

To: **Dan Ruben, Executive Director at Equal Justice America**

From: Jamin Xu

Re: Equal Justice America Funding 2 Page Letter

### My Summer at Greater Boston Legal Services

Most of my experiences at Greater Boston Legal Services this summer was spent on client counseling, in which I helped to alleviate some of their legal concerns and answer any questions they may have regarding their cases. I also had the opportunity to close some of the cases and check up on their statuses in terms of receiving public aid. I also helped to ensure that they were doing everything they were supposed to, on their end, to ensure that their case goes according to plan.

For example, in a gentrification case where Chinatown residents were being threatened with eviction from an oppressive landlord, I helped to facilitate communications between my supervising attorney and her clients. I did this by translating the status of the case from English to Cantonese while translating any questions they had from Chinese to English for my supervising attorney. I also checked up on them from time to time to ensure that their questions and concerns were being taken care of and to ensure that their living situations remained fine.

I also participated in meetings in cases where Hispanic communities in East Boston were trying to band together in order to fight the gentrification that was taking place there. For example, oppressive landlords in the area may threaten eviction, and the tenants would be organizing to spread the word that their harsh living conditions were being manipulated in order for their new landlords to build new luxury apartments by tearing down their homes. Although I could not communicate with the tenants, since they spoke Spanish, I helped my supervising attorney prepare for court and negotiations with the opposing side's attorneys.

All in all, I greatly enjoyed my time at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), as it allowed me to experience the pain that some of GBLS' clients go through, which increases my chances of pursuing a career in legal services. I felt like this experience allowed me to connect greatly with the clients and also helped me understand what being an attorney is all about: loyalty, trust, and sympathy with our clients.

Jamin Xu  
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