

August 30, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to extend a very sincere thank you to Equal Justice America for helping me pursue a public interest internship with Community Justice Inc. this summer. During my time at Community Justice Inc., I helped increase access to legal services for low-income and underrepresented individuals. I was exposed to several different areas of the law including family law, landlord/tenant issues, criminal defense, public benefits, and small claims.

My internship with Community Justice Inc. allowed me to interact with low-income and underrepresented individuals on a daily basis by conducting client intake interviews. Due to the high volume of intake interviews and referrals, I was not especially engaged in a large number of individual client cases. Nonetheless, I feel that I was able to provide meaningful services for at least two specific clients.

In one case an individual came to us seeking assistance with divorce and custody issues. The attorney responsible for the case enlisted my help in researching jurisdictional problems in the case. I wrote a research memo, which analyzed the various jurisdictional issues in our client's case and identified a way in which the case could move forward. This memo provided the client's attorney with important information, which later resulted in him helping the client file for divorce and custody and placement of the client's children.

This summer I was also able to successfully help a low-income individual with hearing and speech disabilities gain access to legal services. This individual came into our office and due to his disabilities we were initially required to communicate strictly through writing. I eventually gathered that he needed legal assistance with a case involving a car accident. After collecting some initial information, I was later able to conduct a complete intake interview over the phone by way of a video relay service. By talking to a friend of the client I discovered that he had attempted to resolve the situation in multiple ways, including reaching out to the individual who struck his vehicle, asking the police for assistance, and contacting other lawyers. It was a rewarding experience to help this client successfully complete our intake process and put him on the path to potentially obtaining legal representation that until then had been so difficult for him to find.

My experience this summer highlighted the massive demand for and crucial importance of affordable legal services in our communities. I am deeply grateful to Equal Justice America for helping me explore my passion for public interest work.

With sincere thanks,

Justin Hauschild  
University of Wisconsin Law School (2012-2013)  
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2015  
University of Minnesota Law School