

August 31, 2011

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer with the help of a fellowship from Equal Justice America I was able to successfully complete an internship with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. Through this experience I have gained valuable legal experience and knowledge that will aid me in my future legal career.

I was placed in the South Suburban office at LAF and spent the majority of my time working under the supervision of the family law attorney in the office. I was given various divorce cases and order of protection cases to work on throughout the summer. The highlight of the summer was the opportunity I had to work with my supervising attorney on her domestic violence outreach program at the local courthouse. We had our own office to work in at the courthouse twice a month where we were available to anyone in the courthouse who had questions or needed representation in their order of protection proceedings. As a part of this program I was able to take part in the entire order of protection process from intake to final hearings. My involvement in this project opened my eyes to the inequalities facing a large number of the residents of suburban Chicago.

Every day I was able to interact with various people who had committed their careers to helping the community around them that needed them most. The work that I did and the people that I was able to work with this summer heightened my awareness of the inequalities and resources for underrepresented communities and reaffirmed my commitment to public interest and legal aid work.

Sincerely,



Ashley Olson
Chicago-Kent College of Law
May 2012



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August 29, 2011

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Dan Ruben
katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Dear Dan Ruben:

I am Rachel Heaston and I am a Senior Attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. This letter is to advise you regarding my experiences working with Ms. Ashley Olsen. Ms. Olsen began her internship with our agency in May 2011. As one of her immediate supervisors, I work directly with Ms. Olsen on a daily basis.

Ms. Olsen's skills and work ethic are beyond reproach. Her willingness to handle delicate client matters was initially surprising. Many volunteers and interns are reluctant to deal directly with clients. Ms. Olsen has been interviewing clients and assessing their legal problems since her first day with our agency. During her internship, Ms. Olsen has taken it upon herself to tackle complex legal issues, suggest solutions and provide detailed advice to the clients. I have the utmost confidence in her ability and discretion in dealing directly with clients. It is not uncommon for her to be involved in a case from intake to disposition. Her contribution to the handling and resolution of cases has been invaluable. Additionally, while at our agency Ms. Olsen created an intern binder to assist future interns and to provide them with the necessary tools to be successful in our office.

Ms. Olsen is be greatly missed by the staff and by our clients. She became a valuable and respected member of our agency staff. It is rare to find someone with such a solid balance of legal knowledge and people skills.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me to further discuss Ms. Olsen's work experience with our agency.

Yours truly,

Rachel A. Heaston
Senior Attorney