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

Dear Dan Ruben,

I am writing to tell you about my experience working at the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic this summer as an EJA Law Student Fellow. Together with EJA fellow Teddy Moges, I was part of the clinic's Civil Rights and Police Accountability Project that was founded by University of Chicago Law Professor Craig Futterman.

When I began working for Professor Futterman in June, the project was already in the midst of bringing a civil lawsuit on behalf of a former Chicago public housing resident. This individual claimed that he had been handcuffed, terrorized, and humiliated at the hands of three police officers, and he sought the clinic's help to bring these officers to justice. Because this litigation had been ongoing for three years, I became involved in the later stages of discovery and the early stages of pretrial. Within the first few weeks, I attended depositions of police officers and civilian witnesses, drafted motions in limine for the admission of evidence, and wrote memos concerning the relevant caselaw. Each of these assignments made me tremendously familiar with the facts of the case; this knowledge would become invaluable later in the summer.

The pinnacle of my summer work experience occurred when opposing counsel moved for summary judgment in late July. In response, I had to compile research, cite-check statements and briefs, and assemble exhibits in order to defeat the motion. The amount and intensity of work that I had to undertake for three weeks was unbelievable; in the last week, I was at the office for at least twelve hours a day. However, I never second-guessed my commitment to the case or resented the workload. I truly enjoyed every day I spent researching, writing, and advocating for the public interest, and my experience at the clinic has made me confident that I will continue to pursue similar opportunities throughout my legal career.

Sincerely,



Elliott Joh