

August 30, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Jamal Lacy and I had the honor of receiving an *Equal Justice America* Fellowship this summer. I spent my summer working in the public interest sector at the Housing Unit of *Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)* in Boston, MA. It pleases me to say that my experience at GBLS allowed me the opportunity to utilize my legal studies in a real-life context.

I wanted to work in the public interest sector because I felt that it would give me the exposure I needed to be a successful attorney. By encouraging an active learning environment, I would be able to test my knowledge and abilities through hands-on work with actual clients and real-life instances of landlord/tenant disputes. I was not disappointed. Instead of a traditionally passive learning experience, I immediately found myself involved in efforts to preserve housing for indigent, elderly and disabled clients. As a GBLS intern I was relied upon for my capabilities in research, drafting office memoranda and client letters, and initiating and maintaining productive correspondences with opposing counsel and administrative agencies. Yet still, the aspect of my internship that separated it from past experiences was the opportunity to actually serve as an advocate for my clients.

Looking back on my experience, it amazes me to realize that I had a twelve-case rotation over the course of the summer. Even more, it pleases me to know that I played an active and essential role in the efforts and decisions made in my clients' best interests. In addition to this, I was fortunate to have supervision from housing attorney, Jeffrey Purcell, during my time at GBLS.

Even though GBLS was there to supervise and answer questions when needed, I was still encouraged to trust my abilities and knowledge of the law to help my clients. My role at GBLS was not to simply carry out the orders of my supervisor. On the contrary, I played an active part in developing strategies based on my research as well as communications with clients.

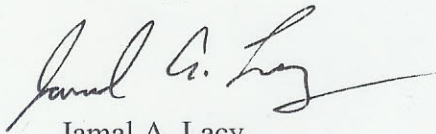
Through advocacy work, I was able to get a better appreciation for the fact that the law does not operate within a vacuum. A responsible attorney does not make unilateral decisions; rather an attorney charged with the responsibility of representing at-risk groups must work hand-in-hand with professional organizations and care-service providers who may also have an obligation towards a client. My work at GBLS required work with local

housing authorities, elderly-care-service providers, medical facilities, charities and a vast array of third parties whose involvement was necessary in the objective of securing and maintaining housing for my clients.

Finally, my experience at GBLS also gave me the opportunity to meet attorneys and specialist who were able to give valuable guidance and assistance. I am appreciative for all of the assistance that I received as well as the opportunity to work with a group of attorneys as knowledgeable and dedicated as I was privileged to work with at GBLS.

I also wanted to take a moment to extend my sincere gratitude to *Equal Justice America* for its support toward my summer experience. It is heartening to know that there are organizations such as yours that see law for its potential to help those in need. I am encouraged in my pursuit of a legal career because of organizations like *Equal Justice America* that are willing and able to assist students in reaching their potential. Thank you very much for your support. It has meant a lot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamal A. Lacy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jamal A. Lacy  
2L Suffolk Law School  
Class of 2007