

August 30, 2015

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Dan Ruben,

I am incredibly grateful to have received the Equal Justice America Law Student Fellowship as a part of my time working at Greater Boston Legal Services this past summer. I chose to work at GBLS because, having spoken to people who had worked previously as summer interns, I had heard that this was a job where I would get truly beneficial legal experience and get to interact with and assist clients in a way that I would not otherwise have been able to. Upon starting the job, I found everything I heard about the program to be the case. Working in the employment unit at GBLS opened me up to experiences that were highly beneficial to the growth of my own legal knowledge, and also tremendously important to the clients that I was serving.

As an employment intern, I was able to work in a variety of fields with different kinds of clients. I worked on overpayment cases where clients were accused of collecting excessive amounts of unemployment benefits from the government. I worked on wage & hour cases, where clients often had not been paid the proper overtime rate and were seeking money that rightfully belonged to them. I worked on cases relating to rights of domestic workers. And finally, more than any of these other areas I was able to assist clients who were seeking to collect unemployment insurance to which they were entitled, but who were being prevented from collecting because either the Department of Unemployment Assistance had denied their application or their employer was appealing a decision to award them the benefits. For the vast majority of our clients, this money meant a tremendous deal to them. These were people who were almost always still unemployed. Further, the fact that they qualified for legal services

meant that they did not have a lot of extra money to aid themselves in times of financial difficulty. Thus, being able to help clients where this matter was of such vital importance to their lives was an enormously rewarding experience.

In particular, I was able to help one candidate prepare for his hearing before the Department of Unemployment Assistance to determine whether or not he would continue to receive his unemployment benefits. His was a case where I and my supervisor were both convinced that he was entitled to collect unemployment insurance. We went through all of the steps of preparing the client for his hearing: we combed through the facts of his case, prepared a strategy for what I would argue at the hearing, collected the relevant documentation, and prepared questions with the client that we would ask him at the hearing. At the end of the day, I can very happily say that the client walked away with his unemployment benefits secured, and a major burden was lifted from him as a result.

Mr. Ruben, thank you again so very much for the support that you gave me during my time at GBLS. I could not have asked for a more worthwhile summer experience, and the Equal Justice America Law Student Fellowship helped make it even better.

Sincerely,

D. Julian Veintimilla
Cornell Law Class of May 2017