

Ryan D. Murphy

1460 Golden Gate Ave. #15 • San Francisco, CA 94115 • (415) 310-3035 • murphan@uchastings.edu

August 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

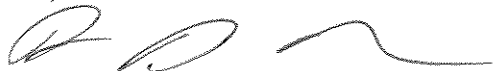
I am writing to describe my work as a law clerk at The Public Interest Law Project (PILP) this past summer. I chose to work at PILP because it engages in impact litigation and advocacy in the field of affordable housing. My experience was rewarding not only because of the work PILP performs as a legal services support center to advocate for affordable housing, but also because I gained valuable litigation skills that will serve me once I become a member of the California Bar next year.

Much of my work at PILP deserves mention. During this summer, PILP devoted much of its efforts to defend the affordable housing obligations present in the Community Redevelopment Law. This is an important endeavor in the wake of the California Legislature's decision to eliminate redevelopment agencies. This monumental change places PILP's work in uncharted legal waters and, therefore, made the substance of my work challenging, useful and intriguing. To aid in these efforts, I drafted memoranda on a diverse variety of legal topics. For example, I researched legal issues related to Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy proceedings. I also contributed to litigation strategy by hypothesizing the likelihood that an intervening party will be held liable for attorney's fees. My tenure at PILP culminated in a detailed report explaining the overarching changes to state mandated affordable housing obligations wrought by the dissolution of redevelopment agencies. PILP intends to use this work in its training materials.

There was also much I gained personally from my summer at PILP. Primarily, my work gave me a new perspective on the importance and complexity of affordable housing issues. I was inspired by the long-standing commitment to social justice held by the staff. Finally, my research and writing skills improved tremendously because I was permitted to draft numerous reports, including reply briefs.

None of this work would have been possible without the generous support of Equal Justice America. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity and for all that your organization does.

Best,



Ryan D. Murphy