

May 11, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I had a very meaningful experience as a Student Director of the Temporary Restraining Order Project (“TRO Project”) in 2013-2014. I joined the TRO Project as a volunteer in my first semester of law school, and I appreciated the chance to engage in direct service from the beginning of my law school career. As one of six directors, I helped mobilize more than 50 other students to staff an office at the New Haven Superior Courthouse for 35 hours each week. I found it very rewarding to help train and coordinate the student volunteers who assist applicants in filling out the required forms, writing affidavits, and navigating the bureaucracy of applying for TROs.

Each client at the TRO office comes in with a heartbreaking story. In addition to assisting the clients with paperwork, I believe another important job we have is to listen to their stories and validate their experiences. While it was sometimes difficult to listen to the clients talk about the abuse they had suffered, I was glad I could provide a sympathetic ear to them.

I was very proud to pick up the torch from prior student directors and contribute to this continuing and sustained project. It means a lot that court staff and the community has come to rely on the services that Yale Law students provide through the TRO Project year after year. I will take this experience with me into my career as a public interest lawyer, and the TRO Project has remained one of the most meaningful parts of my law school experience.

Sincerely,

Emily Rock