

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This past summer I worked as an Equal Justice America Fellow at the Chicago Legal Clinic. This internship was an amazing learning experience for me. My supervising attorney provided legal assistance in the areas of divorce, probate, child custody, ex-offender advocacy and domestic violence. The clients that I worked with experienced any number of these issues.

The majority of my client interaction was for intake assessments or interviews with those individuals petitioning for executive clemency. I particularly enjoyed the clemency interviews that I conducted. Over the course of 3-4 interviews, information was compiled about the petitioners that spanned their entire lives. I learned not only about the criminal history of these individuals, but also their childhoods, schoolings, families, relationships, work histories and present life circumstances. It was fascinating to learn all of the different circumstances that surrounded their criminal behavior.

Aside from interviewing clients, I also participated in various legal processes. I assisted in the drafting of court documents, preparing for court proceedings, corresponding with clients and counsel, and researching legal issues. I look forward to applying the skills and knowledge that I gained from this internship to future legal opportunities.

When I began my internship I didn't realize how rewarding a public interest position would be for me. But since being given the opportunity to provide low cost legal services, and to work with other individuals that are dedicated to the same mission, I feel like our team was really able to make a difference in the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Alexis Chmell
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2011
DePaul University College of Law