

October 19, 2019

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

Dear Dan,

This summer I was honored to be an EJA fellow interning with Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, an office of Greater Boston Legal Services, in housing and public benefits. I began my internship on 5/28/2019, and finished it on 8/13/2019. I found the internship and my work as an EJA fellow to be a fascinating and rewarding learning experience that has allowed me to serve the same community I grew up in, as a Cambridge native.

Massachusetts housing law has been a particularly new area for me, as the procedural rules and timeline in housing court is fast paced and unique. During my internship I conducted intake appointments, and learned how to collect information from clients that is useful in forming legal defenses and providing counsel. I had a chance to serve many clients this summer.

One client I helped was facing eviction when a large landlord claimed she owed thousands of dollars in back rent after she moved from one of their properties to another. Through an examination of rent ledgers, and a review of what kinds of fees a landlord could legally charge a tenant for, we were able to prove she owed zero dollars in rent, and get the eviction case dismissed.

Additionally, I assisted a family with an eviction issue in public housing. The management company was attempting to evict them for having too many occupants in the unit, despite being aware that the family was living there for a period of years. After they secured a larger unit nearby, we made sure the eviction case against them was dismissed to make sure their move to their new home went smoothly.

Another client I helped in public housing had their rent share increased past what they were able to pay. This was due to a calculation error in a private income reporting service that the landlord had contracted with. Our client was not a native English speaker, and was unable to deal with the complicated and fastidious process for disputing the reported income. After working with them to submit the correct information, the false income was removed, the rent was re-calculated retroactively, and our client could afford to stay in their home.

Finally, I have also had the chance to take on some valuable research projects. I worked for months on research for a case my supervisor had taken on. Our client was facing eviction for criminal actions of their partner which they were not aware of. We had to develop extensive legal

research to make an argument that the actions of the partner were out of their control, and that the client should not be evicted for the actions of another.

I am grateful that I have been able to embark on such a rewarding journey this summer. Learning so much about the law and being to help people in need in my community to keep their housing has been a wonderful experience. I am thankful for the support that EJA has given me through the fellowship grant, which helped me to afford to do this work this summer as an unpaid intern. I am also honored to count myself as an EJA fellow, working with so many other aspiring lawyers to create positive change in our country.

Many Thanks,
Rozman Lynch
Boston University School of Law
Class of 2021