

Dan Ruben

10/27/2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to thank you for allowing me to work as an intern at Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. This experience has been a memorable one. I have gained invaluable experience that I can apply towards my future career. I was surrounded by a group of intelligent and caring individuals who all work hard to achieve a common goal. During my time here at LAF I had the opportunity to work personally with clients, conduct research, and draft pleadings, motions, and discovery. I also had the opportunity to attend and assist with trial matters. My supervisor not only provided feedback on my work but she guided me on ways to become a successful attorney.

My most memorable experience was working with a client who was at the time an accounting major in college, but was being evicted from his home because his brother shot a gun through the floor. He lived in a low income neighborhood. Our argument was that the client cured the violation by taking his brother off the lease. The brother no longer lives with them. As we were working on this case, our client's mother passed away. He became the head of the household. However, the landlord was still trying to evict him. We took the case to trial and the judge ruled in our favor. The judge took us back to his chambers to discuss some of the policy issues with our case. Subsidized housing was created to help individuals like our client combat poverty, alleviate crime and assist individuals by providing them ways to survive on their own. We also discussed how the eviction outweighed the crime because if our client were evicted, he would be homeless. However, our client was being evicted for issues that the subsidized housing program tries to combat. It was amazing to see the kind of impact we had on not only the lives of our clients, but on the people who surround us.

I worked with multiple clients and it is eye opening to see the kind of conditions many people live in, and how simply some of the problems can be solved with a little help. I will never forget my experience at LAF and I will forever be grateful to the EJA fellowship for providing me with this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Urooj Shuaib
The John Marshall Law School, 2018