

JENNIFER B. FREY

August 24, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you so much for making my summer internship with the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia possible. With the help of Equal Justice America, I learned a great deal about the substance of housing law, interacted with wonderful colleagues and clients, and fully recommitted myself to pursuing a career in public interest law.

As an intern in the Housing Unit, I was responsible for aiding in the representation of clients who were facing eviction and other housing crises. Our services included representing clients during trials, administrative hearings, and mediations, as well as referring clients to other assistance agencies and accompanying clients to meetings with government agencies. While I became very knowledgeable about housing law, and engaged in very interesting research and writing assignments, the highlight of my summer was the opportunity to meet and to help our clients.

Throughout all of my previous legal internships, the focus had been on writing rather than client interaction. My experience at Legal Aid, however, showed me that serving clients was the most rewarding aspect of being a lawyer. In particular, I enjoyed accompanying our clients to the housing authority to apply or recertify for their public housing benefits. While most of the time this meant simply sitting beside them while they talked with a representative from the housing authority, I felt that our clients deeply appreciated the presence of someone who would help them to be heard. The public housing process can often be confusing and complicated, and clients seemed relieved to have someone with them to help figure out the next step. Sometimes they were happy to simply have someone listen to their story. I was honored to be there for them, and to have them trust me enough to open up about their lives. I was even happier when I was able to help them come away from these meetings successfully and avoid the threat of homelessness.

This is just one example of the many ways in which we worked with our clients at Legal Aid. Overall, my internship was a great experience. My supervisor maintained a good balance between making sure that I had enough training and supervision, and allowing me the freedom to figure things out on my own. All of the attorneys at Legal Aid were great to work with, and were excellent about including the interns in their work and

allowing us to observe a large variety of events. I would be happy to work there again, and I am very grateful for the support of Equal Justice America in making this internship possible.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Frey
The George Washington University Law School
Class of 2011



August 31, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to confirm Jennifer Frey's completion of an internship at the Legal Aid Society of D.C. this summer. Jennifer interned for the Housing Unit at Legal Aid full time from June 1st until August 6, 2010.

Attorneys in the Housing Unit represent tenants facing eviction in Landlord and Tenant Court, including same-day emergency representation provided by attorneys staffing an Attorney of the Day office at the courthouse. We also represent tenants in administrative proceedings when tenants are at risk of losing their housing subsidy or have encountered other problems with the Housing Authority, such as an inaccurate rental calculation. Other aspects of our work include representing tenants before the Rent Administrator when they are challenging housing conditions or illegal rent increases. While our work is primarily litigation focused, we also engage in systemic advocacy to improve access to affordable housing and inform tenants of their legal rights.

The Housing Unit is currently comprised of ten attorneys and one Legal Assistant. While I supervised Jennifer's caseload, she received assignments from all nine attorneys. Jennifer showed great compassion working with our clients and was willing to help our clients in any way she could. Jennifer's assignments ranged from accompanying tenants to recertify at the Housing Authority to accompanying a hearing impaired client to apply for rental assistance. Jennifer drafted numerous research memoranda and aided in drafting discovery and pleadings.

Although Jennifer worked on various projects at any given time, she did an excellent job at prioritizing her assignments and was always eager to take on more projects so that she could help individuals in need. Jennifer was equally happy to assist a client by meeting them at the Housing Authority and helping them submit documents to recertify with the agency as she was to research whether the past debt of a potential live-in-aid precluded that person from being allowed to serve as a live-in-aid for one of our clients.

I understand that Jennifer received a stipend from Equal Justice America for her work at Legal Aid. I believe that Jennifer is deserving of the stipend granted to her by your organization. If you have any questions regarding her work at Legal Aid please do not



hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Deborah Cuevas Hill, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney