



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

August 5, 2010

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

Re: Betny Townsend

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am the Acting Director of the Housing Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and Senior Counsel. During this summer it has been my pleasure to work with and at times supervise the work done by Betny Townsend, the recipient of one of your summer 2010 Fellowships. This short letter will recount Betny's experiences and our evaluation of her work.

Since her arrival Betny has worked with all of the members of the Housing Project, including Mary Hahn, our past Project Director and Isabelle Thabault, Senior Counsel. In her time with the Committee, Betny had the opportunity to contribute and observe a wide variety of activities focused on our work of enforcing the federal, state and local laws designed to ensure equal access to housing for all in the community. Among the projects that Betny worked on are the following:

- Research and draft portions of a brief addressing summary judgment issues in a case under the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Research and draft a motion for a protective order concerning prior settlements in a case involving the accessibility of multifamily housing to persons with disabilities.
- Draft settlement agreements.
- Research and draft memorandum concerning the applicable law in discrimination by taxi companies.
- Research and draft memorandum concerning racial harassment in commercial transactions under USC Section 1981.
- Research and draft memorandum concerning potential defenses in cases involving failure to properly design accessible multifamily housing under the ADA.
- Research and draft memorandum concerning definition of service animal used by people with disabilities.
- Research and draft memorandum concerning standard of proof in administrative agency action involving discrimination against individuals seeking to use federal Housing Choice Vouchers for rent.
- Research and draft memorandum concerning organizational standing under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act.

In addition to these projects, Betny was able to observe numerous activities handled by our lawyers on a day to day basis, including staff meetings, meetings with co-counsel , strategy sessions and other similar type of activities.

In all of these endeavors our experience with Betny was simply outstanding. She is bright, creative, inquisitive, articulate, enthusiastic and a genuine team player. The work product was consistently excellent in quality and prepared in a timely manner. She was an asset to the Committee and a pleasure to work with. I commend your organization for its selection of Betny as a recipient of the Fellowship. I hope she enjoyed her time with the Committee as much as we enjoyed having her on our staff.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bruskin', written in a cursive style.

Robert M. Bruskin
Senior Counsel