

Dan Ruben
Executive Director at Equal Justice America
13540 E. Boundary Rd.
Midlothian, VA 23112

September 4, 2007

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben:

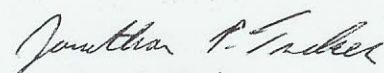
This summer was an excellent experience. Interning with Legal Counsel for the Elderly gave me an opportunity to help some of the most vulnerable in the District of Columbia and instilled within me a sense of self-confidence I never before felt. Those who are impoverished have needs for legal services beyond the average citizen. However, elderly are even more vulnerable due to the aging process and the willingness of many unscrupulous individuals to target elderly citizens as victims of fraud and scams. By offering legal services one helps restore the respect and dignity that they deserve.

Clients came into our offices desperate for help, on some occasions with tears. Many had been taken advantage of. Some sought help from various sources but without any hope of resolution. One client stands out in my mind. She had made a security deposit for a senior-living apartment. However, that deposit was stolen by an employee of the real estate agency to which the deposit was intended. When she arrived in the office, she was clearly suffering emotionally. Given her limited income, the lost money was a huge problem. She originally sought help with another attorney. Unfortunately they procrastinated for close to half a year. Finally, she was told nothing could be done on her case. That is when she came to our office. Two weeks later, the money was in her hands. I vividly recall the joy in her smile and how she wished us countless blessings.

Experiences such as these led me to understand that I truly could help individuals in meaningful ways. I have tended to be pessimistic regarding my own abilities, fearing I will commit an error or be incapable of finding a solution. However, this summer I was privileged to help dozens. I imagine many of them also had pessimistic attitudes, worries about their circumstances, or were just plain tired of dealing with a society changing so fast they struggled daily to keep pace. Just as I felt empowered by my experience, I sensed my clients likewise left the office with a more positive outlook on life.

After this summer I find myself more convinced than ever that a legal services career would be a choice I would never regret. Receiving the stipend from Equal Justice America was a great aid. One of the most difficult decisions about choosing a public interest career is the realization that one must be able to simply one's lifestyle. The money I received permitted me to assist my family, while at the same time achieve a purpose that fully gratified me. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Jonathan P. Tucker
Georgetown Law Center
Spring 2009