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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to extend my thanks to you and to Equal Justice America for providing me the funding that made my work this summer with Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A" [BKA] a possibility. From the very first day, my experience at BKA was positive, fulfilling and educational. The people with whom I worked were patient, knowledgeable and eager to help me learn. This led to many incredible experiences. I feel I was able to provide substantial help and assistance to a number of clients in the Brooklyn area.

During my ten-week internship I worked primarily with one attorney; her work focused on both family law and unemployment insurance. Within the realm of family law, my role was often one of researcher and writer. My supervising attorney had multiple trials that were already in progress by the time I arrived and I was able to help research the issues and write portions of her closing arguments. I also watched as she argued in family court in Brooklyn. She involved me in nearly every aspect of the work she was doing; I met with clients, researched the relevant issues and even discussed legal theories and strategies with her before arguing a case.

One particularly enjoyable experience was when I was asked to write a direct examination for a trial involving child-support and spousal-support issues. My supervising attorney was extremely busy and I was honored that she believed in my abilities to take on such a large task. After reading extensively of the best way to write a direct examination, I reviewed the client's file carefully and also met with the client. I practiced the questioning multiple times and felt fully prepared, albeit nervous, to argue in family court. At the very last minute, we settled the case and my supervisor and I agreed we received the best outcome for our client. I was never disappointed that we settled and I did not get to argue because the experience of learning how to write a direct examination was invaluable and has remained with me.

I also had an excellent experience working on unemployment insurance issues. I took cases from start to finish and was able to learn the foundational building blocks of litigation on a small-scale level. Together my supervisor and I managed a case-load of clients seeking unemployment insurance. I regularly did intake phone interviews with

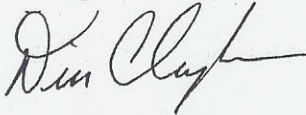
prospective clients and would then meet with my supervisor to decide which cases we could accept. Once a client was accepted, we met with them in the office to conduct a more thorough interview and explain the process. I would then review documents submitted to the Department of Labor, research the unemployment issue in New York State employment law and fit together the facts of the case at hand with relevant case law. Twice, I prepared the direct examinations, cross-examinations, and closing statements for two unemployment insurance hearings and argued them with the supervision of a BKA attorney.

The knowledge I gained from working on unemployment insurance hearings from the beginning to the end was extremely valuable and I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to represent clients.

I had an incredible summer experience interning at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A". I was offered responsibility, constant opportunities for learning, and valuable guidance. I am so thankful for the fellowship given to me from Equal Justice America and to the donors who made that fellowship possible.

Thank you again.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diana Claybon".

Diana Claybon
University of Michigan Law School