

August 30, 2015

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

Re: Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship at Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for your financial assistance this summer. Your support made my internship with the Criminal Records program at Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago, Illinois possible. My fellowship experience opened my eyes to a truly rewarding career in public service. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist low-income individuals in Cook County with their legal needs.

As a Criminal Records Intern, I interviewed prospective clients for both criminal and legal services at Cabrini Green Legal Aid, drafted applications for alternative forms of relief, and represented clients at court hearings related to expunging and sealing their criminal records. The documents that I drafted for clients included applications for Executive Clemency, Health Care Waivers, and Certificates of Good Conduct. Each document required in-depth interviews with clients to understand their life stories and to identify any mitigating factors since their arrests. At the end of the summer, I assisted approximately sixty-one clients with their legal needs.

One highlight of my summer was traveling to Decatur Correctional Center, a minimum security female prison, with Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM), which is a part of Cabrini Green Legal Aid. During this trip, the CLAIM staff members and I met with incarcerated mothers to identify potential legal issues that CLAIM could help them address. The women we met had many legal questions related to divorce, guardianship, custody, and visitation, among others. Without CLAIM's assistance, these women would not have timely and direct access to an advocate that could provide accurate legal assistance.

Another highlight of my internship experience was representing a client during his hearing for Executive Clemency in front of the State of Illinois Prisoner Review Board. During our preparations for this hearing, I learned about the client's story from his own perspective. For this client, his clemency hearing represented the final piece of his rehabilitation from his past, which was largely the result of his addiction to drugs. This person had completely turned around his life. He had continued his education all the way up to the Ph.D. level. During our initial client meeting, I walked the client through the types of questions that the Prisoner Review Board would ask him. When we arrived at the site of the clemency hearings in downtown Chicago, my client was fully prepared for whatever questions were going to be thrown his way. I had the opportunity to sit with the client at the hearing and help him field any legal questions that the Prisoner Review Board posed to him. At the end of the hearing, I walked away truly inspired by my client's testimony. He taught me that everyone should have the opportunity to receive second chance in life. While my work as an advocate mainly consisted of preparing him for questioning,

I felt honored to be a part of the final chapter in his road to rehabilitation. The clemency process was a powerful experience for this client.

The final highlight of internship that I would like to share with you was working as part of a daily rotation at the Expungement and Sealing Help Desk at the Richard J. Daley Center in downtown Chicago. During my weekly shifts, I researched individuals' criminal records, conducted informational interviews regarding their options for legal assistance, drafted petitions for the expungement or sealing of their criminal records, and informed them of their eligibility for alternative forms of relief. We helped approximately twenty-five people per shift. However, more individuals came up to the Help Desk for legal assistance during each shift than we had the capacity and time to help. Working at the Help Desk demonstrated the public need for legal assistance in a large city like Chicago. I felt empowered whenever I worked a shift at the Help Desk because I knew that I was directly helping individuals achieve real results that would benefit them greatly in their search for gainful employment and stable housing. To me, I felt energized each time that I met with a client. This type of feeling motivates me to consider pursuing a career in the public interest.

Again, thank you for the assistance that Equal Justice America provided to me this summer. My internship experience is one that I will not forget throughout my legal career.

Sincerely,

Chris Moe
University of Minnesota Law School
Class of 2016

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

September 1, 2015

Re: Chris Moe Internship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing a closing letter regarding Chris Moe's internship with Cabrini Green Legal Aid. I supervised Chris for his internship From June 1, to August 7, 2015, in our Criminal Records program.

Over the course of his internship, Chris assisted clients with clearing their criminal record through expungement, sealing and/or drafting requests for executive clemency. He also prepared drafts of petitions to help clients remove barriers to employment that resulted from their criminal records through Health Care Waivers with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Certificates of Good Conduct through the Circuit Courts of Cook County. Chris had regular direct client contact in the form of interviews and advice at our office, our Daley Center help desk, and a trip to Logan Correctional Center. He was able to relate to and communicate well with the clients. He successfully argued numerous expungement and sealing hearings in the Chicago District Circuit Court of Cook County, as well as one clemency hearing before the Illinois Prisoner Review Board.

Chris was friendly and upbeat. He made it a point to develop relationships with other office staff. One area that we focused on where he could continue to grow professionally is developing his skills in time management. Overall, it was a pleasure working with him. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kasey Baldwin
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