

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to describe my experience as a summer legal intern at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice and to thank Equal Justice America for the support I was given that made it possible.

The LCCR is dedicated to fighting race and nation of origin discrimination; they have handled housing, police brutality, voting rights, and employment discrimination in Massachusetts since 1968. This summer I had the pleasure to work along side the LCCR's very capable attorneys on a myriad of legal issues, I was also able to see first hand how a privately funded non profit is run and the dual hats many of the attorneys wear in their roles as advocates for their clients and managers of a non profit.

Being able to work hand in hand with the Rahsaan Hall, the deputy director, on a housing discrimination was incredibly rewarding and eye opening. As I began work on the case, the clients were beginning to be prepared for depositions. My role included researching some of the legal claims we had made in our complaint and issues that arose during the deposition preparations. Being able to observe the attorneys prepare our clients and glean the weaknesses of our case in real time was an invaluable experience. Watching and participating in the process of hearing our clients' story with an objective view and then analyzing the strengths, weaknesses, and risks of continuing was a truly transformative moment in my legal career.

Another aspect of this internship that I really valued was the role I had in the intake process at the LCCR. I was responsible for speaking to and getting the facts from all the potential clients that contacted our offices. Beyond merely writing down the stories and trouble of these clients I was tasked with gleaning what legal issues were presented, how sever they were, what potential problems there were in the claims and how cooperative of a client they would make. Presenting and advocating for these people at our weekly staff meetings was a trial by fire process that strengthened my oral advocacy skills and confidence. Sitting in a room with my peers and supervisors as questions are asked from every corner regarding the potential clients' claim was an experience that required focus, planning, and preparation. As I would complete the intakes, I would have to simultaneously probe

for legal issues as well as get the necessary details that could later be the answers to a question asked from a supervisor that may lead to a tangential issue that could either prevent our office from taking the case or, in some cases, lead our office to be more likely to take the person on as a client.

Through this internship I deepened my understanding of the role that a lawyer can play in promoting social and economic equality, I further developed my ability to better help and inform my future clients by more effectively questioning and analyzing the facts and stories presented. Thank you for allowing me to work alongside the LCCR and our clients in fighting race and national origin discrimination this summer.

Sincerely,

Aezad Aftab

Suffolk University Law School

Class of 2014