

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I write to express my gratitude to Equal Justice America for their funding of my wonderful summer at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A.

Two days after beginning my internship, I was dealing with clients. Sitting with an attorney as they conducted client interviews was an invaluable experience. I learned how attorneys gain a client's trust over the course of an interview, elicit and deal with potentially negative information, and explain how the law relates to a client's unique situation. After a year of sitting in sometimes sterile classrooms, it was bracing to see the real impact the law and lawyers can have on a client's life.

Over the course of my time at Brooklyn Legal Services, I graduated from simply attending client meetings to conducting interviews myself. I know from friends who worked in the private sector and with judges over the summer that this amount of client contact is unique to public interest organizations. Law school taught me how to research legal issues – my internship with Brooklyn Legal Services taught me how to look a client in the eye and tell them what the law means.

My last case of the summer was my most rewarding. I conducted the interview of the client, whose case was a tangled web of shady mortgage brokers and unscrupulous banks. Thanks to my experience with the staff attorneys at Brooklyn Legal Services, I was able to tease out the strands of the client's story. In the course of my research of his case, I discovered several irregularities in how the foreclosure had been initiated. With these facts in hand, I recommended that the staff attorney fully represent the client in his action. My persistence in the original interview and detailed research got the client a lawyer to fully represent him – I would not have had these opportunities or this training at any private organization.

Simply put, the amount of client contact and responsibility I got at Brooklyn Legal Services was unmatched. My experience would not have been possible without my grant from Equal Justice America.

Sincerely,

Guyon Knight
Fordham University School of Law
Class of 2011