

October 15, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern with Advancement Project in Washington, DC. The supplemental funding I received through the Equal Justice America Fellowship helped make it possible for me spend my 2L summer working on behalf of low-income clients at a public interest organization. Thank you so much for supporting my work as an intern at Advancement Project!

Advancement Project employs a unique and innovative model to promote and encourage racial justice: it partners with organized community groups to deliver legal, communications, and policy support. As an intern this summer, I contributed to almost all of Advancement Project's initiatives, with a focus on education, affordable housing and inclusive development, voting rights, and immigrant justice. I learned about both substantive issues and advocacy methods and had the privilege of working with passionate, creative, and committed attorneys. In fact, I felt so invested in my work with Advancement Project that I have continued to intern with their education project this semester.

One of my most meaningful projects this summer involved work on behalf of taxi drivers in a nearby county who have been treated unjustly by the wealthy cab companies from whom they rented the necessary operating certificates. I became intimately familiar with the relevant county statutes, brainstormed and researched novel legal claims, and developed a possible advocacy strategy that took both the taxi drivers' goals and the challenges posed by their circumstances into account. I learned a great deal from working on this novel project and felt incredibly proud of the contribution I made to the taxi drivers' campaign to improve their employment situation.

My summer with Advancement Project confirmed my commitment to pursuing a career as a legal advocate for the poor and underserved. Moreover, it helped me continue building the foundation that I need as I start out as a new lawyer. The financial assistance I received from my Equal Justice America Fellowship was invaluable. Thank you again for enabling me to follow the path that brought me to law school in the first place.

Sincerely,

Emily Blumberg
Harvard Law School
Class of 2010