

August 28, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to thank Equal Justice America for supporting my internship with the Employment Law Project at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) this summer. NYLAG is a legal services organization that provides free legal help in a variety of areas to low-income New Yorkers. The Employment Law Project provides services for employment-related issues, including discrimination in the workplace, wage and hour violations such as failure to pay minimum wage or overtime, and issues with unemployment benefits.

Over the course of my ten-week internship, I conducted intakes with potential clients over the phone, provided advice to callers who we were unable to represent, met with clients who we decided to represent, conducted research on legal issues related to employment law, and drafted client documents for submission to administrative agencies such as the EEOC. I also created informational materials about employee rights and was able to attend a training where one of the attorneys with the Employment Law Project presented on employment issues that affect veterans.

One of the highlights of my internship was preparing for and attending a mediation between a client and her employer. This client had worked for a government employer for over 20 years before she lost her job due to a non-occupational disability that prevented her from working. When her employer terminated her, she retained a right to reinstatement under New York State law, but her employer failed to reinstate her when she applied for such a few years after her termination. Over the course of my internship, I conducted research to support the client's position on both federal and state laws for this mediation. I also completed a document review of the client's personnel file, and was able to find several documents that supported our case. The research I did for this case was featured heavily in the mediation statement that NYLAG submitted and helped support our position during the mediation. In the end, we were able to reach a settlement with the employer that represented about two years of back pay for the client. It was an amazing feeling to contribute to a good outcome for a client, and made me feel inspired to keep doing this type of work.

Another highlight of my internship was working with clients to draft documents for submission to administrative agencies. I worked closely with one client to write a rebuttal for an investigation of her case by the New York City Commission on Human Rights. This client had been sexually harassed by a coworker while at work and subsequently fired. I read through all the documents that the employer had sent with their answer to the initial complaint, then spoke to the client and asked for her response. I was able to get a sense of the whole picture and learn

some facts that called into question the story that the employer had provided. This matter is still pending with the Commission, but I am hopeful that the client will be able to receive some compensation that will make up for the income she lost due to her coworker's and employer's behavior.

The attorneys with the Employment Law Project provided invaluable support and mentorship during my internship, and helped me develop skills and knowledge that will serve me well in the future. After law school, I intend to pursue a career helping low-wage workers with employment issues, and my experience this summer inspired me to continue along this path.

Thank you again to EJA for providing me with the support to pursue this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wilmsen  
New York University School of Law  
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September 12, 2017

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
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Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing you this letter to tell you about our experience with Liz Fisher this summer. Liz was a wonderful colleague who demonstrated a real commitment to serving the tenants of New York. I want to provide a few examples of how Liz contributed to our organization.

- She helped a senior citizen prepare for a press conference as his case goes to the highest state court of New York and brought greater awareness of the arbitrary and capricious actions of the New York City Public Housing Authority.
- Performed intake providing essential information and made home inspections of potential clients to help obtain repairs.
- Wrote a motion for summary judgment so that our client could continue living in the family home once her relative passed away.
- Assisted with trial preparation to prevent a tenant's eviction.

This is just a small sample of what Liz accomplished. Housing Court is a chaotic place where hundreds of thousands of tenants face losing their home. For several clients Liz was the person they could turn to for information and help. Mobilization for Justice was glad to have her and appreciate the research, writing, and litigation work that is still having an impact long after her time with us has passed.

Sincerely,

Justin R. La Mort, Esq.  
Supervising Attorney – Housing Unit  
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