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

Dear Dan:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and Equal Justice America for providing me with funding. It is so wonderful that your organization is able to create a way for law school students to more comfortably pursue the option of working for public interest groups for the summer. Without the assistance it would have been difficult for me to financially support myself.

Over the summer, I was able to spend considerable time assisting Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A" in their Group Housing Unit's mandate to protect low income families in Williamsburg, New York from mass displacement at the hands of unethical landlords, glutting off of booming property values.

My primary responsibilities involved a 40 unit building with 18 remaining tenants. The landlord was renovating the 22 vacant apartments, sinking enough money in to destabilize the rent controls, and market the new apartments as luxury rentals. As he was engaging in these major projects, people were living above, below, and adjacent, resulting in considerable disruption of peoples' lives. Water was routinely shut off and construction crews often left vacant apartments unlocked, allowing children access to dangerous conditions.

When I arrived at Brooklyn Legal Services, the tenants of the building had been on a rent strike for about nine months and were in court defending their nonpayment from the landlord's lawsuit. During my time at Brooklyn Legal Services, I worked on a motion to hold the landlord in contempt for violation of a February court order commanding him to repair over one hundred housing code violations. Also, I worked closely with my fellow intern and my boss, Project Director Marty Needelman, to prepare the cross-examination of the landlord, attempting to demonstrate the landlord's intentions to vacate the low income tenants from the building in order to continue his plans to create upscale, luxury units.

Further, I was able to do some transactional work for small not-for-profits servicing the community. For example, I drafted and filed Certificate of Amendment of a Certificate of Incorporation extending the duration of a daycare center, including guiding the amendment through the process of obtaining State Supreme Court, Attorney General, and Department of State approvals.

Once again I would like to thank you for the fellowship and the good work that it allowed me and other students to accomplish. I wish your organization the best of luck in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Timlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ed" and last name "Timlin" clearly distinguishable.

Edward Timlin  
Columbia Law School, '09