

August 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you and Equal Justice America for awarding me this summer fellowship. I had a truly wonderful experience working at Prairie State Legal Service, and this award made that experience possible.

Prairie State is a legal aid organization, providing free civil legal services to vulnerable populations across Illinois. I worked in the Bloomington office in central Illinois, and we served a vast array of clients across McLean, Livingston, and Woodford counties. The office itself was small, and I was able to work closely with each of the attorneys. Throughout the summer, I was impressed and inspired by their commitment to providing legal services so that our clients could meet their most basic needs. My work and interaction with these attorneys helped shape my summer and make it a great experience.

As an intern, my work was varied, primarily encompassing family law, housing law, and needs-based governmental assistance. The work I performed was real and substantive and included drafting court motions and pleadings, preparing depositions, and writing advice letters to clients. I also perfected my legal research and writing skills, often conducting research on issues in family and housing law to write memoranda for staff attorneys in the office.

While I greatly enjoyed all of this work, my most rewarding experiences involved direct client interaction. As the summer progressed, I had the opportunity to work directly with clients, often conducting the initial client intake and interview. It was during these interactions that I was able to see just how much our clients needed legal assistance and how great an impact we could make on their lives. These interactions allowed me to form real relationships with the clients and made the subsequent work on their cases all the more meaningful and fulfilling. This client interaction also had a tremendous impact on me, as I was able to witness firsthand how difficult it was for our clients to meet their most basic needs. It made me question my view of society and helped me realize the enormous need for legal aid organizations like Prairie State.

This summer was an enriching experience. I was able to grow both professionally and personally. While the cases that I worked on were often difficult and heart wrenching, I left Prairie State encouraged and optimistic about the work legal aid organizations are doing and will continue to do, and knowing that I will be able to use the lessons I learned at Prairie State to serve vulnerable populations in the future. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Joseph Campbell
University of Michigan Law School, 2014



316 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
PHONE: 309-827-5021
TOLL FREE: 1-800-874-2536 (CLIENTS)
FAX: 309-828-3776

SERVING LIVINGSTON,
MCLEAN, AND EASTERN
WOODFORD COUNTIES

ADRIAN BARR, MANAGING ATTORNEY
VICKIE SMITH, VOLUNTEER LAWYER COORDINATOR

MEGAN MCGLOTHLIN WOOD, STAFF ATTORNEY
JILL N. BAUGH, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

August 13, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

We were lucky to have Joe Campbell intern with us this summer. Joe worked hard this summer and was a great help to the attorneys in the office. Joe completed research assignments for the attorneys in the office, drafted legal advice letters, prepared motions to dismiss and also assisted in our Lawyer in the Courtroom courthouse project.

Joe researched and prepared written internal memos on a variety of civil litigation questions regarding civil procedure, evidence, eviction and child support. Joe always found the correct answer and conveyed the legal rule and applied the facts of our case effectively.

Joe drafted three motions to dismiss in eviction cases. His legal writing is impressive. There were no typos and the motions required very little modification. In two of those three cases the opposing side agreed to dismiss the case without a hearing.

Every Thursday Joe accompanied me to the courthouse to conduct the Lawyer in the Courtroom courthouse project. Under this project an attorney from our office goes to the courthouse during the weekly eviction call and advertises our services. If a defendant in an eviction case qualifies for our services we will meet with that person and either give them advice or offer to represent them. At the end of his internship Joe was able to conduct an interview. He elicited the facts that I needed to evaluate the strength of the case.

Joe will make a great attorney. He is motivated, has an advanced understanding of civil litigation, has excellent research and writing skills and grasps legal concepts very quickly. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Adrian G. Barr
Managing Attorney

AGB