

08/10/2017

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II- Suit 2014  
13540 East Boundary Road',  
Midlothian, Va. 23112

Mr. Ruben:

Working as a fellow for Equal Justice America for the summer of 2017 was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had in my life. I was able to work with underserved populations of people who need help the most. Nothing is more rewarding than working with people who are going through hard times. I will never forget this opportunity and would like to thank everybody from Equal Justice America for their support. This experience made me realize that one of my career goals is to help underserved people with legal assistance.

While working with the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG): Storm Response Unit, I was able to help individuals who are still dealing with issues relating to Hurricane Sandy. The Storm Response Unit deals with a variety of clients from New York. Most of the clients I dealt with were poor individuals who could not afford to hire their own legal counsel. The Storm Response Unit does all legal work for a client that arises from Hurricane Sandy. This includes legal drafting of documents, legal research, community outreach, and advocacy. Working with people who are still recovering from Hurricane Sandy showed me how rewarding it can be to help those in need.

One of the clients that stuck out to me the most was an individual who lost her husband in Hurricane Sandy. Her Husband stayed at their home while she left before the storm. When the wife returned home her husband was found dead. Also, this client's house was partially destroyed due to the storm. The Storm Response Unit has been dealing with this client since the onset of the storm. I was able to help do some research and writing for this client to a community organization that is helping individual's restore their homes in the New York City area. I also was able to speak to this client to gather information. Her story has had a lasting effect on my life because not only did she lose her husband but also part of her home. This client still has the strength to move on in her life and thrive even after these terrible circumstances. We were able to help her gain some assistance in order to restore her home. This was an incredible feeling and it felt great for me to do my part to help her feel whole again.

Without help from Equal Justice America none of this would have been possible. Thanks to Equal Justice America I was allowed to have a phenomenal experience this summer helping represent vulnerable individuals. This is a summer experience that will resonate with me throughout the remainder of my life. I was allowed to serve over 100 people this summer. I

would like to thank all of the people that deal with Equal Justice America for their help in allowing me to have this experience this summer.

With Sincere Thanks,

Steven Paskowitz  
New York Law School '20



August 8, 2017

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

Re: Steven Paskowitz Summer Internship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing with regards to Steven Paskowitz, who interned for the New York Legal Assistance Group's Storm Response Unit (SRU) in the summer of 2017. SRU provides free legal assistance to victims of natural disaster with issues such as insurance claims, government benefits, and related housing or consumer legal problems. Mr. Paskowitz provided critical support to our team by assisting attorneys with case work, researching legal issues and drafting documents, and conducting intakes with new clients.

Mr. Paskowitz did an excellent job overall with his assignments at SRU. He successfully completed all of his tasks and was enthusiastic about taking on additional responsibilities. We were particularly impressed with his high level of professionalism and attention to detail with his work. Mr. Paskowitz was very adept at handling intakes of new clients. He was able to solicit the necessary information on a wide variety of legal issues and displayed the necessary empathy and respect to clients who are victims of a traumatic event.

If you have any questions about Mr. Paskowitz's performance with SRU, I would be happy to discuss further. I may be reached at 212-613-6585 or [wfriedman@nylag.org](mailto:wfriedman@nylag.org).

Very Truly Yours,

William Friedman  
Acting Director, SRU