

August 15, 2012

Dan Ruben
Building II - Suite 204
13540 E. Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I write today to thank you for allowing me to have such an exceptional experience at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAF) this summer. Without the support of Equal Justice America, I would not have been able to build interviewing skills, represent clients in hearings, and put my newly-gained legal knowledge to use in the field that I came to law school to pursue.

This summer, I was employed in the housing practice group at LAF, which is dedicated to defending and advocating for low-income renters in all manner of legal issues. I was involved in cases on a wide variety of problems, including habitability standards, security deposits, and disability accommodations. Working on these cases allowed me to experience many different legal venues in the Chicago area, including forcible court, the chancery division, administrative hearings and arbitration issues. The breadth and depth that LAF allowed me to explore was exactly what I sought for the summer, and the organization and my supervisors provided that and more.

The highlight of my summer was representing one of LAF's clients in a hearing at the Chicago Housing Authority. Our client was being evicted from her public housing unit for the criminal activity of one of her several children, despite her truly admirable parenting and supervision of her children. My supervisor charged me with conducting the entire hearing -- direct examination, defending the cross examination, and a closing. It was a challenge unlike any I had ever had before, and it was an outstanding experience to get to know a client that well, and to work so in depth on a case.

I also learned a tremendous amount about interviewing and building relationships with clients. LAF, like most legal services organizations, is unable to take every case. Through the summer, I was able to participate in LAF's in-depth intake process by conducting client interviews. I conducted more than a dozen 45-minute interviews, and through that experience, learned that it is a lot harder than it looks. Learning to ask the right questions and recognize the issues was a significant learning curve, but I improved significantly with the help of my supervisor. While there is much more to learn, I am so grateful to have had such a well-guided and substantial start on learning to interview.

I could not have expected how fast-paced and challenging an experience this summer would be, and I am lucky to have had the support of EJA through these months. Thank you for all that you do, and for allowing me to learn so much. As I take these skills into my next summer public interest job and the one after that, I have your organization to thank for enabling me to get such a wonderful head start now. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Eli Wade-Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eli" and last name "Wade-Scott" clearly legible.

Eli Wade-Scott

Class of 2014

Harvard Law School



Equal justice starts here.

August 29, 2012

Dan Ruben
Building II - Suite 204
13540 E. Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Eli Wade-Scott

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing with my evaluation of Eli Wade-Scott. Eli worked for me this summer as a law student intern. I supervised most of his work, though he did also do some work for other attorneys in our practice group, which I did not directly supervise.

Eli worked on a variety of tasks this summer. He drafted several substantive motions, discovery, and petitions for certiorari (appeals from administrative decisions). He also conducted an administrative hearing regarding termination of a client's housing subsidy before a local housing authority. This involved gathering evidence, interviewing and preparing the client, and preparing direct examination questions and closing arguments. He also conducted numerous intake interviews with new clients and presented cases at our weekly case acceptance meetings.

Eli was an outstanding law student intern. He showed a real commitment to the work we do. He was really invested in learning as much as he could this summer. He wanted to understand how to file something in court; he went with several attorneys to clean out a client's apartment; he went on two home visits with me to clients' apartments. He did several substantive research projects for me and other attorneys. And he was an excellent writer. The motions I had him draft were as good as any first-year attorney.

I was sad when the summer was over. Eli was a real asset to our team and a pleasure to work with. I wish him all the best in the future. Please contact me at the number below if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lea A. Weems'.

Lea A. Weems
Senior Attorney
312.347.8353

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