

August 15, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you again for awarding me the Summer 2012 Equal Justice America Legal Fellowship. This award played a significant role in helping me stay afloat financially this summer during my internship at the Loyola Law Clinic in New Orleans, LA.

I always thought about becoming a public interest lawyer, but after this summer I am more sure than ever that this is the career path I want to pursue. I was fortunate enough to work with some of the most impressive, dedicated, sincere, and inspiring social justice and civil rights attorneys. Bill Quigley and Davida Finger considered me to be part of their team and treated me like a full-time employee, not just a student summer intern. I was given real responsibilities in each of my cases and often took the lead in facilitating many situations. The experience was more diverse than I could have expected and it really opened my eyes to strengths, interests, and social issues that I had little exposure to.

Moreover, it was the first time I had real in depth client interaction. In a case where I helped prepare the record and filing for class action certification, it was incredible to meet and read thank you letters from a handful of the nearly 500 individuals who would be impacted as a result of this case. For another case, I answered calls at all hours of the day and spoke with several defendants who were facing criminal convictions, were concerned about their cases, and needed support as they went through the lengthy criminal justice process. All of these expressions of gratitude can go a long way, especially in the public interest field when you are working long hours on small paychecks.

Support from organizations like Equal Justice America is also meaningful, as it allows students such as myself to pursue critical social justice work and serve underprivileged populations. As a law student eager to enter the public interest sector, and a former Development Associate at a nonprofit organization, I am truly appreciative of EJA's support. I very much look forward to a continued relationship. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Justine Palacios  
Tulane Law School  
Class of 2014