

Christin A. Lanham

Dan Ruben

Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 E. Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

August 31, 2010

Dear Mr. Ruben,

As an Equal Justice America fellow this summer I had the opportunity to work at Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) in Chicago, Illinois. I worked on divorce, custody, visitation, order of protection, and guardianship cases in the family law department. CGLA is dedicated to stabilizing families and passionate advocacy for its clients, all of whom live below 150% of the poverty guideline.

I was fortunate to have a significant amount of client contact in the office as well as in court. Family law cases address some of the most personal and emotional issues in the clients' lives. Many clients struggle to navigate a complex system that they do not always trust. Understanding the clients' perspectives and goals, learning to respectfully and sensitively counsel them, and explaining the legal implications of their actions are skills that I have developed while working at CGLA.

This summer was particularly valuable for me due to an Illinois Supreme Court rule that allows law students who have completed a certain amount of their coursework to represent clients in court under the supervision of an attorney. This experience not only furthered my growth as a future attorney, but also reinforced my connection to the clients I represented.

I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity Equal Justice America gave me to work at Cabrini Green Legal Aid. The experiences I had working with and representing clients are invaluable and would not have been possible without your support.

Regards,

Christin Lanham
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2011