

August 31, 2005

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
13450 East Boundary Road  
Building II Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I wanted to express my gratitude for the funding that EJA provided me, which allowed me to work as a summer associate at Brooklyn Legal Services. Without the funding, the costs of living in New York City would have prohibited me from taking on such public interest work.

The summer was a great learning experience for me. I was able to see cases at all different stages, from beginning to end, and I was able to participate fully from the initial client interviews all the way up to through trials. One case in particular took up most of my time. It was a custody case involving a maternal great aunt and a foster mother with no biological relation to the contested child, both trying to gain custody of a little 2 year old girl. Brooklyn Legal Services represented the aunt and I got to interview her, prepare a memoranda supporting her position, and even argue the case in chambers before a family court judge. The case is still ongoing and I intend to stick with it until it is finally resolved at trial in late October. I couldn't have asked for better litigation experience as a first year law student and I want to see through to the end the cases I worked so hard on.

The most rewarding thing of all was the feeling that I had helped someone get a fair hearing who otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford legal counsel. I got the chance to dabble in family law, housing law, and even try out some HIV/AIDS discrimination cases. I can't think of a more worthwhile way to spend the summer than preventing poor people from being evicted from their homes, making sure low income families are not necessarily broken up by the state, and seeing to it that the poor and downtrodden get due process in general. Thank you again for making this experience possible for me!

Sincerely,

Kevin Frankel  
Columbia University School of Law  
Class of 2007