

August 13, 2012

Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
1350 East Boundary Road  
Building II, Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan Ruben:

My summer fellowship experience was quite memorable. I worked at the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, located inside the Domestic Violence Courthouse in Chicago, Illinois. During my fellowship I worked on orders of protections, divorce, and parentage cases. When working on orders of protection I was able to interview clients, prepare their paper work, and accompany them to court. I enjoyed being able to stay with the client throughout the process. The clients were often nervous and scared. I was glad to be able to be with them and explain the court process to them. With a couple of the clients I was able to stay with them throughout their time with the clinic. For one client I was able to interview her, prepare her court orders, and accompany her to court for an emergency order of protection. Then I was able to help a staff attorney prepare for her hearing, sit in on client meetings, and attend the hearing. It was a great opportunity to work on a case to its conclusion. I really enjoyed being able to help her throughout the order of protection.

Also, I was able to work with another client on her order of protection and divorce. She was a young mother of two children who was attempting to flee from her abusive husband. On her first day at the clinic, I interviewed her and represented her in court on an emergency order of protection hearing. Following the hearing, her husband filed for divorce. I prepared the petition for divorce and represented her on a status call in the divorce case. I really enjoyed being able to help her obtain the order of protection and represent her in the divorce case. It was very

rewarding to see how she was helping herself and her daughters build a better life.

While working with the divorce staff attorney I was able to sit in on client meetings and draft marital settlement agreements. It meant a lot to me to be able to help these clients move on with their lives and away from their abusers. For one client I was able to sit in on many client meetings and the pre-trial conference for her case. It was reassuring to see how thankful she was that we were helping her obtain a divorce.

Since the clinic is located in the courthouse I saw the many people who came in each day looking for help. Many of them did not have attorneys and did not understand how to navigate the court proceedings. I was glad I was able to help some of them during this difficult time in their lives. I see the need for public interest work now more than ever before.

The opportunity to have a summer fellowship helped me narrow my interests and discover that public interest is truly a career path I would like to pursue. I will never forget the experience I had at the clinic. I enjoyed learning from the staff attorneys and helping all of the clients. Thank you so much for this experience.

All the best,

Shannon Quinn

The John Marshall Law School

May 2013



August 15, 2012

Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
Sent via email to [Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org](mailto:Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org)

**Re: Shannon Quinn, 2012 Summer Intern**

Dear Mr. Ruben:

It is our honor to send a letter of evaluation regarding Shannon Quinn, who interned with our office from May 29, 2012 through August 9, 2012. Our office consists of a) a Clinic that provides representation and advice on Emergency and Plenary Orders of Protection, and b) a Divorce Division providing representation to victims of domestic abuse in divorce and parentage proceedings. Shannon spent 50% of her time with the Clinic and 50% of her time with the Divorce Division. Shannon had a 711 law license, allowing her to appear in court under our supervision

We were very impressed with Shannon's work in both of these capacities. Perhaps the greatest of her strengths was in her ability to interact with the clients. We had several clients report back that they appreciated working with Shannon and even request to work with her again. She was very kind and professional. Shannon also showed great initiative. She would often think of and remember cases that needed work without us having to constantly hand her new assignments. Shannon was insightful and thorough in her evaluation of the cases. Shannon assisted with one of our most complex divorce cases and organized all of the information in a pre-trial memorandum. She helped present the information at a pre-trial conference with the Judge. She also did extensive legal research and drafted a brief regarding deviation from child support guidelines. The brief was helpful as it facilitated settlement in that particular case.

Do not hesitate to contact us with any other questions or concerns. Thank you!

Best Regards,

Kathryn Liss  
Divorce Staff Attorney

Liz Ptacek  
Clinic Staff Attorney