

August 25, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Equal Justice America

Attn: Dan Ruben, Executive Director

Re: Fellowship Letter

Dear Mr. Ruben

Due to the generosity of Equal Justice America, I was able to work full time at Lincoln Square Legal Services, Inc., this summer. Through this internship, I provided legal assistance to low-income taxpayers in the New York City area, learned a great deal about tax law, and gained experience in working with real clients. Prior to this internship, I had never considered tax law as a career path, but during my time at the Tax Law clinic, I developed an interest in this area of law. Tax law encompasses so many other concerns, including civil rights and constitutional law, especially in New York where residents may lose their driver's license if their liability is too high.

For many of the clients I worked with at LSLS, their legal issues with the IRS or New York State had put their lives on hold. Most people don't realize that there is potential to significantly reduce one's tax liability because the access to this information can be hard to obtain and understand, and successfully completing such requests can be difficult and time-consuming. Without the legal advice and assistance of the students and supervising attorneys at LSLS, many of our clients may have faced mounting penalties or seizure of their tax refunds and other assets.

I was truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work at LSLS this summer. Not only was I able to work with real clients, I was also privileged to have worked under amazing supervision. The supervising attorney at the Tax Clinic is a professor and tax expert who is passionate about advocating for clients' rights. Under her supervision, I gained a strong education in tax law and learned a great deal about client advocacy and client relations.

The financial support from EJA allowed me to dedicate my summer to working full time at a public interest clinic. Clinics like LSLS provide incredible support and assistance to low-income clients and without financial support from organizations like EJA, it would be incredibly difficult to attract students to this kind of work. I am extremely grateful to EJA for supporting students who wish to pursue public-interest work.

Sincerely,



Megha Dharia

Fordham University School of Law

J.D. Candidate, May 2020