

CHRISTINE S. PARK

August 6, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

First, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to you and Equal Justice America for sponsoring my summer at Legal Services of Northern Virginia. This summer has provided me with valuable experience as well as a better understanding of what the field of public interest really is like.

I was able to gain hands-on substantive experience in various areas including consumer law, family law, housing, etc. I observed and assisted different attorneys during client interviews, at hearings, and at trial. I was given the task of interviewing clients and witnesses on my own in preparation for trial and found myself developing better interview skills as the summer progressed. I was able to use my bilingual skills in Korean and English doing interpretation projects through which I felt my skills really played a role in giving back to the Korean-American community.

More than anything, my favorite part of my summer internship was the close interaction I was able to have with the clients. There were multiple occasions where clients would take my hands, look me in the eyes and tell me how grateful they were for my help and assistance on their case. The gratitude and sincerity I felt from these clients were what I felt was the most rewarding aspect of public interest work. The clients I worked with at LSNV will stay with me throughout my career and I cannot thank you enough for providing me with this opportunity and many fond memories.

Sincerely,

Christine Park
George Mason University School of Law
Class of 2012

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Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
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Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Christine Park, Fellow

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Christine Park worked as an Equal Justice America Fellow at the Fairfax Office of Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV). Our organization provides free civil litigation legal services to low income Northern Virginia residents particularly in the areas of Family Law/Domestic Violence, Housing, Consumer and Elder Law, and Public Benefits.

Interns and fellows are expected and required to spend 40 hours a week assisting attorneys in a variety of tasks. Our office handles a high volume of cases as Fairfax County is our largest jurisdiction. Therefore, interns and fellows assist attorneys in all aspects of trial and witness preparation, including intake, investigation, document review, discovery, drafting of direct and cross examination etc. Interns also provide research memos on various topics and attend court hearings.

During Christine's fellowship with LSNV, she worked on several cases, including a hotly contested custody trial of mine. Christine became the point of contact for the client and conducted most of the factual investigation this summer. She also worked closely with the social workers and accompanied me to court hearings. She was instrumental in securing vital witnesses, including a doctor. Based on her work, Christine outlined several arguments on the "best interest of the child" standard that I intend to use

in my two-day trial in December.

In addition, Christine worked closely with one of our consumer attorneys and several consumer clients. She had the opportunity to draft pleadings including Bill of Particulars, Answers and Grounds of Defense, and Counterclaims. In particular, Christine researched an issue regarding negligence in an automobile accident case. Based on her research, she drafted the bill of particulars alleging property damages and medical injuries. Similarly, Christine drafted requests for production of documents and admissions in a fraud case. Her prior experience at the Cochran Firm proved helpful as she had been accustomed to discovery. She was not just helpful in legal drafting, she also proved effective in communicating with our clients. In one case, she became the point of contact with a Korean client and was able to appropriately and effectively communicate legal issues in the client's language. Based on her interviewing and translation skills, she took the lead in drafting the answer.

Christine was polite and respectful throughout her fellowship and proved to be an important part of our organization this summer. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Divani Nadaraja, Esq
Domestic Violence Staff Attorney
Supervising Attorney for Summer Internship 2010