

Dear Dan Ruben,

This summer I worked as a law clerk at Public Counsel in the Homelessness Law Prevention Projection (HPLP). I was able to work directly with clients, meet with county representatives, and work with other community partners. I also helped with legal research for a staff attorney. A major aspect of my responsibilities for the summer included training and supervising summer associates from partnering firms for our CARES outings. For the CARES (Connecting Angelenos with Resources and Essential Services) program, I trained volunteers about homelessness in Los Angeles County and the benefits of last resort. After the trainings, we then made unannounced visits to Department Of Public Social Services and advocated for individuals in the lobby.

For my CARES outings, I was able to assist up to 60 clients over the course of the summer. For CARES, most of the clients you assist are only your client for the day. We try to fix whatever is preventing them from receiving benefits that day and follow-up to ensure they have received their benefits. Many of the clients I assisted were homeless and much of my advocacy was to ensure that they received expedited services so that they would have food and shelter at the end of the day. I regularly encountered individuals suffering from mental illness, newly released convicts, and homeless young adults.

On my last day of the summer at Public Counsel, I participated in Homeless Court. I was assigned five clients to represent to have their tickets quashed in the interest of justice. Two of my clients were in the late fifties and both had a long journey with substance abuse issues. Now both were in a program and have been sober for years. Another client was in his early twenties and after recovering from multiple gunshot wounds he was pursuing a high school diploma. Similarly, another client was also pursuing her high school diploma so

that she could find work to support her and young child. My experience with homeless court was very positive because it was a day to celebrate the success of these individuals in turning their lives around.

*Hannah Courtney*

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