

August 31, 2017

VIA EMAIL

Equal Justice America
Attn: Dan Ruben
Executive Director

Re: Fellowship Letter

Dear Mr. Ruben,

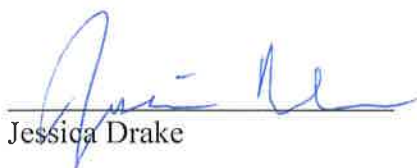
Thank you so much for this opportunity provided by Equal Justice America. With the aid of EJA's fellowship, I worked full time at Lincoln Square Legal Services, providing legal assistance to low income taxpayers. My peers, mentors, and leaders provided excellent guidance and support so that I could represent clients with a strong understanding of the law and their specific case.

During my time at LSLS, I have had the opportunity to work directly with clients and administrative agencies in order to advocate on behalf of LSLS clients. For many of our clients, the tax law is overwhelming and frustrating, and a confrontation with a state or federal tax authority can be very daunting.

I often heard clients express the feeling that their tax problem had taken over their life or was even ruining their life. This feeling was a driving force in my advocacy for all of my clients – each of their tax problems may have started out as a smaller issue or may even seem to be a small issue to many people. But to them, it is a looming dark cloud.

EJA made my LSLS work financially feasible, for which I am very grateful. Without the help of EJA and similar institutions, many students would be unable to pursue public interest work even in the short term for a summer. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow while helping low income taxpayers in need – this experience has been invaluable.

Sincerely,



Jessica Drake

Fordham University School of Law
Anticipated Graduation, May 2018