

530 Hill St. Apt. 2
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

August 31, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I write to thank you and the generous donors responsible for EJA. I had a great summer working as a legal intern at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A. Brooklyn A (www.bka.org) serves low-income individuals, families and local groups who would not otherwise have access to representation. Brooklyn A serves some 4,000 clients annually. Eighty-five percent are women and children. Brooklyn A also provides group representation and community education.

I worked in the Group Housing Unit for Project Director and General Counsel Marty Needelman, a great lawyer and just a terrific human being. He gave me and his other intern (a Columbia 1L) a lot of responsibility, and we took turns second-chairing a long-drawn out housing court trial. Working closely on this trial against an abusive landlord, including providing assistance with cross-examination preparation, was the highlight of the summer.

I wrote a Michigan Daily column about the experience (available at <http://media.www.michigandaily.com/media/storage/paper851/news/2007/06/18/Columns/Devadatta.Gandhi.Trouble.For.Tenants-2915731.shtml>). As Needelman explains, this case is typical of what happens in gentrifying areas: market forces cause massive displacement pressures, forcing lower income people from their homes. He points out that without adequate law enforcement, laws are ineffective, and both legal advocacy and organizing are important tools against injustice.

I also conducted research on a variety of housing law issues, and helped edit Brooklyn A publication materials. I had great interactions with fellow interns and other lawyers too.

Thank you once again for making this opportunity possible.

Sincerely,

Devadatta Gandhi

Michigan 2008