

October 11, 2010

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to thank you for the generous fellowship I received this past summer. I had a wonderful experience working with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center and it would not have been possible without the financial support from Equal Justice America.

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center works to fight discrimination in housing matters and the majority of its clients are low-income. In response to the housing crisis, the organization also recently started foreclosure and predatory lending prevention outreach. Having previously worked in legal services before attending law school, I did not expect to be surprised by the clients' stories or situations. However, I was shocked upon learning about the many instances of blatant discrimination still taking place.

It was gratifying to work with such a friendly and welcoming staff. The attorneys and support staff tried to include me as much as possible in their cases and projects. In most cases, the clients had contacted many other organizations and advocates and were now on their last chance. I particularly enjoyed contacting clients to conduct intake interviews or gather more information about their pending case. The clients appreciated having someone listen to their story and were very grateful. It gave me hope knowing the Fair Housing Center would do everything possible to assist them.

My favorite experience involved drafting a motion for a case involving discrimination based on race and source of income. The client, denied housing by a landlord due to his race and use of Section 8, was forced to move into a homeless shelter. The stress and move into the shelter ultimately cost him his job as a security guard. The case highlighted the horrible effects of discrimination and how it impacts many different facets of a person's life.

This summer experience confirmed my desire to work in public interest law and have a personally fulfilling career. I am already planning ahead and have asked to return to the Fair Housing Center to volunteer over winter break. I look forward to continuing the work I became involved in this summer.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Loftus  
University of Connecticut  
J.D., expected 2012