

September 25, 2013

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

Re: Carly Cusak, Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship, 2013

Dear Mr. Reuben:

It is a pleasure to write this letter evaluating Carly Cusak's Equal Justice America fellowship. This summer, Carly worked at LAF (Legal Assistance Foundation). LAF is the largest provider of free civil legal representation in Cook County, Illinois. During his time at LAF, Carly worked in the Housing Practice Group advocating and representing tenants living in low-income subsidized housing.

Carly was such a pleasure to work with this summer. Carly has a very spirited and uplifting personality which did not go unnoticed by staff or our clients. My colleagues have described Carly as "delightful", "professional", "enthusiastic" and "very pleasant to work with." I could not agree more. Carly has a special talent for putting people at ease – a trait that is so valuable when our clients often become despondent or depressed when faced with the possibility of homelessness. However, this in no way undermines the excellent work and advocacy that Carly conducted on behalf of our clients.

Carly is dedicated, hard-working, and clearly has a passion for public interest. Carly often volunteered to take projects that were both complex and time sensitive. Surprisingly, the short deadlines that Carly faced in no way impacted the quality of her work. In fact, Carly seemed to thrive under the pressure. For example, Carly took on a time sensitive research project when a mobile home park was going to be shut down. Carly researched engineering issues concerning mobile homes, legal issues pertaining to flood plains and found local and federal statutory provisions that were relevant to the case. This was a completely new area for many of the attorneys at LAF and required a lot of work to be completed in a very short period of time. When we asked for help, Carly didn't even flinch before volunteering. Not only did she complete the work, she did it quickly and she did it well by creating well written memos, organizing data, and developing plans.

Carly also worked with clients in every stage of the eviction process including conducting intake interviews, assisting with a legal clinic, carefully drafting pleadings and motions, and settling

cases. Carly was always thoughtful and invested in her work showing a genuine interest and concern for our clients.

In a nutshell, Carly is intelligent, diligent and hard-working. She seemed to excel in the completion of every task that she was asked to complete. We all enjoyed working with her as well. Carly provided the burst of optimism and commitment that we all needed over the course of a difficult summer.

Carly is insightful and eager to learn. Consequently, she is always volunteering so that she can learn more. Carly is going to do great things and she is going to be a great advocate. We certainly miss her here at LAF.

Sincerely,



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