

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America

August 24, 2011

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, I had the pleasure of working at Brooklyn Legal Services, Corporation A. I interned in the areas of individual housing and unemployment benefits. Everyone at BKA was phenomenal, from the attorney's and office managers to the other interns; it was a great environment in which to work. I found that the supervising attorneys were always there to provide guidance but also allowed you to test your own strengths and complete tasks alone first before giving feedback. This allowed the other interns and I to learn to trust our own judgment.

Ultimately, the goal at BKA was to help the clients, and everyone working there contributed to this goal. It was an amazing experience to be able to help save a family with small children from getting evicted, and this was almost a daily experience at BKA. The amount of client interaction that the interns had was a great part of the experience, because we were able to put faces to the parents and children we were helping. Working in individual housing, you also spend time in the Kings County Housing Court. This is an experience in itself, and one of the best parts of the job because you are able to see how the court functions on a day-to-day basis.

My primary focus while at Brooklyn Legal Services, Corporation A, was unemployment benefits. I had the opportunity to litigate hearings in front of administrative law judges at the New York State Department of Labor. I was able to take a case from the very beginning and litigate all the way through the process until a final decision was granted. I found that I was given a lot of responsibility and trust, but also had guidance should I need it. My clients this summer were all very deserving people, and had we not represented them, they likely would not have won their hearings.

Overall, my experience at Brooklyn Legal Services, Corporation A was one of the best working experiences I have ever had. I learned so much about the day-to-day practice of law. I was also able to really help people in the community who without our help would have suffered dire consequences. It was very enlightening to see how

inaccessible the legal system is to some people, and how necessary it is to have attorneys in the public interest who can stand up for the community and their rights. Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to learn so much this summer, I would have been unable to do so without your help.

Sincerely,

Danielle Black  
Cardozo Law School, 2013