

121 W. Chestnut
Apartment 605
Chicago, IL 60610
September 3, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I want to thank you for making my summer public interest internship possible. I just returned to Chicago for my third year of law school, after spending the summer in Washington, D.C. at the Legal Aid Society. This was my second summer receiving funding from Equal Justice America, last summer I worked at Life Span Center for Legal Services in Chicago, and both internships exceeded my expectations. As a side note, I wanted to let you know that I was able to continue on at Life Span during the past school year, working slightly less than half time for a public interest practicum.

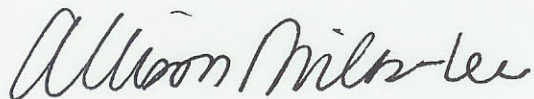
This summer, from the first day, the attorneys and staff at the Legal Aid Society (LAS) welcomed me and the other legal interns into the organization, providing us with support and challenging us. One of the reasons I decided to work at LAS this summer was so I could focus again on Family Law, but also be exposed to different types of public interest law. LAS also has a Housing, Public Benefits, and a new Appellate Unit. Each unit is staffed with a team of wonderful lawyers, and had two interns assigned to work almost exclusively with the unit over the summer. Caroline Boucher, my Family Law co-intern, is also an Equal Justice America grant recipient. During our LAS orientation, we heard presentations from representative attorneys from all the units, and throughout the summer, I got to learn about housing and public benefits cases that other interns were working on back in the intern room. In addition, whenever I encountered a non family law-specific question with one of our family law clients, I was able to discuss the issue with an attorney from another unit. For example, several of our clients struggled with disabilities and payment of child support, and they often came in with stacks of confusing paperwork from Social Security, the child support enforcement office, and their jobs. Public benefits attorneys taught me how to sort through the paperwork and recognize potential problems for our clients.

Last summer, and during the school year at Life Span, I spent the bulk of my time interviewing clients, preparing affidavits and other court documents and accompanying Spanish-speaking clients to court. My experience at LAS this summer really helped

complete my understanding of what public interest lawyers do on a daily basis. This summer I was more likely to get a research assignment than to meet individually with a client. I was able to develop legal reasoning that was incorporated into the attorneys' briefs and motions (or, sometimes, to draft the briefs themselves!), then accompany the attorneys to court along with the clients to see my research in action. I think both organizations did a great job with their interns, but utilized them in different ways: Life Span left the longer term research to the lawyers and had the interns get hands-on involved in daily client work, while Legal Aid gave interns longer term research projects and dealt with more client contact themselves. I look forward to working in both capacities as a public interest lawyer.

I knew that I planned to go into public interest law when I entered law school, but now I am especially committed to direct services, litigation work. Thank you so much again for providing the financial support that made it possible for me to spend my summer doing the work I love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Miles-Lee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Allison Miles-Lee
Northwestern University School of Law
Class of 2008