

September 28, 2010

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I honestly can't say enough about my experience this summer working as an intern, with an Equal Justice America fellowship, for Greater Boston Legal Services. Working with such bright and passionate attorneys made me appreciate how interesting and fulfilling studying the law can truly be.

At GBLS I was placed in the Housing Unit where I focused mainly on post-foreclosure evictions and utility issues. Many of my clients faced one of the scariest situations I can imagine- losing their homes. One particular story that stands out to me involves a tenant who lived with her children and grandchildren in an apartment which was foreclosed on. When the bank took over after the foreclosure, it didn't do anything that it should have such as bring the building up to code, put the utilities under its name, or inform the tenants of their rights. The safety situation there was so bad due to the bank's negligence that the tenant's home was broken in to three times in two months! GBLS helped get this tenant the help she needed though, and she will now be staying in her home, which has been secured, and is expecting a settlement in excess of \$30,000.

Even those clients who were facing utility issues were in a very tough spot. One case I worked on involved three clients who lived in a multi-family residence and had not had running water in their home for over three months. The water had been shut off in order to repair some pipes, but by the time the work was finished the house had been foreclosed on and the landlord had disappeared. The water company refused to renew service at this home until someone came forward to pay the past-due bills that the landlord had skipped out on. Luckily, I was able to explain the law to the city water company and fight for my clients. After three long months, their water was finally turned back on this July.

I am so grateful to EJA for the fellowship I received this summer. Without it, I may not have been able to help so many people in need, or to learn so much.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Croteau
Boston University Law School
Candidate for J.D.; 2012