

Manhattan
Legal
Services

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August 26, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an attorney and the Director of the Comprehensive Rights Unit at Manhattan Legal Services (MLS). Rachel Shapiro was a law student intern working under my supervision during the summer of 2014. I am writing this letter to provide a written evaluation of Rachel's work as an intern with my organization.

During the approximately two months that Rachel interned with MLS, she worked on a range of substantive matters. Rachel was always willing to take on new assignments and to learn new areas of the law. Her primary focus was to work with our clients who have HIV/AIDS with various civil legal matters that they are dealing with. Rachel handled several cases from start to finish and she provided valuable support on some of our larger ongoing cases. Our office is a direct legal services provider with intense client contact. Rachel embraced this model and never hesitated to meet with clients both in our office and in their home, as some clients are homebound. Rachel treated our clients with tremendous respect and listened to their stories to help identify legal issues that we may be able to work on.

A couple of examples of specific matters that Rachel handled included successfully advocating to a public benefits agency to provide full benefits to a couple who were facing eviction without those benefits; negotiating with a landlord's attorney to obtain much needed repairs for a disabled client; researching the impact of personal injury settlement award on an individual with government benefits; among other cases. Rachel was organized, creative and zealous in her efforts to find solutions to our clients' legal matters or to help improve their lives. Rachel also assisted with some larger, longer-term litigation including an anti-discrimination claim against New York State on behalf of HIV+ plaintiffs and an unlawful debt collection practices claim against a landlord and their attorneys on behalf of a low-wage, disabled worker. Rachel performed legal research that was accurately and thoroughly performed and conveyed to us in clear, concise research memos, and she participated in meetings to strategize about the cases.

Manhattan Legal Services

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Peggy Earisman, Director



LSC

Rachel was an asset to our organization and will certainly be an asset to the legal community. She is a pleasure to work with and I am glad that I had the opportunity to do so this summer. Please feel free to contact me at 646-442-3193 if you need any additional information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Molly Doherty', with a stylized, wavy line for the first part of the name.

Molly Doherty

Director Comprehensive Rights Unit