

August 31, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am a second-year law student at Columbia Law School, and I am writing to describe my summer internship experiences as well as to express my sincere appreciation for your support through the Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship Program.

This summer, I worked at the Farmworker Rights Division at Georgia Legal Services. The office is based in Atlanta, but all our clients live in the deep south of Georgia. The Division litigates on behalf of farmworkers, who are either low-income American workers or foreign workers from Central America, against their employers for federal employment/labor law and contract law violations. As an intern, I assisted the attorneys with the civil litigation process by researching, writing motions, and compiling discovery requests and answers. Notably, based on my research, we decided to serve objections instead of moving for protection after the defendants served an untimely discovery request.

Equally important, I directly worked with our clients in various capacities. For example, we were deep in the discovery process for a collective action lawsuit against the employer. Along with two supervising attorneys, I travelled several hours outside of Atlanta to prepare our clients for depositions and interrogatories. There, we conducted extensive interviews and had conversations with them to corroborate the information they gave us earlier. Because several clients had never been deposed before, we spent additional time explaining what a deposition was, who would be present, and how the client should conduct himself or herself.

In addition, since we received favorable judgment on behalf of our clients in other cases, I was tasked with contacting these clients to update them on the judgment and to coordinate the transfer of their money damages. Although administrative in nature, this task was not easy, as agricultural workers frequently move around and are difficult to reach, especially those workers who are foreign and are now back in their home countries of Mexico or Guatemala. Further, we were working under a time crunch, as a statute of limitations exists on distributing settlement funds to our clients. Nonetheless, once we got in contact with clients and transferred these funds (which included unpaid wages, overtime, and other damages), the many hours spent calling and updating them on the case were immensely worthwhile. Having clients thanking us for litigating and getting them the money that they desperately needed to keep themselves housed and fed solidified my desire to work in direct civil legal services.

The work that the Farmworker Rights Division does is so vital to the farmworkers in Georgia, as our clients live in rural poverty and are going against employers who essentially control the economy of the small towns in the South. Our clients' feelings of fear and apprehension are

absolutely real, and allaying these concerns by assisting them in their lawsuits was an invaluable, eye-opening experience that strengthened my commitment to public interest law. None of this would have been possible without the support from Equal Justice America, and I truly appreciate the opportunity to have done so.

Sincerely,

Young Choi
Columbia Law School
Class of 2018