

October 22, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I received an Equal Justice America fellowship for my work at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) this past summer. My experience at EBCLC was invaluable to me, and I am very appreciative of Equal Justice America's support.

EBCLC serves low-income East Bay residents through a variety of legal service programs. Over the summer, I worked with the Housing Program, which is among the more litigation focused of EBCLC's departments.

My work with the Housing Program encompassed a wide range of activities. Much of my time was spent drafting legal motions, as well as conducting legal research to support these motions. At any given time I had approximately five clients of my own, with whom I conducted meetings and interviews, and on whose behalf I drafted and filed legal documents, and negotiated with opposing counsel.

Additionally, a large portion of my internship consisted in clinical work with clients. One of the focal points of the EBCLC Housing program is an Eviction Clinic, which occurs twice a week and serves individuals in need of immediate assistance with evictions. The clinic affords interns the ability to work directly with clients in a fast paced atmosphere, conducting interviews, drafting motions, completing fee waivers and other court documents, and assessing whether the client requires longer term assistance with their housing needs. The clinic contributed greatly to my overall experience with EBCLC.

Finally, because I obtained my Law Student Certification at the beginning of the summer, I was afforded the opportunity to prepare for trial, argue motions in court, and conduct depositions. These experiences were entirely new to me, and allowed me to engage with the law, and with clients, in an unfamiliar and very informative context.

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work at EBCLC. My supervisors were exceptional, as were the other interns with whom I worked. The experience allowed me to work directly with clients, something I had only limited experience with prior to the internship, and greatly increased my desire to work closely with underserved individuals in the future. Furthermore, my time with the Housing Program was incredibly valuable to my overall understanding of poverty law, and provided an important foundation for my long-term interest in the fields of environmental justice, housing, and homelessness.

I greatly appreciate Equal Justice America's support of my summer internship, and would be happy to answer additional questions about my experience.

Sincerely,

Zoe Loftus-Farren
J.D. Candidate 2011
Berkeley Law