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August 24, 2015

SENT VIA E-MAIL (katie@equaljusticeamerica.org)

Mr. Dan Ruben
13540 East Boundary Road Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

RE: *Equal Justice America Fellowship Summer 2015*

Dear Mr. Ruben

As you know, I was placed at Legal Services of Greater Miami as a Law Clerk in the Housing and Tenant Rights Division. I spent the summer surrounded by skilled attorneys who are completely devoted to public interest work. I was provided direction, support and feel as though I have grown a lot as a law clerk and student.

There were quite a few memorable clients that I worked with over the summer, but I am going to illustrate two that I consider to be particularly impactful on my life. The first client that stands out to me was an elderly bed ridden woman with numerous physical and mental disabilities. I was given the opportunity to go to that client's home to conduct an interview and take pictures in support of our reasonable accommodation request for extra time to move out. After speaking with the client it became very clear that her current apartment complex did not renew her lease based solely on her status as a Section 8 participant. Further investigation revealed that the client was not the only person being evicted for the same discriminative reasoning. I reported my findings to my supervising attorney and we decided not only to take on the original client, but also anyone else being discriminated against for participating in Section 8.

Another client called our office concerned that his children were going to be removed from his lease. The Housing Unit team decided to assign the case to me for investigation. It was the first case that I was in charge of the primary research and investigation. After going through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, the local Section 8 Administrative Plan, and speaking with the client's building manager I was able to resolve the issue and find law supporting the client's right to have the children listed on his lease.

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Overall, this summer was an amazing learning experience for me. I feel like I was given a wide variety of tasks including, but not limited to: interviewing clients, researching and writing legal memoranda, representing clients at Administrative Hearings, and community outreach. I attended various trainings involving other fields of public interest and I learned the differences between individual lawyering and community lawyering. This placement definitely enhanced my desire to find a career in public interest.

Sincerely,



Amanda B. Powell
J.D. Candidate 2017
University of Miami School of Law

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July 21, 2015

SENT VIA E-MAIL (katie@equaljusticeamerica.org)

Ms. Katie Toman, Office Manager
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

**RE: Amanda Powell
Summer 2015 Fellowship**

Dear Ms. Toman:

The purpose of this letter is to provide Equal Justice America with an evaluation of Amanda Powell's internship at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. ("Legal Services"). Amanda is working with me in our Tenants' Rights Project.

From day one, Amanda has embodied the mission of Legal Services: being passionately committed to equal justice. Because of her background as a victim advocate in Arizona, Amanda is well equipped to represent our clients. She treats everyone with dignity and respect, even in the most challenging of cases. The other attorneys in our unit regularly seek out Amanda to help with intake.

Amanda's responsibilities also include drafting legal pleadings, writing letters to clients, and researching issues that affect our clients. We often encounter complicated legal issues, but Amanda does not shy away from the opportunity to learn from these opportunities. Under my supervision, she also regularly communicates with the local housing authorities and with opposing counsel in our cases to advocate for our clients' interests.

Recently, an elderly client came to Legal Services because the local housing agency was terminating her from Section 8. The only way the client is able to afford her housing is because she has a Section 8 Voucher. The housing authority tried to terminate the client's housing benefits because she received a lump sum of money from her retirement account. Amanda researched the issue and determined that the housing authority could not terminate the client from Section 8. She contacted the housing agency, presented the research on why the client should not be terminated, and ultimately succeeded. The client will not lose her housing thanks to Amanda's efforts.

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Thank you for giving Amanda the opportunity, as an Equal Justice America Fellow, to serve the most disenfranchised members of our community by being a part of Legal Services. If you have any questions, or if you need any additional information, you may reach me at ewhite@legalservicesmiami.org or at (305) 438-2552.

Regards,



Evian L. White
Attorney at Law

Enclosures as indicated.

cc: Ilenia Sanchez-Bryson, Esq., Directing Attorney (isanchezbryson@legalservicesmiami.org)
File

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