

October 26, 2010

Dear Dan Ruben,

This past summer I worked for the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago at their Southside neighborhood office. The Legal Assistance Foundation is the largest free legal aid clinic in the Midwest. They do a huge variety of civil litigation, especially on issues concerning social security benefits, unemployment insurance, subsidized housing, and domestic relations. I had an amazing experience and was able to work with extremely talented attorneys and to learn a lot from them.

As an intern at the Legal Assistance Foundation I did a large range of tasks. I often interviewed clients when they came into the office for the first time. In these interviews I would gather the relevant facts and determine their legal issues and then present this information to all of the attorneys in our office in the biweekly meetings. I also did a great deal of legal research on various issues that would arise in cases, including substantial compliance with a housing settlement agreement, the rights of a minor parent, the federal statutes regarding the Shelter Plus Care program, and a variety of others. My favorite tasks were those with the most responsibility – I was able to write a Motion to Dismiss and a Post-trial brief. Lastly I did a wide variety of office chores such as copying, faxing, checking in with clients, and filing court papers.

I think the most invaluable aspect of my experience this summer was the practical knowledge I gained. I learned a great deal about how cases actually

proceed and the give and take that occurs between the two sides. I was able to observe settlement discussions between attorneys and also to try to get legal issues worked out without the courts myself. I learned how to file court papers and about the various court motions and pleadings that could come up in cases. My internship taught me about the practical aspects of law that cannot be taught in the classroom and I got to observe it all firsthand.

Sincerely,

Megan Fitzpatrick