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August 11, 2015

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

Re: Evaluation for Sean Link

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Sean Link, a rising second-year student at Georgetown Law, served as a legal intern this summer at Bread for the City (BFC). BFC is a non-profit organization that provides free legal assistance, medical care, food, clothing, and social services to low-income residents of the District of Columbia. The Legal Clinic practices mainly in the areas of landlord-tenant, family, and public benefits law.

As a legal intern, Sean assisted the Legal Clinic in almost every aspect of our representation of clients. Generally, his responsibilities included interviewing and communicating with clients; covering walk-in hours for the Legal Clinic; reviewing agency and court files; visiting clients' homes and documenting housing code violations; conducting legal research; and drafting pleadings, correspondence, and memoranda of law. Sean assisted our attorneys in all of our legal practice areas.

Sean was compassionate and respectful with clients and always had a positive attitude. His ability to speak Spanish helped Sean connect with even more of our clients. Since we work in an open office environment, all the attorneys were able to overhear Sean on the phone with clients and walk-in applicants, and were impressed by how well he was able to help people focus on the relevant legal issues while still ensuring that they didn't feel rushed.

When it came to attorney work assignments, Sean was willing to dive into projects across our range of practice areas. He was quick to volunteer for urgent assignments. Sean worked independently, yet had the judgment to know when to ask questions. Sean's memoranda of law were so thorough and well-researched that we often forgot Sean had only completed one year of law school. Sean competently tackled some novel research areas for our attorneys this summer, including the right of a tenant to continue to have access to a garage on the property and how other states have handled child support calculations when

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one parent has custody of one child in common and the other parent has custody of another. His comprehensive research assisted our clients this summer, and we are certain to refer back to it when we encounter these issues with future clients.

In one notable case, Sean took the lead on resolving an ongoing food stamps issue for an elderly Spanish-speaking client. The client was referred to us by BFC's social services department, after the D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) abruptly reduced the client's food stamps allotment. DHS staff had not provided Spanish interpretation when the client went to recertify for food stamps, and the client had no idea why her benefits had been reduced. The food stamps that the client received each month represented a major source of support, and it was an extreme hardship for the client to now find herself with only a minimal amount of food stamps. Our public benefits attorney met with Sean to share the limited information she had about the client's situation, and asked Sean to do a comprehensive follow-up with the client to figure out all of her income and expenses, obtain proofs for all, and develop a detailed timeline of when the client went to DHS and what she attempted to provide. Under the supervision of the attorney, but largely on his own, Sean organized all the information he obtained from the client and reached out to a DHS supervisor. He learned that the client's food stamps had been reduced because DHS had not taken the client's rent into account, though the client had submitted a letter from her landlord. Sean was able to work with the DHS supervisor to ensure that the client's previous confirmation of rent was accepted back to the date she originally went in, without requiring the client to return to DHS. As a result of Sean's advocacy, the client's food stamps amount was corrected back to the date she had attempted to submit the rent proof, and she received a large retroactive benefit amount. Sean handled all communications with the client and DHS throughout the case, and finished up the case with a bilingual closing letter to the client. The client was very grateful to have Sean working with her along the way, and Sean's help enabled Bread for the City to have the capacity to take on this time-consuming case.

The Legal Clinic at Bread for the City was very pleased to have Sean as a summer law clerk. His commitment to serving our clients was clear, and we are glad that Equal Justice America was able to support Sean financially with a summer stipend.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 386-7080, if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


Allison Miles-Lee
Senior Supervising Attorney
Northwest Center