

August 16, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This past summer, I received my summer fellowship for working at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAF). My experience at LAF was so rewarding that I am continuing to work there.


As a member of LAF, I was able to receive my 711 license. The ability to be a zealous advocate made my summer internship an unforgettable experience. Each week, I went in front of many different judges and argued on behalf of my clients. My clients were all women who have been, or were currently being, physically or mentally abused by their husbands. Depending on the situation, I would ask the court for an order of protection or a divorce based on mental cruelty. Being able to litigate in the courtroom was the most rewarding experience because not only was I able to gain experience and become comfortable in a courtroom, but more importantly, I was able to argue for and help my clients. I believe that is the most gratifying experience a law student can receive. It is incredible to see first hand that I was able to help my clients, which encourages me to pursue a public interest law career.

Not only did I gain a tremendous amount of experience in the courtroom, but I also performed many legal research and writing projects. The project I enjoyed the most consisted of researching legal issues restricting or prohibiting employment of people with criminal convictions. My research results were truly astonishing and disturbing. I believe the goal of sending a convicted felon to jail is to rehabilitate him/her. However, we as a society do nothing to encourage rehabilitation for convicted criminals once they are released from prison. Currently, I am assisting the attorney who assigned me this research project on how to change this legislation.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to accept a summer internship at LAF. It was an incredible experience and I would not have been able to accept it without receiving a fellowship from Equal Justice America.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,



Lisa Minc

DePaul University, May 2006