August 2, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I have recently completed my Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). I worked in the Elder, Health, and Disability unit at GBLS, primarily focusing on helping clients with problems regarding their Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. My experience helped me further develop my legal research, writing, and advocacy skills, which will be very important throughout my career. It was also a very rewarding experience as I was able to help our clients get the benefits that they needed to support themselves and could tell that they genuinely appreciated my work.

One especially meaningful case involved an elderly client who had lost her SNAP benefits in August 2012. Our client's son had been trying to help our client get her benefits reinstated and had submitted a new SNAP application, but had not heard back on the application for six months. I contacted the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), which is the organization that administers SNAP benefits, and discussed the case. The DTA agreed to reinstate the benefits, but was resistant to giving our client retroactive benefits for the months during which her benefits were wrongly terminated. I spoke over the phone with several DTA workers, who eventually agreed to give our client retroactive benefits. However, they refused to consider additional evidence that indicated that our client was entitled to a higher monthly retroactive benefit than the DTA was going to give to her. I eventually represented our client at a benefits hearing and successfully argued that the DTA needed to consider the evidence that we had submitted indicating she should receive higher retroactive benefits. It was a meaningful experience as I was able to help our client get the benefits that she deserved and made her life a little bit easier.

I would like to thank Equal Justice America for making this incredible summer feasible. This fellowship made it possible to pursue an internship where I could work with low-income clients in a legal services office and have meaningful experiences like the one described above.

Sincerely,

Cody & ownerse Cody Lawrence

Harvard Law School '15



September 9, 2013

Equal Justice America Building II- Suite 204 13540 East Boundary Road Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Cody Lawrence

Dear Sir/Madam,

It was a pleasure to supervise Cody Lawrence during his summer internship at Greater Boston Legal Services this past summer. He arrived on May 28, 2013, enthusiastic about working with our elder clients. His work involved representing elder clients who were having difficulty with his or her benefits, starting at the initial contact from the client, researching the law, investigating the facts, arguing the case with the appropriate government agency, both in person and in writing, up until the final resolution of the matter. The benefit programs where Cody assisted clients included Social Security and Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, MassHealth, Veterans Services, and Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled, and Children.

From the start Cody developed a wonderful rapport with his clients, and was able to obtain the information necessary to provide needed representation to assist them. Many of our elder clients can be difficult to represent, due to significant mental health concerns, homelessness, lack of English proficiency, or significant health decline, and Cody was able to put his clients at ease in a way that improved his representation of them. This rapport greatly improved his ability to obtain all of the facts in the case.

Cody was also meticulous with his legal research. Based upon this research, Cody applied the individual facts of the case, and developed a strategy as to how to resolve the client's difficulty. Many of our clients approach Greater Boston Legal Services unable to fully describe what the problem is, and Cody was able to obtain enough information to determine the problem, as well as spot other legal problems that the client was not aware. Cody diligently pursued all of these difficulties for the clients.

In some instances, Cody was able to resolve the clients difficulties, over the phone with the applicable government agency, in others he needed to go to that agency's office, and in others he attended a hearing. He also wrote legal memorandum to be submitted to an Administrative Law Judge.

Throughout Cody's internship, he always pursued the client's case in a professional manner, remained diligent until the matter was resolved, put the client at ease, and successfully resolved almost all of his cases. The remaining cases are still being pursued due to the length of time those particular matters usually take, but are well prepared thanks to Cody.

Cody will be a tremendous asset to any employer. We appreciate the opportunity to work with him and he will be missed. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 617-603-1579.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Dobak Senior Paralegal