

August 16, 2017

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My summer working as an intern at Greater Boston Legal Services provided me with valuable legal experience and a strong sense of purpose. Every Monday and Tuesday, my supervisor and another staff attorney would conduct legal clinics for clients with housing issues at Rosie's Place, a shelter in Boston's South End that provides services and temporary housing for women. I could not have asked for a better way to start my workweek.

At 9:30 A.M we started seeing clients. Many of these women were experiencing tremendous challenges—and not for the first time. Stories of domestic abuse, loss, and illness brought sorrow, and only led the attorneys and I to work harder to resolve clients' housing issues. One family, for example, was facing an eviction after accruing nearly \$2000 in rent owed. The family participated in a HUD program which based their payments according to their reported income. In addition, the program provided household members who were full-time students with income exemptions for amounts made in excess of \$480. After sorting through and examining nearly 300 pages of unorganized documents we had received from opposing counsel, I was able to discover that the management company had not always been exempting a full-time student household member's income.

After extensive research and thorough study of the program's handbook and the landlord's ledger, I concluded that the family had, on at least a couple of occasions, had their rent adjusted to higher amounts than the program permitted. This allowed the family's amount owed

to be reduced at least partially, making it easier and more likely for outside charities to provide funding to help stabilize this family's housing.

This project took about five days, and once I realized that this family may have been overcharged, I worked vigorously to help find a way to reduce this family's income. It felt great each step of the way knowing that my careful attention to detail, legal analysis, and research can help make a significant difference in the lives of low-income clients, and this experience has enriched my legal education in ways the classroom simply cannot parallel.

By providing funding for this summer internship, Equal Justice America has helped make such an experience possible for not only me, but many other equally dedicated and inspired future attorneys. It allows some of the brightest law students opportunities to remain financially afloat while passionately assisting others who are in great need of legal assistance. In this day and age, assisting clients of low-income or minority backgrounds has never been more critical, and I am grateful organizations like Equal Justice America are able to play a vital part.

Sincerely,

Victor Gibson
J.D. Candidate 2019, Boston University School of Law



August 28, 2017

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

RE: Victor Gibson
Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to confirm Victor Gibson's fellowship this past summer at Greater Boston Legal Services.

Victor worked with me in the months of June, July and August 2017. He worked on several projects, involving client intake at Rosie's Place (a women's shelter), legal research and writing, drafting client advice letters, and he also assisted me with a computerized eviction form library project in HotDocs.

Victor was a great asset over the summer. He was quietly professional. He completed assignments on schedule. He handled feedback well, adjusting his writing to incorporate my suggestions. He showed flexibility and willingness to work on a range of projects, some of which were of varying levels of complexity and interest. He showed empathy and engagement with our difficult client population.

Thanks to his work I was able to effectively represent many low-income individuals over the summer. I'd have no hesitancy in recommending him for future positions.

Yours,

Quinten Steenhuis
Senior Attorney
Housing Unit