

September 19, 2013

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II – Suite 204  
13540 E. Boundary Rd.  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you very much for this opportunity. By allowing me to expand my range of resources, Equal Justice America has strengthened my capacity to do interesting and important public interest work this summer.

The University of Chicago Housing Initiative Clinic is a unique legal aid provider. We provide transactional services and legal counsel for local tenants' groups and community-based affordable housing developers. We work collaboratively with both parties to a deal, which has exposed me to a broader range of individuals in the Chicago housing world. Another standout feature of the clinics is the level of immersion. Two students work with one clinical professor, meaning there is higher degree of substantive work and responsibility, earlier on in the process, than there may be in a large firm or government office.

By the end of the summer, I'd taken on a hands-on role in the closing of a single family home. We represented a local affordable housing developer who was helping a low-income individual, Patricia, acquire a building. Walking through the paperwork with both of them, and seeing the excitement on Patricia's face as we wrapped up the deal and announced the house was hers, was a very satisfying moment. I had worked hard to draft and review the closing documents and to maintain clear communication with our client and with the City of Chicago, which helped ensure the closing went smoothly.

What often separates public interest work from other types of legal work is that you get to see the human impact of what you're doing, up close, and can be proud of what you've accomplished at the end of the day. EJA plays a substantial role in making that possible.

Best regards,

Clara Kim  
University of Chicago