

8/29/2017

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

Dear Dan Ruben:

I am writing to you to let you know about my experience working as an Equal Justice America Summer 2017 Fellow. The funding allowed me to work as a summer intern at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, a not-for-profit in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. I worked as an intern in Brooklyn A's Community and Economic Development program, a program focused on providing legal transactional work to other not-for-profit corporations.

The work I did over the summer was intense and rewarding. Brooklyn A's work is focused on helping not-for-profits with their corporate governance issues so that they are in legal compliance with the recent changes under New York's Not-for-profit Revitalization Act. I also assisted community leaders with setting up new not-for-profit corporations by helping them form Articles of Incorporation, achieving tax exemption status under both state and federal law, revising their corporate By-laws, and other general corporate governance tasks. Additionally, I helped a New York City nonprofit corporation in its resale of a home so that it may provide affordable housing to Brooklyn community members.

My most rewarding moment this summer was being able to help provide assistance to a client who has been working to provide resume workshops out of her basement in Crown Heights to high school teens going into college. For 17 years, she had been conducting these workshops but finally wanted to acquire the resources of a nonprofit corporation and access funding from the city. I was able to help her start a nonprofit corporation by providing her assistance with her articles of incorporation and her corporate by-laws, as well as do the preliminary steps towards achieving tax exemption status.

Another client I assisted this summer had already been with Brooklyn A for a few years, and had already been incorporated, but came back to us requesting assistance with filing for tax exemption status. Her nonprofit corporation provided self-help and healing workshops to Brooklyn women who were at risk for domestic violence, had experienced domestic abuse, or who generally need referrals for counseling. Even with the small role I played in helping her organization, I felt the appreciation she had for the assistance we at Brooklyn A continue to provide for her, and it helped me know that the work I did went a long way in building the community.

Thank you for providing me with the EJA fellowship funding so that I was able to have a fulfilling summer internship at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A. It was a truly rewarding experience and I appreciate the assistance you provided to me.

Sincerely,

**Samuel Esclavon
Cornell Law School, Class of 2019**