

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, I completed my Fellowship experience at Bread for the City. At Bread for the City, I had one of the most rewarding internship experiences I've had since starting law school. There, my work focused on providing civil legal services to indigent clients. What was nice about this work was that I got to see many different areas of the law, including family law, disability law, public benefits law, and landlord-tenant law. Within each of these practice areas, I was able to improve my legal writing skills as well as my client interview skills. One of the things I enjoyed the most was "on-call" hours. Being on-call meant that I was responsible for any walk-in clients or phone calls related to legal services for the whole day. During those hours, I was able to explain to clients about the different practice areas at Bread for the City; I was also able to give clients brief advice regarding their legal concerns if they related to our practice areas.

The highlight of my summer was working on a case related to domestic violence. Our goal for that case was to help a client deal with an interrelated matter dealing with her child. What made the case worthwhile was that I saw the case from start to finish. I researched the arguments, prepped the client for a hearing, spoke with practitioners in the field about how they handled such cases, and even got to represent the client at the hearing. Her appreciativeness of the hard work we did and actually winning the case strengthened my resolve to practice public interest law and be a zealous advocate for indigent residents of the District of Columbia.

Other worthwhile experiences included investigating housing code violations. One client in particular will always stay with me. I went to visit the client's home and was appalled by the conditions the client was living in. I could not understand how the client kept smiling and joking with me while I was taking photographs of the unit. Finally, I asked the client how she stayed so

optimistic and strong; her response to me was that life could always be worse and that she knew we were going to help her improve things so she was happy. The simplicity of that statement and the warmth in her voice is something I will never forget. I loved my time at Bread for the City and would do the experience all over again if I had the opportunity.

Chanell Autrey
George Washington University Law School
J.D. , May 2012



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August 29, 2011

Re: Evaluation for Chanell Autrey

www.breadforthecity.org
info@breadforthecity.org

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Chanell Autrey, a rising third-year student at The George Washington University Law School, served as a legal intern this summer at Bread for the City (BFC). BFC is a non-profit organization that provides free legal assistance, medical care, food, clothing, and social services to low-income residents of the District. The Legal Clinic practices mainly in the areas of landlord-tenant, family, and public benefits law.

As a legal intern, Chanell assisted the Legal Clinic in almost every aspect of our representation of clients. Generally, her responsibilities included interviewing and communicating with clients; reviewing agency and court files; visiting clients' homes and documenting housing code violations; conducting legal research; and drafting pleadings, correspondence, and memoranda of law. Chanell assisted our attorneys in all of our practice areas.

Throughout her internship, Chanell was dependable, diligent, and conscientious. All the attorneys appreciated her enthusiasm, positive attitude, and willingness to dive right into assignments. She worked independently, yet had the judgment to know when to ask questions. She conducted thorough research and fact investigations. She had no problem juggling several assignments at one time or prioritizing assignments. We never had to worry about whether an assignment would get completed in a timely fashion. Throughout her internship, she got along well with staff. Chanell had an excellent rapport with clients – she was patient and compassionate while listening to their stories yet also knew when to ask questions to solicit relevant information necessary for the development of their legal case.

Most notably, Chanell assisted one of our family law attorneys in representing a survivor of domestic violence. In the client's case, the local child welfare agency had been brought into our client's life after an incident of domestic

violence had occurred. Although the child welfare agency had closed its investigation against our client once she obtained a Civil Protection Order against her child's father and custody of their child, our client was placed on the Child Protection Register. It was extremely important for our client's name to be removed from the Child Protection Register, since she works in child care and is the sole provider for her son. While we had represented survivors of domestic violence in obtaining protection orders and in family law matters, we had never dealt with this type of case before. Chanell stepped in eagerly from the very beginning. She researched the process to challenge placement on the Register, and helped our client file a request for a hearing. Chanell followed up with attorneys at other organizations familiar with the process, requested our client's agency file, and made numerous calls to agency staff to expedite the process, including enlisting the help of the agency's domestic violence liaison. Chanell prepared our client for an administrative conference, conducting lengthy interviews with our client in-person and over the phone and providing much-needed reassurance to our very anxious client. The attorney felt comfortable having Chanell present part of the client's case at the administrative conference at the agency and reported she did a great job speaking with confidence and remembering all the facts of the case under pressure. As a result of Chanell's efforts, the child welfare agency reversed its substantiated finding of neglect against our client and removed her name from the Child Protection Register. Chanell's help enabled Bread for the City to have the capacity to take on this very time-consuming case and ensure that a domestic violence survivor could maintain a source of income as a child care provider to support herself and her child.

The Legal Clinic at Bread for the City was very pleased to have Chanell as a summer law clerk. Her commitment to serving our clients was clear, and we are glad that Equal Justice America was able to support Chanell financially with a summer stipend.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 386-7010, if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



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NW Legal Clinic Supervisor