

# CATHERINE M. MARTIN

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J.D. Candidate 2015

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August 5, 2013

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

**Re: End of Summer Letter**

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you so much for your assistance. I have thoroughly enjoyed my internship at the Legal Aid Justice Center working in the Civil Advocacy Program. My work focused on housing problems and consumer law. One client in particular stands out.

My client came to us in mid-May wanting assistance with her Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. The Albemarle County Office of Housing intended to terminate her voucher for failure to report income from two jobs that occurred three to four years ago. I successfully advocated for my client at an administrative hearing in early June despite her having pleaded guilty to fraud in regards to food stamps in another municipality concerning the same jobs, and my client complied with everything the hearing officer requested so that her voucher would not be terminated.

Unfortunately, the Albemarle County Office of Housing did not follow the Housing and Urban Development regulations and terminated her voucher effective June 1st, prior to our hearing. Because of the county's non-payment, her landlord served her with a Summons for Unlawful Detainer.

In July, I wrote a motion to enjoin the County as defendants in the lawsuit, but the judge ruled against us, because the County was a permissible, but not a necessary party. Despite the ruling however, at the trial the judge rightfully declared that it was not my client that owed the landlord the rent, but the County. Since the county attorney had successfully avoided the County being enjoined, he could mount no defense for his client. My fellow classmate and intern at the Legal Aid Justice Center won this case with me as his second chair.

There continued to be some issues with the County not wanting to pay its portion of my client's rent, but I was able to resolve the case by seeking charity funding to pay the County's portion of my client's rent for July.

My client now has a repayment plan with the County that she can afford and can live free from fear of eviction. This was a challenging case that lasted the entirety of my summer, but I learned so much from the experience and was able to make a positive impact in my client's life. It was a wonderful experience.

Thank you again for helping make this internship possible for me.

Sincerely,

  
CATHERINE M. MARTIN