

# Naomi Frisch

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director, Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you for supporting my work this summer at the Legal Assistance Foundation (“LAF”) in Chicago. For ten weeks I interned in LAF’s Immigrant and Workers’ Rights Practice Group, mostly working on employment law matters. LAF is a large legal services organization, and I was impressed at how well-run and organized it was. LAF brings on a whole team of law students in the summer. The staff was welcoming and well prepared to let us jump right into the work at our own level of comfort. I cannot speak highly enough of the staff at LAF and the resources available to their law student interns.

I was able to work with many clients this summer on their employment law issues. I did quite a few client intakes, discussing clients’ problems on the phone and determining whether or not their legal issue was one that LAF could assist with. A few times I had to explain to clients why we could not help them, which was difficult but good experience for the future. A memorable moment was when I was able to tell a client I had interviewed several times about her potential discrimination claim that we would be able to represent her at her arbitration hearing. She was so grateful, and I really saw the impact that LSC organizations make on everyday lives. Her case is ongoing, and I am lucky to be able to continue on with LAF in the fall a few hours a week so I can be involved in her representation.

Beyond the great experience I have gained with client contact, I have also represented several clients, on paper and in person, in their unemployment benefits appeals. I appeared in a telephone hearing with an ALJ, wrote several appeal briefs, and have appeared in court for Administrative Review matters. LAF is one of the few legal services organizations to assist clients with these appeals, and it was extremely gratifying to see some of “my clients” get their benefits back.

I have also had opportunities to assist the LAF staff attorneys with employment discrimination, wage theft, and FMLA claims. I helped write discovery, pleadings, demand letters, and other documents, but also was able to sit with the attorneys while they discussed strategy and counseled the clients. The best part was that my opinion was respected and listened to, and when I misunderstood the law or suggested something the attorneys did not want to do, they took the time to explain it to me. It really felt like an interactive, hands-on learning experience. I could not have asked for better mentors.

Many of the cases I worked on this summer will not come to a resolution for several months or even years. One common thread amongst all the clients, however, is how grateful they all are to be able to talk with someone about their legal problems and know that they are getting the help and support they need. Clients are always happy to hear from me, which in turn makes me

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energized to help them even more. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity to learn and grow my legal skills at LAF. Thank you, Equal Justice America, for your support.

Sincerely,

Naomi Bensdorf Frisch

Chicago-Kent College of Law, JD expected December '17

Labor and Employment Law; Litigation and ADR Certificates