

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben,

This fall I worked as an intern at the Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois. I have now worked at the Clinic for eight months, having continued from over the summer. I have truly loved my time at the Clinic and continue to learn from my work. At the Clinic, I help draft documents and conduct intake interviews. The most common issues that we deal with are divorce, custody, and child support. I serve as an intern to two attorneys in my office and thereby exposed to a variety of different types of cases.

I truly enjoy working with the clients at the Clinic. Most of the clients at the Clinic have various financial and personal issues that prevent them from being able to support themselves. One of the most memorable moments of my internship was working with a woman who had tried to represent herself pro se, but whose English was so broken she could not understand any of the court documents and, as a result, she eventually failed to appear at a court date. With two children to support and no job, this woman was dearly in need of help. Though I could not personally represent her, I helped to draft the custody agreement between her and her husband and have been working on their settlement. It is so gratifying to know that I have had a hand in helping this woman support her children and in making it easier for her to navigate the judicial system.

Another important aspect of my work is to do intake interviews for the Clinic. In that role, I call clients to get more information about their case and then present that information to an attorney who will determine whether we can take the case or should refer them elsewhere. Many of the people whom I call feel lost, that they don't even know where to begin in resolving their case in front of a judge and in the court system. After I talk with them for only a few minutes, many of them express such gratitude for my taking the time to speak with them and hear their stories. It is so humbling to know that these people, who are dealing with incredibly difficult problems, appreciate

my taking only a few minutes to listen to them. I think that many of them just appreciate having someone willing to listen to their stories and hear them explain their problems. I had a great experience at the Chicago Legal Clinic this fall, and I am so grateful to Equal Justice America for the fellowship that I received.

Sincerely,

Carole Wurzelbacher

The University of Chicago Law School '15