

August 9, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I would like to express my gratitude to Equal Justice America's support of my legal internship this summer and to summarize my fellowship experience. I spent the past ten weeks working with the Group Representation Unit at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A. Brooklyn A represents tenants and tenant associations in affirmative and defensive litigation in Brooklyn Housing Court in an attempt to protect them from the mass gentrification occurring in Brooklyn.

As an intern, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the often-chaotic world that is practicing housing law in Brooklyn. Two of the most eye-opening aspects of my internship were my trips to housing court and tenant association meetings. I became very familiar with Brooklyn Housing Court this summer, visiting frequently to file motions or observe trials. While I gained a lot of legal knowledge regarding HP and 7A proceedings, perhaps most illuminating was the actual experience of waiting in line for security, then elevators, and finally sitting in a courtroom, sometimes for hours on end, for the judge to get to our case. This was an experience I shared with many Brooklynites, several of whom waited all day, had no legal representation, and were facing hefty payments or eviction. I am glad to have been able to glimpse a side of the court system about which I knew little and to better understand the legal and logistical struggles of individuals facing eviction.

The highlight of my internship experience was attending tenant association meetings and witnessing community lawyering at work. At tenant association meetings I was able to meet the tenants in their own homes, which allowed me to better understand them as people, as well as to see firsthand some of the conditions with which they were living. I heard stories from older tenants who had been fighting against injustice for years and who refused to give up on the fight for their homes. As many of the tenants we represent speak Spanish, I was able to use my language abilities to speak with them in the language they were most comfortable with and translate when necessary. By observing the interactions among the lawyer, community organizer, and tenants, I saw how important each is when battling housing displacement.

Thanks to Equal Justice America's funding, I was able to spend ten weeks learning from the housing attorneys and community organizers at Brooklyn A. In addition to developing my legal research and writing skills and learning about substantive housing law, I was also able to experience the daily life of a community lawyer and the highs and lows which are a part of that life. I am grateful for this opportunity and for the funding which helped make it possible.

Sincerely,

Katherine Herold
New York University School of Law
Class of 2020



August 1, 2018

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

Re: Katherine Herold

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Ashley K. Marullo, and I am a Senior Staff Attorney at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A. I was Katherine Herold's supervising attorney this past summer during Ms. Herold's internship.

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A represents tenants and tenant associations in affirmative and defensive litigation in Brooklyn Housing Court. It is Brooklyn A's mission to protect tenants from mass gentrification occurring in Brooklyn, NY. It was an absolute pleasure having Ms. Herold spend this summer working with our tenants and tenant associations in this fight.

Ms. Herold spent her summer drafting multiple answers for nonpayment eviction proceedings, a rebuttal affirmation in support of a complaint for reduction in services with the Department of Homes and Community Renewal (DHCR), and a motion for summary judgment in a holdover eviction proceeding for a rent-stabilized tenant. She conducted legal research on roommate laws, harassment, breach of the warranty of habitability, and fair use and occupancy. She attended court appearances for oral arguments on motions, and multiple trials in nonpayment evictions and HP cases. Ms. Herold also attended many tenants' association meetings in the evenings.

Throughout her summer with Brooklyn A, I found Ms. Herold to be professional, hard-working, skilled in writing and legal research, and engaging in conversations about litigation strategy. Her interpersonal skills are great, and she was able to confidently and professionally engage with clients, attorneys, and judges. She was always punctual and dependable, and provided quality work product. Ms. Herold takes constructive criticism extremely well and utilizes it to improve her work. She understands the concepts and social justice issues that many low income clients face, and she actively engaged in conversations about how to address these issues.

I was lucky to have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Herold and be a part of her growth and development as an attorney. She will make a great addition to the Attorney Bar, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the future.

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THOMAS McC. SOUTHER, BOARD CHAIR
MARTIN S. NEEDELMAN, ESQ., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF COUNSEL



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
SHRIVER TYLER MACCRATE CENTER FOR JUSTICE

If you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (718)487-2372.

Very truly yours,

Ashley K. Marullo, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney

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