

August 31, 2016

Dan Ruben, Executive Director  
Equal Justice America

13540 East Boundary Road  
Building II, Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan,

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to thank you and share the experiences that were made possible through the fellowship from Equal Justice America.

I spent my summer as a law clerk at Bay Area Legal Aid in San Francisco. At Bay Area Legal Aid, I worked within the consumer law unit, and helped low income clients with various issues involving consumer debt, debt settlement, and predatory lending practices. The office also regularly ran clinics at various locations throughout the bay area for individuals who would otherwise not qualify for the organization's services, where I directly counseled many individuals. Most of the clients were at 125% of the federal poverty level, facing economic hardships from unemployment, old age, and poor health. Because they were unable to pay off consumer debt, many of the clients were facing lawsuits from creditors. In other cases, clients were victims of unfair business practices, such as debt settlement companies that used the clients' fees to pay themselves rather than using it to in fact settle debts as promised, and for profit colleges that enticed students through misrepresentations and fraudulent practices.

By assisting clients draft declaration letters, drafting motions and answers in response to lawsuits, I was able to counsel clients through some of their most difficult situations. Not only was I able to provide legal assistance, but through legal services I was also able to provide emotional support. I learned that the legal system is a daunting one for those not familiar with the practice of law, and that with the unique skills and power I will have as a member of the legal profession, there is responsibility to serve the community. Whether I pursue a career in private or the public sector, I have learned that there is responsibility for me to stay engaged with the community to provide access to the legal system for those who cannot do so on their own.

I would like to sincerely thank you again for the opportunity that was made possible through the fellowship.

Sincerely,

Hailey Yoon  
Harvard Law School, 2018



# BAY AREA LEGAL AID

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

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

August 30, 2016

Re. Hailey Yoon summer internship

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing an evaluation of Ms. Yoon's performance as a law clerk with Bay Area Legal Aid's (Baylegal) consumer unit this past summer. She was a great help to our clients during the summer and exhibited skill, good instincts, and sensitivity. We are grateful to Equal Justice America for making it possible for her to spend the summer working with struggling people here in the Bay Area.

Over the summer the Baylegal consumer law unit consisted of 3 attorneys (we recently added 2 more), conducting 8 pro per clinics each month, and serving 7 populous counties. We have a very busy practice and having Hailey working with us expanded our capacity significantly. Each attorney gave Hailey assignments, which could have been confusing and overwhelming. However, she always ensured that she could manage the workload by requesting clarity regarding deadlines and expectations, while maintaining a great attitude.

Our busiest consumer law clinic of the month was on the Friday of Hailey's first week with BayLegal. The participants who attend these clinics are facing difficult issues such as debt collection harassment, wage garnishment, lawsuits, and foreclosure. Because we were so busy that week, rather than having Hailey pair up with a more experienced volunteer to get acclimated we asked Hailey if she could begin initial intakes with attendees on her own, so that their stress would not be exacerbated by a long wait. Hailey jumped right in that first week, displaying the ability to listen compassionately while gathering relevant information

Over the course of the summer Hailey completed or contributed to a variety of projects. She worked on a summary judgment motion and a motion to vacate an old default judgment. She also completed a very thorough research memorandum on the application

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of California's UDAP statute to debt settlement scams that employ attorneys, and assisted clients that attended predatory for-profit colleges.

In general I was extremely impressed with Hailey's research and writing skills. She is very thorough and has a great attention to detail. I would encourage her to provide her opinion more in her research memorandum, something she sometimes seems hesitant to do. However, I expect that this will change as she becomes more confident and experienced.

Again, we at Baylegal are grateful for Equal Justice America's continuing support of students that will hopefully join the ranks as social justice attorneys. We were delighted to meet and work with Hailey this summer.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further. My email is [jfredman@baylegal.org](mailto:jfredman@baylegal.org) and my direct line is 415-354-6341.

Sincerely,

Juliana Fredman