

August 30, 2007

Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 204  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan Ruben,

Thank you very much for providing me with a fellowship through Equal Justice America. I spent this summer working in San Antonio at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid with the Consumer Protection Team. The most rewarding part about this internship was the direct contact I had with clients.

Working in the Consumer Protection Division gave me the chance to work with unsophisticated consumers who had been taken advantage of by various people and organizations. One of my success stories involved a Katrina victim who used her FEMA money to buy a part in a time-share condo. Within a few days, she realized that she had not understood many significant stipulations in the contract and wanted to get out of the contract. After talking with various individuals from different entities, I was able to have our client's contract cancelled and have her down payment returned to her.

I have spent most of my time here working on a case involving Manufactured Housing and Mobile Home parks. Certain individuals and companies have been renting substandard mobile homes to impoverished individuals. Many of the consumers do not speak English and believe that they are buying the homes when in fact they are renting the homes. Many of their homes are falling apart, and their maintenance requests go unanswered. I have really enjoyed working with these clients because I feel that our legal support has empowered them to stand up against these injustices. It also is personally satisfying to know that this lawsuit might actually effect changes in the lives of so many mobile home consumers.

During this internship, I have been exposed to wonderful attorneys. So many TRLA lawyers are passionate about representing their clients as zealously as possible. Their unwavering support of the legal aid cause is inspirational. On top of this, many lawyers here are interested in my career goals and ask me about my plans for the future. They are always willing to give advice on what to do in different situations with clients.

Once again, thank you for providing me with the opportunity to be an intern at TRLA-San Antonio.

Sincerely,  
Emily Meador  
University of Texas at Austin  
2009