

August 31, 2017

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

RE: Summer Fellowship Experience

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer I had the privilege of interning for Tzedek DC. Tzedek DC is an independent public interest center, placed at UDC David A. Clarke School Law that focuses on serving low-income DC residents, experiencing debt related problems. Interning with Tzedek DC has given me the opportunity to fulfill my goal of engaging in public interest work, while engaging in direct legal services, policy reform and direct legal services.

While I was engaged in general duties involving court observations and mediations, preparing client files, phone calls, client meetings, and case review. Interning with Tzedek DC has given me the experience I hoped to gain as a result of attending UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Interning with Tzedek DC has given me the opportunity to be able to assist in offering aid to some of the most vulnerable members of our society, those facing problems related to debt. During my fellowship experience, I was tasked with drafting hardship declarations for clients through client intake and follow-ups. One particular hardship was done on behalf of a client experiencing consumer debt who, despite being educated and previously employed, was unable to continue work due to complications with pregnancy as a result of a pre-existing condition. Additionally, she had been experiencing intimate partner violence. After drafting her hardship declaration her case was, thankfully, dismissed.

My fellowship also allowed me to work on projects such as the Credit Builder's Alliance national webinar on legal problems arising from debt and what can be done about them. I was tasked with the assignment of organizing and providing research for the materials being presented on behalf of Tzedek DC. In addition to be able to work hand-on with clients, I also engaged in research and writing in order to create an analysis regarding the constitutionality of the suspension of driver's licenses based on debt obligation without inquiry into ability to pay in the District of Columbia.

Tzedek DC has gone above and beyond in allowing me to make the most of my internship and involving me in as much as possible. This has also provided me with the fantastic opportunity to network and engage with other members of the professional community, both legal and otherwise. Additionally, Tzedek DC enabled me to gain much-needed confidence, legal skills, and experience. I am honored to be afforded the opportunity to be able to continue with my work with them in the fall semester, and for as long as they will have me.

LaNise Salley
UDC David A Clarke School of Law, C'2019