

September 5, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I want to thank you and Equal Justice America for the fellowship that you awarded me this summer. I had an incredibly rewarding experience working in the Housing Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services and am very grateful for your organization for facilitating my summer work there.

My summer was spent working with shelter housing cases – homeless families who were either having trouble accessing the state's welfare system or had been terminated from shelter benefits and had a legal problem that we could help with. I got to know a number of the clients well, working with them and advocating with the welfare agency on their behalf. The client contact was invaluable, and the results were quickly realized and palpable.

I also worked on three cases that dealt with public housing access. Two were victims of domestic violence and were denied the domestic violence priority because they couldn't acquire the documentation needed to be given the priority. We were able to help gather the proof needed and go with the clients to administrative appeals hearings. As disheartening as it was to see their position initially, in the end it was great to have helped them, and the only decision that we received before I left for the summer was a reversal of a prior adverse decision.

The staff at Greater Boston Legal Services stressed that they are able to take on as many cases in a year as they do in large part due to the free work of legal interns. I personally wouldn't have been able to dedicate my summer to working there without the Equal Justice America grant, so please know how grateful I am for the fellowship, and that I was able to help a large number of people in the Boston community with housing legal problems.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Julie Scourfield
J.D. Candidate, 2009
Boston University School of Law