

August 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to you and the organization to share my summer clerkship experience at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. During my summer employment at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), I was not only able to put into practice what I have learned in the past two years in school, but I was also able to walk away with a tremendous amount of satisfaction knowing that I was able to help so many low-income clients.

During my stint at LAFLA I worked in their Employment Law Unit with several attorneys. Being able to work with several attorneys instead of being assigned to just one, allowed me to explore their individual styles and learn something different from each of the attorneys. Additionally, aside from assisting each attorney in individual tasks such as research, calling clients, giving clients legal information at our Wednesday clinics, and working on wage calculations, I was also allowed to represent clients at unemployment insurance appeal hearings.

Representing clients at their unemployment insurance appeal hearings was one of the most rewarding experiences. Although I was not able to achieve a favorable outcome in all of the hearings, it felt great to be told by the clients that they were very grateful that I was there to represent them and they did not know what they would have done otherwise. Although during my first few hearings I was probably more nervous than my clients, over time and with the guidance of the attorneys, I was able to stand up and fight for the benefits that my clients needed. The friendly and educationally enriching environment that was LAFLA's Employment Law Unit, coupled with the legal representation I was able to provide, made my summer a memorable one.

I can simply say that my summer at LAFLA was an extremely rewarding and enriching experience that reaffirmed my intent to practice employment law and help low-income communities. Thank you EJA for awarding me the funds and contributing to my rewarding summer in a wonderful organization like LAFLA.

Sincerely,

Brenda L. Valle
UC Hastings College of the Law
Juris Doctor candidate 2011



Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

South Los Angeles Office

7000 S. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90003
Phone: (213) 640-3950
Fax: (213) 640-3988
www.lafla.org

Other Office Locations:

Central Office, 1550 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017 T: (213) 640-3881
East Los Angeles Office, 5228 Whittier Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90022 T: (213) 640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802 T: (562) 435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th Street, Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401 T: (310) 899-6200
West Office, 1102 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019 T: (323) 801-7989

Writer's Direct Line
213 640-3974

Our File Number

October 1, 2010

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

Re: Brenda Valle

Dear Mr. Ruben:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter evaluating Ms. Valle's work with our organization this past summer. Ms. Valle worked with the Employment Law Unit of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. She worked with a total of 5 attorneys in our unit. I am highly impressed with Ms. Valle's enthusiasm, dedication, and intelligence in serving our clients.

Ms. Valle was a great asset to the employment unit as a summer law clerk in our office and at our weekly legal clinics. She also assisted with our presentations to workers to inform them about their employment rights. The presentations ranged from 20-100 participants. When Ms. Valle began working with us she had no hesitation in getting actively involved in our presentations. Ms. Valle helped explain employment rights to workers in Spanish and she was very comfortable speaking to a large group of people. She was very responsible and dependable. She always arrived on time to clinics and to the presentations.

I am impressed with Ms. Valle's ability to speak to clients with compassion and respect. Ms. Valle listens patiently to clients and shows a high degree of empathy. This is especially important since she dealt with a lot of Spanish speaking clients. This was evident at our clinics. She would conduct intake and perform any follow up work with the client. She also helped prepare clients for administrative hearings before the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement and the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. Ms. Valle also had the ability to explain the advice to clients in terms they could understand and was respectful of their concerns.

I was also impressed with Ms. Valle advocacy skills. I was able to supervise her work in several hearings and she was a zealous advocate for her clients. She was always fully prepared and was very open to critique. She was also patient with her clients when preparing them for a hearing. She did not back down from her position even when questioned by an Administrative Law Judge. She maintained her composure and continued to advocate for her clients.

Mr. Valle took direction very well. She asked questions when necessary. She took thorough notes and would continually check in with me to make sure she completely understood her assignments. I was impressed with her researching skills in that I could give her a research assignment and she would always find information on point. Her writing style was concise and easy to understand.

Ms. Valle is truly an impressive and committed individual. We were very happy to have her work with our unit this summer. Her sense of integrity and her commitment to helping the less fortunate will only serve to benefit the legal profession in the future. If we can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 213 640-3974 or aflores@lafla.org.

Sincerely,



Anel M. Flores
Attorney at Law