

Dan Ruben, Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am a rising second-year student at Harvard Law School, and I am writing to thank Equal Justice America for sponsoring my summer internship. I spent 10 weeks working in the Employment Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. During these weeks, I had the opportunity to join an inspiring team of attorneys and staff who work tirelessly to obtain unemployment insurance for clients in need.

One of my most interesting cases as a GBLS intern was a disability case. My client had been denied unemployment insurance because of a severe back injury that limits his ability to work outside his home. The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) decided that his inability to work outside the home meant that he was not attached to the labor market. In actuality, my client was capable of holding a full-time job in which he worked via telecommuting.

I wrote and filed a complaint at the Boston Municipal Court on his behalf, alleging that he was entitled to unemployment insurance despite his restriction to off-site work. I also drafted a memorandum in support of the complaint, expounding the law and reasoning that justified my client's receipt of unemployment insurance. This case was significant because it gave me insight into the challenges that individuals with disabilities face, and the ways in which the law can inadvertently be interpreted to cause them undue hardship.

In another compelling case, my client had been denied benefits because of a minor infraction of his employer's unreasonable policies. Since he had no income, he was days away from being evicted from his rooming house, and did not have enough money to meet his basic needs. I prepared an affidavit for him, which stated facts about the employer's unfair practices. After doing some research on the issues of mitigating circumstances and the domain of the Board of Review, I drafted a brief addressed to the legal department of the DUA, alleging that the Board unlawfully decided questions of fact and did not take into account mitigating circumstances.

Aside from the law, I learned a great deal while working on this case. I learned a lot from my client, who was resilient, kind, and positive, even in the face of extreme hardship. I also learned a great deal from one of my supervising attorneys, Brian Flynn, whose holistic approach to our client's case showed me how genuine concern and unwavering commitment can produce remarkable results.

In addition to these cases, other projects at GBLS allowed me to hone my legal research, writing, and interviewing skills. I prepared a waiver application for one of my clients, who was unable to repay unemployment insurance that she should not have received. I wrote an application for an

Offer in Compromise for another client who could not repay her IRS debt. I also met with clients about their upcoming hearings, collected facts about their cases, and wrote short memoranda on these cases. Along with the other interns in the Employment Unit, I participated in GBLS' advocacy efforts to regulate the temporary worker industry and to provide paid sick days for workers.

I thoroughly enjoyed my summer at GBLS, and I am very grateful to Equal Justice America for making this internship possible.

Best regards,  
Chioma Achebe  
HLS/HBS 2015

GREATER BOSTON  
LEGAL SERVICES  
*...and justice for all*

July 29, 2011

Dan Ruben, Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I have been Chioma's supervisor this summer. I found her to be very pleasant, tackling all assignments with a smile.

Chioma consistently produced excellent work. She is able to effectively communicate ideas on paper and in person. Chioma demonstrated a keen interest in the Employment Unit's efforts and was eager to learn from her experiences with supervisors, fellow interns, and clients.

During her summer, Chioma successfully wrote and filed a complaint, conducted legal and factual research, and wrote briefs. She excelled on every written assignment. She also worked on a waiver application and an Offer in Compromise for clients who couldn't repay debts due to financial hardships. Most of her work involved client meetings, during which Chioma was always professional and personable. It was clear that she was genuinely concerned about the well-being of her clients.

Chioma has a take-charge personality and works well with others. She was a great team player in the Employment Unit's projects. Along with another legal intern, Chioma spearheaded the effort to update the Massachusetts UI Advocacy Guide. Chioma answered calls on the Summer Unemployment Intake Hotline and distributed the intakes among other interns. She also participated in GBLS' advocacy efforts on a bill securing rights for workers in low wage temporary jobs and bill to secure paid sick days.

Chioma approached all of her work this summer with thoughtfulness and dedication. Her work was thorough, well-researched, and articulate. It was a pleasure working with her. We have no doubt that Chioma will be an outstanding attorney and would unqualifiedly recommend her for any challenging position.

Sincerely

  
Monica Halas, Senior Attorney