

August 10, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My summer clerkship with Community Legal Services of Southeast Los Angeles County was an incredibly rewarding experience that has helped shape my professional goals. Community Legal Services (CLS) is an organization in Los Angeles and Orange County that provides low-income families and individuals legal services. In addition to the four different offices located in southern California, CLS runs various clinics in courthouses that range from domestic violence clinics to unlawful detainer clinics. I was initially inspired to apply to this legal aid office because I am interested in homelessness advocacy and wanted hands on experience in using the law to assist those who suffer from issues that frequently lead to homelessness, such as domestic abuse and disabilities. Fortunately, I was placed in the Norwalk Office, where our staff predominantly runs the domestic violence clinic located in Whittier, California. The domestic violence clinic is highly impacted in this area, so my days were often split between the domestic and the Norwalk office.

As a law clerk, I gained invaluable experience through my work with clients. At the domestic violence clinic, I would assist clients with requests for protective orders against their abusers by taking their statements and helping file paperwork. The clinic allowed me to learn how to extract sensitive information from clients, presentation it in a way that is appealing to a court, while showing compassion for their struggles. These skills were again practiced in the Norwalk office where I assisted staff with client intake appointments and general inquiries from walk-ins. These offices also highly focused on family law, which is an area of study that I had not considered as a career but was fascinated by once I began work.

The mentorship within the office was what made this experience truly incredible. Several attorneys and paralegals took me under their wing and helped make me feel like an important part of the work they do. One staff attorney allowed me to accompany her to multiple hearings and negotiations for clients, so I was able to see what the paperwork or client intakes I completed resulted in. The staff also helped me love each interaction with a client, regardless of how difficult the situation. Taking pride in assisting those who need help the most is something I will cherish for the rest of my professional career.

The Equal Justice America Fellowship allowed me to explore an incredible opportunity that otherwise I may have not been able to. I am so grateful that this fellowship allowed me to grow as an aspiring public interest attorney and generally as an advocate for those in need.

Respectfully,

Taylor Feher
Santa Clara School of Law
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2020



Norwalk Office
11834 E. Firestone Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650-2901
FAX (562) 863-8853
(562) 864-9935

August 20, 2018

Emma Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundry Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Evaluation of Taylor Feher, Summer Law Clerk

Dear Ms. Ruben,

My name is Anthony Filer. I am the Directing Attorney of Community Legal Services. Community Legal Services is a legal aid office with offices in Compton and Norwalk, California. We provide free legal services to low income residents of approximately 18 cities in Southeast Los Angeles County. Our legal priority areas are family law, government benefits, housing law and consumer law. In addition to staffing our Compton and Norwalk offices, we operate Domestic Violence Clinics at both the Compton and Whittier Superior Courthouses, the Self-Help Center at the Compton courthouse and Landlord-Tenant and Debt Collection Clinics at the Norwalk courthouse.

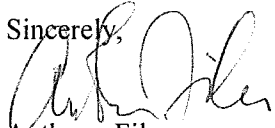
Taylor worked in our Norwalk office this summer, starting her day at our Domestic Violence Clinic in the Whittier courthouse, then coming into the Norwalk office to work directly with our staff attorneys in the afternoon. She also conducted client interviews with staff paralegals on several Mondays. One of the most important programs that we administer is the Domestic Violence Clinic, providing assistance to clients in requesting Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment and Elder Abuse Restraining Orders. At this clinic, Taylor interviewed clients, assisted them with the preparation of pro per legal documents and advised and counseled them in the court processes they would soon experience. The work that Taylor did was always competent and professional. Taylor developed a professional and helpful rapport with our staff and with our clients at the clinic.

At the office, Taylor conducted client interviews with clients in several areas of law other than DV, including family law, government benefits and housing law. Under the supervision of our staff attorneys, she conducted legal research, prepared legal pleadings and provided advice and counsel to clients. Taylor was always thorough and proficient in the legal research and work that she performed for our attorneys and for her clients. She produced quality and professional work. Here, as at the clinic, Taylor had an excellent rapport with all of the CLS staff members and volunteers, and with our clients.

Taylor became a very valuable member of the Community Legal Services staff and an asset to the

community that we serve. It was a pleasure to have Taylor work with us this summer. If you have any questions, or need further information as part of the evaluation of the work that she did with us, please don't hesitate to contact me at afiler@legal-aid.com or by phone at (562) 293-1646.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Filer', written in a cursive style.

Anthony Filer
Directing Attorney