

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

August 5, 2016

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am a student at Boston College Law School and I interned at Greater Boston Legal Services this summer. I worked in the housing unit and assisted with shelter cases and eviction hearings. I worked with incredible attorneys here and learned so much from their expertise.

I spent most of my time on the phone with clients, an aspect of legal services that I really enjoyed. I would call them to do intake interviews and then follow up over and over as their cases developed. By the time a case was resolved, I felt like I knew everything about our clients, and really enjoyed talking to them. Something that struck me on my first day in court, and subsequently over the course of my internship was that almost all of the people who were being evicted were women of color, most of them single mothers. That was true for the clients I worked with as well. And many of them were being evicted for the illegal conduct of a child, grandson, or boyfriend, which I found to be the most unfair aspect of it.

I believe I helped these clients first and foremost by how I treated them over the phone. I was respectful and caring and told them the truth. I felt like that created a nice relationship and they felt like they could trust me, and felt like someone was listening to their story. I hope I am able to work with clients so closely in my career as I did this summer. I was also able to expand my negotiating skills by working with opposing counsel to come to mutually beneficial agreements. It was a wonderful feeling to see these cases resolved in a way that allowed our clients to stay in their homes.

Thank you so much for supporting my internship this summer, it was a very worthwhile experience.

Sincerely,
Alana Clark
Boston College