

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

Dear Dan Ruben,

This summer, I interned at the Elder, Health, and Disability Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. My work included researching case law on reasonable accommodations, resulting trusts, and utilities law; attending hearings at the Social Security Administration and writing a brief for an Administrative Law Judge; and having many one-on-one meetings with clients.

One of my primary jobs was helping clients to appeal denials of Social Security Disability Insurance. The clients I worked with had very different present circumstances, past experiences, and specific disabilities. Despite these differences, however, my clients consistently impressed me with their desire to be self-reliant and their pride in how hard they had worked. One client's recent work experience posed a possible problem for her eligibility. Even though this work experience complicated her legal case, she consistently remained proud of the fact that she had struggled so long and so hard against her severe medical conditions.

My clients had worked tirelessly for years. They spent their adult lives persevering to find and keep jobs that would support and fulfill them. They faced various obstacles, including, at last, severe disabilities. They turned to disability insurance that, I am sure, they never expected to need. Then, the Social Security Administration denied them this insurance. They came to Greater Boston Legal Services at the end of a very long and discouraging road. My job was to fight for

our clients to the best of my ability, but it was also important to respect what they have already done. It might have been a legal complication that my client had recent work experience, but when she talked to me, it was clear that she needed affirmation of her perseverance in trying so hard to overcome physical limitations. Working in the public interest means helping my clients, but it also means empowering them, and celebrating their efforts to improve their lives.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to get to know my clients and to work with them this summer. I am also so glad that I was able to work with the many wonderful people at GBLS, who have an inspiring dedication to serving low-income communities.

Sincerely,

Erika Todd  
Harvard Law School, Class of 2013



September 15, 2011

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

**RE: Erika Todd**

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Erika Todd worked as a legal intern in the Elder, Health, and Disability unit of Greater Boston Legal Services from May, 2011 until August, 2011. Her assignments included conducting client interviews on the phone and in person, providing legal advice and counsel to elderly callers and their caregivers, performing legal research, and drafting various written documents including legal advice letters to clients. She also interacted with clients, elder agency providers, court personnel, and state and federal agency employees. In addition, she wrote a legal memorandum for a Social Security Administration disability hearing.

Erika worked on several cases involving complex legal and factual issues and in each case she came up with thoughtful and creative approaches to the issues. She handled a wide breadth of substantive issues and did a very thorough job on the factual and legal research that each case required. Her legal research and writing products were very high quality and her legal analysis was clear and concise.

Erika was very reliable and performed her work in a timely fashion. She worked on a variety of issues affecting our elderly clients and managed her time in a beneficial way which allowed her to meet her responsibilities in the cases she was assigned. She was also quick to grasp the nature of her assignments and required little supervision. She took clients' issues very seriously and was always willing to take on new assignments and invest the time and effort necessary to do high quality work. She volunteered to help out with different projects and tasks and was a real team player.

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Erika was very hard working, professional, responsible, and diligent. In her time here she managed to work on a large number of cases and was an incredibly valuable resource to our unit and to our clients. She was a pleasure to work with and we enjoyed having her here this Summer. I would be happy to provide any further information if you require it. Please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Betsey Crimmins  
Senior Attorney