

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

It has been a great a pleasure of mine to spend the summer working here in the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia's Senior Law Center. I cannot thank Equal Justice America enough for providing me with the opportunity to serve the citizens of my hometown. Without your help, I am afraid many more people would be without the help they so need and deserve.

Here at the Senior Law Center we deal exclusively with clients who are over the age of 60. These individuals face challenges even greater than the other people who seek the help of Legal Aid. Often times, the senior citizens we serve struggle with illness and disabilities. Coupled with their physical hardships are often times financial hardships as well. A lot of the seniors we work with live on an extremely limited budget from month to month. With the mounting costs of health care and medication, finding enough money to properly feed and clothe oneself can be tremendously difficult. When faced with a legal problem, these seniors can find themselves in a very troublesome position.

It is easy for the well off citizens of my area, especially the younger generations, to take for granted our abilities to easily walk, read, write and communicate with one another. With such a self-centered view of the world it becomes easy for people to expect everyone out in the world to be able to take care of themselves. The reality of the situation does not match this worldview. Many people are not blessed with the same opportunities and talents. We cannot allow these ideas to remain in our communities as the cases of individuals' rights being swept under the rug are becoming more prevalent each day.

After having worked in this office, I will never take for granted the health and abilities that I have been blessed with. I will never take for granted my grandparents and other elderly members of my family or community. By spending time helping the senior citizens of Hampton Roads I have had the chance to walk in their shoes and see the world through their eyes. The folks over 60 years old make up an amazing generation of Americans who helped to shape this country into what it is today. We owe them enormous appreciation for what they have done for us. Now it is our turn to pay back the favor.

Again, thank you so much for the amazing summer I have spent serving the senior members of my community. With great hope I wish that Equal Justice America will be able to fund many more students on their missions to use their amazing talents to help those individuals in our communities who need it most. I shall carry my experience with me for the rest of my career and life.

Truly Yours,

Michael P. Gembitsky
Appalachian School of Law
Class of 2010