

August 28, 2013

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II - Suite 204,
13540 East Boundary Road,
Midlothian, VA 23112
katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Via Email

RE: Summer Fellowship Experience

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Jennifer Anderson and I am going into my third year at Columbia Law School. This summer I was given the opportunity to intern at The City Project, an environmental justice non-profit located in Los Angeles, California. During this internship, I learned a lot about myself, the work I want to do, and the people that I intend to help. I am very thankful for the opportunity that I was able to have with The City Project through the generous support of the Equal Justice America Fellowship. Although my summer was primarily spent doing research and writing, I know that my work will help the lawyers at The City Project better serve their clients.

My time at the City Project was spent researching disparities in public health and access to green space. Unfortunately, the low-income minorities who are disproportionately impacted by environmental and public health ills usually do not have the political or social power to improve their surroundings on their own. Through working with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, I was able to see the many ways in which this federal law could be utilized to obtain more rights for alienated and disadvantaged groups of people. In writing letters, memos, and reports, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of the legal and social issues involved in the Environmental Justice Movement; it really involves an understanding of numerous areas of the law and how different government and communal channels work together. One practicing in this field is constantly on alert to see which laws will prove to be the most beneficial in certain instances.

I really enjoyed the work I did this summer at The City Project and learned a lot from the attorneys that supervised me. I was able to learn from their management styles, their previous employment experiences, and the work I assisted them with over the summer. I think I have a clearer idea of what niche of the law I would like to aim for upon graduation. I am so thankful that Equal Justice American gave me the opportunity to explore such an interesting and dynamic field of the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Anderson



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Dan Ruben, Founder & Executive Director
ATTN: Katie Toman
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112
Via e-mail (Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org)

RE: Jennifer Anderson Summer Legal Internship at The City Project

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Jennifer Anderson worked as a summer legal intern at The City Project for ten weeks from June through August 2013, helping to further The City Project's mission of equal justice, democracy, and livability for all. During her internship, she was exposed to each of our four program areas – equal access to parks and recreation, equal access to quality education including physical education, health equity in all policies, and economic vitality. We truly appreciate Jennifer's time and work here with us this summer.

Specifically, Jennifer researched and analyzed disparities in access to green space and physical education in California, drafted letters and memoranda on these disparities and on compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), and participated in meetings and discussions on promoting equal access to healthy, livable communities.

In so doing, she learned about legal tools under the civil rights laws for addressing issues of equal access to public resources, including parks and education, and remedying disparities. For example, she read, summarized, and reported on legal issues and related social science evidence necessary for us to advocate for equal access on behalf of the communities of color and low-income communities whom we serve. She worked on Freedom of Information Act and California Public Records Act requests to obtain information necessary for her and our staff to assess agency compliance with federal and state civil rights laws.

Finally, by participating in community meetings, conference calls, and staff strategy discussions, Jennifer was exposed to how her work here fit into both the broader work of The City Project and of the communities and organizations with whom work. These meetings ranged from what community members are doing locally to create change, to the role of government agencies in ensuring that community members are equipped to advocate for the health of their community.

Again, we are truly appreciative of Jennifer's time and work here with us this summer, and thank Equal Justice America for supporting her and our work.

Sincerely,

Ramya Sivasubramanian
Assistant Director and Counsel

Healthy, Livable Communities For All

Board: Chris Burrows Juan Devis Robert Garcia Tom Hayden
Robbie LaBelle Lyndon Parker Michael Rodriguez

The City Project is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization and a Project of Community Partners