

Dear Dan ,

Thank you so much for this opportunity. For many students, working in public interest is a passion but often times there are financial constraints on the type of work that law students can afford to do. Without this fellowship, I would not have been able to fully enjoy my internship. This summer, I worked as a law clerk at the Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights in San Francisco. I specifically worked in the Economic Justice section but was able to leverage my abilities in both the Racial and Immigrant Justice sections.

Under the Economic Justice Program, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights has a Legal Clinic for Entrepreneurs. I had never imagined that I would enjoy doing transactional business law. However, because I am a JD/MBA candidate with a focus on finding business solutions to social justice issues, I thought this would be a perfect fit. Indeed, it was a perfect fit. This has been the best internship of my career and I have gained a tremendous amount of experience.

The main reason I enjoyed my summer internship was the type of clients I was able to represent and advise. The Lawyers' Committee offers free business law services to low income individuals with an emphasis on race, gender, class, sexuality, immigration status and one's ability to provide jobs back into the community. Working at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights has given me considerable insight on how life-changing starting one's own business can be. Public interest can sometimes be draining and discouraging, but the Legal Clinic for Entrepreneurs helps low-income people at a pivotal time in their life. This is a time where people are getting back on their feet and dictating their own future. Many of my clients had restaurants, hair salons, day cares, auto repair shops and fashion businesses. These are entities that we often overlook, but generate a ton of revenue that is then reinvested into the community.

The Lawyers' Committee has also exposed me to the different ways economic justice intersects with the criminal justice system. For example, there are a growing number of formerly incarcerated women of color who are entering the workforce and had no access to economic services or guidance. For many formerly incarcerated women of color, they are dealing with three different identities: gender, race, and incarceration status. Thus, sometimes it is not ideal to work in a minimum wage job or enter into a corporate environment where your humanity is not recognized. I am passionate about the Lawyers' Committee's economic justice model for microenterprise.

While Black women are the fastest growing prison population, they are also the fastest growing entrepreneurs. Lawyers' Committee recognizes that entrepreneurship can be used to create communities with independent economies and to move the most vulnerable populations out of poverty. Many of my clients were Black women who were either unable to get a job because of race and gender or had other familial obligations that limited their ability to work a 9-5.

One of my clients was a Congolese immigrant woman with two children. She was also a domestic violence survivor and had been in multiple abusive relationships. My client was passionate about bringing Congolese beauty products and artifacts to Oakland natives. When she arrived at the Lawyers' Committee, her eyes lightened up when she saw that I would be doing her intake and helping her throughout her entity formation. Working with her reassured me that my presence as a Black woman in the legal profession was invaluable. It is extremely important for lawyers to be able to relate to their client and understand the complex cultural, financial, and social barriers the clients have overcome. I was able to enhance my interpersonal skill while working at the Lawyers' Committee.

During my internship, I met with at least 4 clients a week. I had the opportunity to meet a Chinese couple who was just starting out a café business. Unfortunately, they signed an unconscionable contract and were potential victims of fraud. Normally, the legal clinic for entrepreneurs only handles transactional law issues such as: entity formation, employment, contracts, commercial leases, and intellectual property. Due to my strong advocacy and my ability to relate to the client, I drafted a memorandum for referral so that we could match the client with Pro-bono attorneys. After two months of waiting, a firm was able to pick up the clients and assist them with assessing potential fraud and litigation claims. This is the first time the Lawyers' Committee got a firm to take on a fraud and misrepresentation litigation case.

Lastly, my most prized experience is my work under Racial Justice. A 5-year old Black boy was sent home because the school believed his hairstyle was extreme and distracting. He had a regular African American haircut but was targeted, embarrassed, and sent home. Other students who were White and Asian had similar hairstyles but were not punished like the Black boy was. I was able to draft multiple complaints to different agencies alleging racial discrimination in a private, Catholic school. This case received national attention and I am very proud of my work on it.

I am a zealously advocate for justice, and I will continue to dedicate my life to helping the underserved. Thank you so much for all that you do! Your work not only impacts my life, but also impacts the lives of those I and so many other law students work with.

Nnennaya Amuchie
JD/MBA, Santa Clara University C/O 2016

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August 24, 2015

Dear Mr. Ruben,

It has been our great pleasure to host Nnennaya Amuchie as a law clerk this summer at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. In this role, Nnennaya provided important legal services to clients through the Community Empowerment and Economic Justice Project's direct services program, Legal Services for Entrepreneurs. She conducted intake interviews with 15 clients, assessed and prioritized their legal issues, strategized with Lawyers' Committee staff attorneys about how to best address the clients' needs, and providing advice and counsel to clients with the staff attorneys. She drafted business contracts tailored specifically for low-income small business clients and spent time with clients explaining these nuances. She also conducted research on areas of business law relevant to low-income small business client needs, including state and federal regulations for clothing producers, retailers, and businesses developing products for children.

Nnennaya expressed great enthusiasm and interest in learning about all aspects of our work at the Lawyers' Committee. She accompanied staff attorneys on "walking legal office hours," legal clinics, and workshops throughout neighborhoods in San Francisco and Oakland. She also volunteered to work in an area outside of her assigned program area because of her interest in one of our education cases. She was instrumental in the filing of a federal administrative complaint of race discrimination against a school by conducting factual and legal research and drafting sections of the complaint. Nnennaya was extremely resourceful in her research, leaving no stone

uncovered. Her excellent research led to the development of new legal theories and approaches to the case.

In short, Nnennaya embraced every task, large and small. She was a great addition to the staff for the summer, and we are confident she will be a strong legal advocate for many throughout her legal career. Please let us know if you have any questions about Nnennaya's work at the Lawyers' Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Weiser Bezoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" being the most prominent.

Jennifer Weiser Bezoza, Esq.
Director, Education Advocacy