

Deborah Morgan
1530 16th St. NW, Apt 406, Washington, DC 20036

August 4, 2005

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

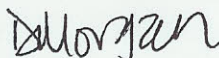
Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you and EJA for providing funding so that I could spend the summer in Chicago providing legal services to the poor with the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. The Center's goal is to identify, develop, and support creative and collaborative approaches to achieve social and economic justice for low-income people. I had a truly great experience and learned a lot. It was interesting to see how staff would not only work to address the legal problems of a specific client, but also look more broadly at challenging the institutional barriers from which the legal problems arose. It was an inspirational experience to work with a talented group of attorneys who have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of the poor and who do it with an abundance of grace and good humor.

While at the Sargent Center I had the opportunity to work on a range of issues, including access to public benefits, preservation of affordable housing, protections for domestic and sexual violence victims, and accommodations for limited-English proficient residents. In some internships, I have felt that I was treated as little more than unpaid source of legal memoranda, but at the Shriver Center, I felt like I was part of the team. The attorneys included me in a range of activities, from meeting and interviewing clients to strategy and settlement negotiations. I got to accompany the staff to administrative hearings, court proceedings, and community meetings. I was encouraged to contribute ideas that I had about legal strategies and policy improvements. The attorneys were accessible and helpful and further inspired me to commit myself to a career in public interest law.

Thank you again for providing funding for public interest law students like myself so that we can make a difference.

Sincerely,



Deborah Morgan
American University, Washington College of Law
Class of 2006