

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

September 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thanks to the summer stipend I received from Equal Justice America I spent the summer working with low income Philadelphians at Community Legal Services. I served as a legal intern in the Public Housing unit. The clients that I worked with on a daily basis were facing problems ranging from eviction to repair issues. Many clients arrived to CLS in a panicked, frightened state as they had received a notice from their landlord demanding that they move out in thirty days or less. I found it very rewarding to be able to calm down clients by explaining the eviction process and informing them of their rights.

My role as legal intern was to participate on walk-in intake two to three days per week and telephone intake once a week. My first goal was to ask the client for basic information to determine whether they fit the income guidelines and were eligible for legal services. After determining eligibility I discussed why the client was seeking legal advice. Many clients came to me with photos of the inhabitable conditions in which they were living or with stories of their struggles to pay their rent and support their families. I not only advised clients of their legal rights and responsibilities but also listened carefully to their stories and attempted to generate options as to how to solve the problem.

I gained valuable experience working at CLS. I represented clients in Section 8 administrative hearings and Philadelphia Housing Authority grievance hearings. It was both exhilarating and terrifying to represent my first client but I quickly gained

confidence in my ability to advocate on my client's behalf. One of the most rewarding experiences of my summer was petitioning for and subsequently receiving a hearing for a Section 8 voucher tenant who lost her subsidy when she ported her voucher back to Philadelphia from Georgia. My client had simply been lost between the cracks of the bureaucratic operations of Section 8 and as a result had been homeless with her children for months. Through my advocacy my client was able to receive a new voucher. Being able to make a real difference in someone's life was an amazing feeling and I am very thankful to have had my summer experience at CLS. Thank you for this opportunity to serve my community.

Sincerely,

Eileen Horgan  
Rutgers-Camden Law  
Candidate for J.D. 2010