

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you and everyone at Equal Justice America (EJA) for your support this summer. My EJA fellowship allowed me the opportunity to fulfill my dreams and obtain and create new career goals. This summer I had the privilege of being an EJA Law Fellow at Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA). CCLA is located in my home town, Plantation Florida, and has a talented and knowledgeable family law unit comprised of several experienced and zealous attorneys. Over my ten week internship, I worked closely with two attorneys in the family law unit who work under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. Most of the clients we assisted were survivors of domestic violence or other crimes who are now seeking civil legal services because of their victimization. My experience as a EJA Law Fellow at CCLA has tremendously helped me grow as a person and as a professional legal advocate for those in most need.

Professionally, my ten weeks at CCLA have pushed me to hone my legal skills both in and outside of the court room. Throughout my internship I have had the opportunity to spend a good amount of time in court rooms observing CCLA attorneys advocating for their clients. I have helped prepare numerous cases for trial from assisting with client intakes, depositions, to final hearings. I was involved in strategic planning for trials and helped determine what witnesses would be best to solidify our cases for our clients. These experiences gave me the opportunity to see and participate in the behind the scenes work lawyers do in preparation for litigation. In addition, my court time provided me with the opportunity to meet several judges on the circuit and learn first-hand how they make rulings and determine evidentiary challenges.

My work outside the court room was equally as instructive for me. Throughout the summer, I drafted over 140 legal documents for over 34 cases, which has greatly improved my legal writing. I have learned the ins and outs of family law pleadings in Broward County and, most importantly, I have learned to trust myself as a legal writer. My supervising attorney challenged me every day with new types of legal pleadings. During review sessions of my drafts, she constantly encouraged me to find my own errors and discuss how the pleadings could be improved or strengthened. These review sessions have been invaluable for my growth as a legal writer.

By far the most gratifying part of my fellowship has been getting to know our clients, hearing their stories, and helping them as they navigate the legal system. I went to law school knowing I wanted to work directly with clients in my future career and my time at CCLA has been filled with direct client interaction. Throughout the summer, I have had the opportunity to assist on several cases from beginning to end. These cases showed me how brave and determine our clients are when facing the difficult situations they are in. Whether it be testifying against their abusers in court or taking the first steps in removing themselves from dangerous

relationships, I have witnessed some remarkable moments, both high and low, that remind me why I am here and why I am passionate and committed to this work.

I am thankful to both EJA and CCLA for this opportunity. This summer has solidified my commitment to public interest work and has helped me define what work I hope to do after graduation.

Thank you.

Victoria Sexton
J.D. Candidate, 2019
Georgetown University Law Center

COAST TO COAST
LEGAL
AID 
SOUTH FLORIDA

Steven R. Jaffe
Chairperson

Sherylle Francis
Secretary

Margaret McMorrow
Past Chairperson

Jeffrey M. Wank
Vice Chairperson

Arnold Nazur
Treasurer

Barbara J. Prager
Executive Director

July 20, 2018

Dan Ruben, Executive Director

Equal Justice America

c/o Katie Toman, Office Manager

Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

RE: Victoria Sexton

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Coast to Coast Legal Aid would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for awarding Victoria Sexton a Summer 2018 Fellowship, and for making our program the beneficiary of her incredible work ethic and talent.

In the Family Law Unit, we first represent victims of intimate partner violence at their Injunction for Protection hearing, and then continue to represent them in their related family law case. Victoria works on our Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant which emphasizes the provision of holistic legal services to victims to also include any additional civil legal matters with which the client needs assistance. As a result, Victoria has worked on a wide variety of cases and drafted a wide variety of pleadings throughout the summer.

Victoria shows great interest in our clients, and is anxious to assist them with every aspect of their case. She helps with Intakes and sits with the Attorneys during client phone calls and interviews. She understands case progression and motion practice. Her pleadings are well-crafted. When a question of law arises, Victoria volunteers to conduct thorough legal research. When uncertain of how to proceed, Victoria asks questions and then immediately masters the concept. She's a quick study.

Victoria observes our Attorneys in depositions and Court hearings almost daily. This summer, she has balanced the demands of her internship extraordinarily well. She has shown herself to be

■ 491 N. State Rd. 7 | 2nd Floor | Plantation, FL 33317

☎ (954) 736-2400 ■ (954) 736-2482

✉ P.O. Box 120970 | Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312-0016

🌐 www.coasttocoastlegalaid.org



a great team player. Victoria's attendance has been stellar. She is punctual, and puts in a full day, often staying late to complete tasks or case discussions.

We have discussed the possibility of having Victoria return to us as an Attorney and work with us in the future. She has some creative ideas for filling gaps in legal services for underserved populations in Broward County. We are hopeful that her concepts come to fruition.

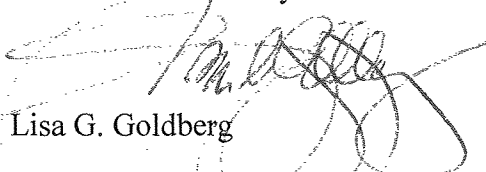
Victoria has been a wonderful summer fellow. She has a delightful personality which has endeared her to our clients and staff alike. Victoria is a uniquely mature, intelligent, thoughtful and insightful legal fellow. It has been our pleasure to host her.

Sincerely,



Mindy Jones

Lead VOCA Attorney



Lisa G. Goldberg

Supervising Attorney, Family Law