

MEGAN NICHOLE RACE

8/25/15

Dan Ruben
Executive Director, Equal Justice America

Dear Dan,

I want to start by thanking you for the money your organization provided me for my summer fellowship. The grant money helped to cover my living and travel expenses while completing my internship at Amara Legal Center.

My internship at Amara Legal Center convinced me that I want to continue to use my law degree for public service once I graduate law school. Working at Amara Legal Center opened my eyes to the dearth of legal services available to the indigent community here in Washington D.C. Amara Legal Center is the only legal services provider that works specifically with victims and survivors of human trafficking. The attorneys that work at Amara and those that offer their time *pro bono* have all received trauma informed legal training. This specialized training allows these attorneys to have a better relationship with Amara's clients and tailor the legal services that Amara provides.

My internship had three different focuses. The first focus was on preparing, drafting and filing various petitions and motions with district and circuit level courts in DC and Maryland on behalf of Amara's clients. These petitions and motions covered topics such as records expungement, traffic violations, custody issues and protective orders. I also wrote out discovery requests and motions to enter an attorney's appearance. Several of the clients for whom I wrote out records expungement requests, were young women who needed to have their records clear in order to find gainful employment or attend school. The second focus of my internship was on creating administrative tools for Amara Legal Center and its partners. I created a screening tool to help service providers identify victims and survivors of sex trafficking so that they could be referred to Amara for legal help. I also drafted an initial consultation form and a "closing case" letter for Amara's staff attorneys to use for future cases. Additionally, I helped to create a public benefits manual for Amara's staff to reference when they need to refer a client for benefits in the District of Columbia. The third focus of my internship was helping to prepare grant proposals. Amara relies on grants in order to fund its activities and legal services. I was able to work on three different grants this summer. These grants will allow this organization to continue to serve its clients and to take on more clients in the future.

Due to the small size of Amara, I was able to engage in a variety of activities that I might not have gotten to participate in at a larger non-profit or law firm. Though I did not have much direct client interaction, I did see the direct impact of my work. Custody petitions have a direct impact on families. Expunging a person's criminal record has a direct impact on his or her ability to find work. The tasks I completed at Amara had a direct impact on the clients and on Amara's ability to serve its clients in the future.

Thank you again for your support this summer.

Sincerely,
Megan Race
American University Washington College of Law