

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 204  
13540 E. Boundary Rd.  
Midlothian, VA 23112

August 3, 2007

Dear Dan,

I had a wonderful and rewarding experience working at Bet Tzedek Legal Services this summer. The best part of the summer was the amount of client contact I had. I conducted initial interviews in order to determine each person's legal problem, gave clients advice, and helped them obtain benefits and fill out applications. Even when we couldn't help them solve their issues, the clients were almost uniformly grateful that we listened to their stories. In one instance, the client was being harassed by debt collectors. I sent out cease and desist and judgment proof letters, and made calls to the debt collectors, which eventually stopped the nightly phone calls to the client. The client's joy and gratitude was worth all of the unpleasant phone conversations I had with the debt collectors.

Bet Tzedek's summer program was very well organized, and I appreciated the many opportunities for feedback and advice given by my supervisors. All of the attorneys' doors were open for questions and comments, and their passion and commitment to providing free legal services to the poor created a collegial atmosphere within the office.

I especially enjoyed working with one of my supervisors, assisting her in preparing for a Social Security Disability Insurance overpayment hearing. I was given many responsibilities, including drafting the brief, reviewing documents, and interviewing and preparing the client for the hearing. I created spreadsheets indicating the mistaken calculations of the Social Security Administration, and in the process discovered that the Social Security Administration had underpaid the client in certain months. Although the hearing didn't proceed very smoothly, resulting in some frustration for the client, I was proud of the solid case we were able to present. The client was disappointed at the outcome, but was very grateful for our assistance and commitment to her case.

While I am not absolutely certain if I will be heading into public interest work at this point in my career, this experience with Bet Tzedek has cemented my desire to remain involved in and dedicated to public

interest work, whether through pro bono or volunteer opportunities or as a full-time public interest attorney. I have been profoundly touched by the way public interest attorneys effect change in people's lives, and will always contribute to the important work of helping those in need. I would like to thank Equal Justice America for making all of this a possibility.

Sincerely,  
Chi-Young Kim  
University of California Hastings College of the Law  
J.D. Candidate 2008