

August 24, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Greetings! I have served as a summer intern with Neighborhood Legal Services Program from June 2017 through August 2017. I was assigned to work in the Brief Services Unit which provides a variety of legal advice and information to low income residents of the District of Columbia on family law, housing law, public benefits, employment law and consumer law. I also did research and writing on housing, family, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and debt collection matters. I have written clients' closeout memos for staff attorneys.

I have given legal information about procedures on small claims matters to clients in Small Claims Court Resource Center of the D.C. Superior Court. Most of the clients that I have served came to the Resource Center to seek assistance on housing matters and have pending court cases. Under the supervision of staff attorneys, I helped clients by providing information on procedures and filling statement of claim forms, and writ of attachment forms. I attended court hearings on housing and family matters. Interacting with low income clients, listening to their problems, answering their questions, giving them legal information, and assisting them with filling forms was extremely satisfying for me.

Equal Justice America's funding has helped me to stay in Washington D.C. and have a great summer experience at Neighborhood Legal Services Program. Interning with Neighborhood

Legal Services Program gave me the opportunity to work with staff attorneys who are committed to provide pro bono legal services to low income residents of the District of Columbia and learn a lot from them. I am deeply grateful to Equal Justice America for making my dream of interning with a pro bono legal service provider to low income clients a reality.

Berkenesh Woldeselassie

Georgetown University Law Center

Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa 2016/2017 Fellow

May 21, 2017 graduate



Karen Newton Cole, Executive Director
Neighborhood Legal Services Program

August 29, 2017

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Equal Justice America
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13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I had the privilege of directly supervising Judge Berkenesh Woldeselassie as a volunteer at Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) this summer. I was consistently impressed with Berkenesh's positive attitude, her desire to learn about the American legal system, her ability to connect with our clients, and her strong commitment to access to justice for all individuals.

NLSP is a general practice civil legal services provider for low-income Washington, D.C. residents. While at NLSP, Berkenesh gained exposure to various aspects of our practice. She actively sought out opportunities and eagerly approached her tasks. Her responsibilities included participating in client interviews; drafting correspondence to clients that included a summary of their case, an analysis of the law as it relates to their case, and legal advice; assisting with community outreach events; case management; and observing court hearings. Berkenesh also proficiently completed legal research and legal writing assignments for a number of attorneys on a wide range of subjects, including housing and family law matters. She demonstrated her passion for working with our clients by actively staffing the Small Claims Resource Center where she provided legal information and guidance to *pro se* litigants in DC Superior Court.

Berkenesh is a bright and cheerful individual. During her time at NLSP, she took time to educate the staff on Ethiopian culture—including the gender roles perpetuated in her country and the legal system in Ethiopia. Her openness has helped our attorneys better communicate with some clients and to understand their position on certain things. Additionally, she helped organize presentations from other fellows from the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) fellowship to present their findings to staff and summer interns. We enjoyed learning from the panel and had a number of questions about their country, its legal system, and their passion to help make changes.

We appreciate all of the work Berkenesh has done to support NLSP and its clients this summer. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 269-5109 should you need further information.

Sincerely,

Heather K. Molina
Managing Attorney