

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

August 25, 2013

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, I worked as an intern in the Housing Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services under two experienced and incredibly knowledgeable attorneys, Dick Bauer and Margaret Turner. Mr. Bauer specialized in foreclosure cases, while Ms. Turner focused on Section 8 and expiring use cases. As an intern, I helped clients prepare for pro se eviction cases, performed legal research on housing discrimination, foreclosure defenses, and Section 8 subsidies, and attended Housing Court on a regular basis. Although the majority of my time was spent on legal research and client letters, my few experiences with GBLS clients stood out and confirmed my dedication to public interest law.

Every Monday, GBLS hosted a housing clinic for individuals facing eviction and foreclosure. Even if the GBLS could not accept the individuals as clients, a Housing Unit attorney guided each person at the clinic through their Answer and Discovery paperwork so they would be prepared to represent themselves pro se in Housing Court. This was my favorite part of my internship with the GBLS Housing Unit. People who received notices and summons in the mail could come to GBLS, learn about the court process, and leave with completed documents, addressed envelopes, and directions to the appropriate delivery locations. While the attorney in charge lectured, I walked around the conference room answering questions, filling in documents, and calming fears. Occasionally, I sat with mentally or physically disabled individuals and walked them through the entire

process. The housing clinics were incredibly productive and left potential clients equipped to handle their own eviction and foreclosure cases.

In addition to the housing clinics, I worked very closely with one client in particular throughout the duration of my internship. For the first eight weeks, we spoke on the phone every two weeks and she told me about her life and her pending eviction case. I then reported the updates to my supervisor. My last week, however, she missed the housing clinic she was supposed to attend and we realized her paperwork was incorrect the day the documents were due. During perhaps the most stressful three hours of my entire summer, I walked her through her Answer and Discovery packets over the phone, spoke to opposing counsel and the court clerk, sent her to a community organization to print her documents, and directed her to the court, her landlord's house, and the offices of opposing counsel. We thought there was no way she could get the documents in on time, but she did.

There were many times over the summer when I felt desperately confused, cooped up on my computer, and frustrated with my clients. However, by the end of my time with the GBLS Housing Unit, I felt inspired and heartened by the passion of the GBLS attorneys and the work they do on a daily basis. I am also incredibly grateful for my new knowledge of eviction, foreclosure, and housing subsidy law, which will be useful for my future career. Thank you so much for the Equal Justice America grant and the opportunity to work at Greater Boston Legal Services.

Sincerely,

Caroline Standke  
Boston University School of Law  
Class of 2015