

August 28, 2013

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

Re: Mr. David Steenburg

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Mr. Steenburg was an outstanding Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship intern at the Archdiocesan Legal Network of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. He served as an intern from May 2012 to August 2012, upon completing his first year at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. Selecting Mr. Steenburg to be a member of the Legal Network's staff was an excellent decision since many *pro bono* clients, staff and the overall program greatly benefited from his extraordinary legal skills, warm and generous personality, and sensitivity to clients' needs.

The mission of the Archdiocesan Legal Network (hereafter Network) is to provide low-income clients with access to *pro bono* legal services. Our geographical program area encompasses the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Prince George's, Montgomery, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's in Maryland. The program relies on a volunteer pool of approximately 650 volunteer attorneys and 60 law firms to provide *pro bono* services. While our volunteer membership may seem large, it is greatly exceeded by the need for *pro bono* legal services in the District of Columbia and Maryland. The Network's staff also provides legal assistance to clients. The program has been in operation since 1989, and is a charter member of the D.C. Consortium of Legal Service Providers. The Network received the 2001 Justice Potter Stewart Award from the Council for Court Excellence. It assists approximately 5,000 residents on an annual basis.

The following list, which is in no way meant to be exhaustive, highlights many of Mr. Steenburg's exceptional accomplishments while working as an intern at the Legal Network.

- Accurately assisted in assessing each client's case for merit, regardless of whether the client sought the Network's help over the telephone, in writing (such as prisoners or the homebound) or in-person.

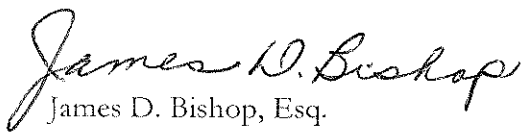
- Appropriately identified resources and/or referrals for many clients who had domestic violence, contested legal and physical custody, and child support and visitation concerns.
- Provided general information on the Network to clients who had consumer disputes, requests for filing bankruptcies, employment disputes, landlord-tenant concerns, public entitlements denials, wills and probate matters.
- Assisted the staff and volunteer attorneys in unraveling intertwined legal and social concerns presented by clients, such as a case involving a client trying to resolve a custody dispute as well as trying to find affordable housing for her family. In such situations, it was not unusual for Mr. Steenburg to assist these clients in obtaining social and legal resources to properly address their concerns, such as a licensed social worker as well as a lawyer with expertise in family law.

Mr. Steenburg has the amazing gift of completing multiple tasks extremely well at the same time. For example, he worked on writing the Legal Network's newsletter while simultaneously assisting the program's clients. He is also an excellent writer with a master command of the English language, which bodes him well in writing various documents and reports for the Legal Network.

Finally, I would like you to be cognizant of the fact that Mr. Steenburg is the best legal intern that I have ever supervised in my close to thirty years of professional experience as a lawyer and manager. After supervising hundreds of volunteers and many employees over the years, I can tell you that he is a joy to work with on a daily basis. In closing, Mr. Steenburg is a great human being of sterling character who cares about his colleagues as well as the welfare of those who are most vulnerable in the community in which we all live.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office address which is: Archdiocesan Legal Network of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, 924 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. My telephone number is: (202) 772-1201. My email address is: [james.bishop@catholiccharitiesdc.org](mailto:james.bishop@catholiccharitiesdc.org).

Sincerely,



James D. Bishop, Esq.  
Senior Program Manager  
Archdiocesan Legal Network  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

cc: David Steenburg