

Michael C. Pope
Brooklyn Law School
J.D. Expected June 2010

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Re: Michael Pope Spring Equal Justice America Experience

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you so much for assisting me financially with my Spring 2010 internship at the Bronx Defender's Civil Action Practice. Without the financial assistance of the Equal Justice America program, I would not have been able to dedicate as much time to helping individuals with the many legal reentry challenges.

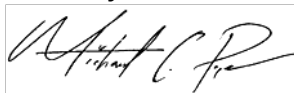
I was able to volunteer my last semester in law school exclusively at the Bronx Defender's Civil Action Practice. I spent 3 days a week volunteering for indigent clients in the South Bronx primarily with their struggle to retain affordable housing. As I had no experience with administrative law in general, or housing law specifically, I was able to learn a tremendous amount on how to best advocate for clients.

Specifically, I worked for a client who was facing eviction because he only lived with his mother in their public housing apartment for 9 months before she passed away (rather than the required 12 months to take over the lease). The client desperately needs to stay in his safe, affordable, and accessible apartment because he also cares for his young son with disabilities. I had many meetings with the clients, worked with him on collecting all required documentation and filing all papers, and will be representing the client at the upcoming eviction hearing.

Being able to use my legal education to actually advocate for someone in need was an incredibly humbling and rewarding experience. The relationships I developed, along with the substantive work experience, will both help me be a stronger advocate for my indigent clients upon graduation. I was selected as an Equal Justice Works Fellow, working within the nonprofit Youth Represent, where I will be able to use many of the skills I developed to continue to advocate for client's reentry needs.

It would have been impossible for me to dedicate myself so extensively to the Bronx Defenders without the financial support from this amazing organization. Thank you so much for making this experience possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Pope", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Michael Pope
Brooklyn Law School