However, the SSA made this determination based on an assumption that she was receiving child support payments that were not actually being paid out to her. Consequently, the Estate Planning clinic worked to set up a trust to which these child support payments would be made, after which point her income would be reduced to a level such that she would qualify for SSI.

I also headed a project team that was tasked with updating a subsection of the Massachusetts Legal Help website. This site is the product of a collaborative effort between several legal aid programs in Massachusetts, with the purpose of increasing accessibility to and transparency of basic legal information. I researched current information on topics ranging from SNAP benefits to emergency shelter in an effort to ensure the most up-to-date content is available to those seeking legal aid.

I am very grateful to have been selected as an Equal Justice America fellowship recipient. As an international student, I was ineligible for many other funding opportunities. The EJA is an invaluable resource for individuals such as myself who want to pursue public interest work but are unable to secure other sources of funding. Thank you for facilitating my opportunity to engage in meaningful work in the Boston community.

Sincerely,

Galina Vujovic
Boston University School of Law, Class of 2019