

August 29, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

The Equal Justice America Fellowship allowed me to work as a law clerk at Bread for the City in Washington, DC this summer. Bread for the City is a terrific organization which, in addition to its legal clinic which provides civil legal services to low-income clients, also provides social services, clothing, food, and medical services in two locations in the District. I was based in the Anacostia office where I worked with clients with a wide variety of legal issues including potential eviction, unsafe housing conditions, domestic violence, and improper termination from various public benefits. Much of my work revolved around interviewing clients and legal research and writing.

The most rewarding experience I had this summer was working with an older gentleman who I will call Mr. G. Mr. G had previously been homeless and was now living in an apartment that was subsidized by the DC government. He reached out to an attorney in our office about the trouble he was having with getting his landlord to make any repairs to the unit. The attorney asked me to investigate and report back. When I went to inspect his apartment later that week, it was in terrible shape. As part of internships with other legal services providers in DC I have inspected a good deal of apartments with housing code violations. This was the worst I have ever seen. The front door did not lock properly so every time Mr. G left his apartment other people would break in and steal his food, clothes, or anything else that was even marginally valuable. When I was there it looked like his bedroom had just recently been ransacked. Even more startling to me was that the landlord had for some reason removed the

burners from the stove and had refused to unclog the sink for nearly six months. As you can imagine, the kitchen was essentially unusable as a result.

I was able to consult with the attorney who had originally spoken with Mr. G to draft a demand letter to the landlord and begin preparing to file a case in Housing Conditions Court. I also worked with Mr. G's case manager to begin the process of finding a new apartment for him in a better part of town. Although he always called me angry about something that his landlord had done or refused to do, he always ended up being so appreciative that someone was actually trying to help him. Through my work, I felt that I could really see the substantial positive impact that an attorney can make in a client's life.

As is clear from the above example, my experience at Bread for the City was incredibly fulfilling. Thank you very much for providing the funding that made this experience possible, and for allowing me to continue to pursue a career in public interest law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Tipping". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Max Tipping
J.D. Candidate, May 2015
The George Washington Law School