

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

May 29, 2009

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for the generosity of Equal Justice America in providing opportunities for law students like myself to serve our communities and gain greater skills in the field of legal services provision. This past semester, I worked an average of twenty (20) hours per week at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (LCCRUL) in Washington, D.C. The experience gave me greater insight and perspective related to the needs of low-income workers, and how lawyers can assist such workers in the pursuit of a better workplace and a better quality of life.

LCCRUL is a national organization that works on several particular areas of civil rights law. Working for LCCRUL's Employment Discrimination Project, I had the chance to serve clients from around the country who had faced many kinds of discrimination at the place where we in the United States spend most of our lives: the workplace. Clients of the Employment Discrimination Project are low-income workers who have, by in large, faced egregious discrimination at work, usually on the basis of their race.

While my work was varied and included research and writing, correspondence and communications with clients, and attendance at meetings, some of the most rewarding work, as with perhaps any job, came from interaction with clients. One of our most interesting cases was that of a young man who had faced severe, constant harassment and intimidation at his worksite. He worked in an industry at a site so remote from any community or law enforcement that the harassment often led him to fear for his own safety and wellbeing. Eventually forced out of his job and into a lower-paying industry, the client hopes that the outcome of his case will lead to the institution of training for all management and employees, as well as a better safety net and resources for employees with a claim of racial discrimination, at his former company. He is hopeful and forward thinking, which inspires his legal team and his supporters to do better work on behalf of him and other employees facing racially based harassment at work.

Thank you again for the chance to have worked at LCCRUL. The organization is one I have come to admire deeply, and I in fact intend to apply for a postgraduate fellowship at one of their offices. The support of Equal Justice America has helped me and countless other law students come closer to the goal of high quality legal services provision, a field in which we will build our careers and our communities.

Best regards,
Emily M. Sala
American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2010