

August 31, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My experience this summer at Bronx Legal Services has been both enriching and informative. I worked with the General Practice Unit and assisted with Consumer Protection cases, Unemployment Administrative Law Hearings and Employment cases. The Consumer Protection work consisted of advising clients regarding their rights when dealing with credit card companies and debt collectors. We helped them to eliminate any harassment by phone or by mail. In addition, we advised them as to which types of assets are attachable and the types of wages that cannot be garnished. Many of our clients were collecting Social Security or Public Assistance and had no reason to settle with these companies. I also attended Consumer Law Advocates which is a program where lawyers volunteer their time to offer free legal advice regarding consumer cases. I helped with intake and observed the volunteer attorneys counsel clients.

I also performed research for a large employment case. The employer's policy was that all employees could not leave the premises until the manager left for the day. This caused many of the employees to put in overtime hours that they were not paid for. This case is still pending in Federal Court.

Finally, I participated in preparing clients for their Unemployment Administrative Law Hearings. I observed the entire process from client intake to the actual hearings. I learned a good deal about the process and I am considering joining the Unemployment Action Center for the fall semester at Fordham.

I would recommend that any student interested in public interest work consider an internship with Bronx Legal Services. I am deeply grateful to Equal Justice America for this opportunity and this experience has made me more determined that pro bono and public interest work will always be a focus throughout my career.

Sincerely,

Michael Heinemann

Fordham University School of Law May 2012