

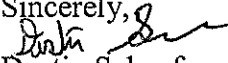
Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204 13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Mr. Ruben,

This letter is to inform you about my fantastic Equal Justice America fellowship experience at Greater Boston Legal Services in Boston, MA. As a legal intern at GBLs, I was assigned to senior attorney Margaret Turner. In the capacity of an intern I was able to work predominantly on two important civil litigation actions that were geared towards protecting low income individuals living in Boston affordable housing units. The major case I worked on was Mass Pike Towers. We represented a tenant association of low income tenants as they work to exercise a purchase option agreement so that they can control their housing unit and maintain it as an affordable housing unit in perpetuity. As it stands, the purchase price is too high and the developer is making millions of dollars from the transaction. The type of housing development that the tenants reside in is very rare and are considered a gem of the past. With our help, the goal of the project will allow the building to be affordable not just until 2070, which is the current agreement, but in perpetuity. Not only will this our clients who are lower income tenants more control and more of a say about how their building operates, it will also ensure that there is always a place for the Chinese community in the heart of Chinatown. So not only is there an important fair housing goal, but there is an important cultural component of ensuring the Chinese community can stay in Chinatown as rampant development continues in that part of the city and beyond.

In addition to this case, I also had the opportunity to work on a large case related to disparate impact discrimination. Essentially, a property management company is treating enhanced voucher tenants (lower income) differently than they are market rate paying tenants. Specifically, the quality of apartments are different and when the enhanced voucher tenants were transferred to new units, they were not offered the same quality market rate units. I did some discovery, compiled data, and even made it into an affidavit that is currently being viewed by the presiding judge. Hopefully, this case will allow enhanced voucher tenants in the Roslindale area to get the same benefits (like an in unit washer/dryer) as their market rate paying neighbors.

Overall, this summer has been an absolutely invaluable experience, and I could not thank you, your staff, and Equal Justice America for your support. It's organizations like yours that allows law students like me to make a real impact on the lives of many, especially those who need legal representation the most. Although the case will not be over by the time my fellowship ends, I can say with great certainty that I was able to make positive contributions that will hopefully make a difference in the outcome of the case.

Sincerely,

Dustin Schaefer