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Mr. Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
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August 1, 2007

Dear Mr. Ruben,

The past ten weeks at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. were a great culmination of my first law school year. I was able to put into play the skills and knowledge that I gained from my courses, and add some skills that are not taught in the classroom.

Not surprisingly, I was asked to put my legal research and writing skills to use. I wrote three memos this summer and hopefully they are on topics that will be useful in another case in the future. The most challenging memo involved aspects of due process under the U.S. Constitution, and I cited a case we discussed in Civil Procedure.

In Civil Procedure we also talked about the process of Discovery, which my Professor called a game. She even had us play a computer game about Discovery to get that metaphor across. While I was able to draft Discovery requests for two clients, for one I also gather the information for Discovery responses. Let the games begin. Although I knew the attorney would double check everything I attached, I wanted to be careful about giving the other side only what we legally had to give, as well as what bolstered our case as to the property dispute. Our client does not have much property, but her husband's threats to take it away and leave her homeless and destitute frightened her. With the goal of retaining her property in mind, I enjoyed going through the large stack of papers she had given us in deciding how to respond. Even more fun was crafting the

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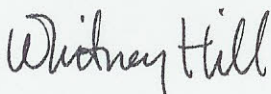
discovery requests for the other side. The attorney in charge praised my work and made few changes.

However, the most rewarding part of the summer was meeting with the clients. Our clients were gracious, hard-working, responsive and caring people. Beyond their gratitude, it was unparalleled to see how a lawyer, sometimes singularly, can help someone who needs it desperately. I will do more than wish that more lawyers were available for those who need but cannot afford their services.

Another of my favorite experiences was attending the free legal clinics held some evenings. TRLA and volunteer attorneys assist the general public with navigating a legal question, situation, or dilemma. The family law side usually got questions regarding child support and child custody, as well as divorces. Many times the advice was to send the applicant to the law library at the courthouse to try a *pro se* divorce, because they did not qualify for free legal services but could not afford regular rates. The stark reality that it is not only the rich who need lawyers but that most lawyers work for the rich is a problem that resurfaced every week.

This summer could have been remarkably different. I was lucky to work with an attorney who welcomed me warmly, gave me high quality assignments, a lot of faith, and was always positive about my work output and grateful for my time and effort. Upon reflection, I think she was the best boss I have ever had (and having worked for 12 years, I have had many). Thank you, Equal Justice America, for making this all possible.

Sincerely,



Whitney Hill

University of Texas School of Law

Exp. graduation 5/2009