



BAY AREA LEGAL AID
WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

July 28, 2015

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

BY EMAIL to katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Re: 2015 Summer Grant Recipient Yuko Tanaka

Dear Mr. Ruben ;

Ms. Yuko Tanaka's summer internship with Bay Area Legal Aid provided an opportunity for the fellow to utilize many legal and non-legal skills such as research and writing, client intake and community outreach and education. I am the project coordinator of Bay Area Legal Aid's consumer law practice area. Bay Area Legal Aid protects the rights of consumers through litigation in state and federal court. We assert our clients' rights against unfair debt collection practices, illegal foreclosures, inaccurate credit reporting, unfair and deceptive business practices and scams perpetrated against vulnerable consumers. In addition to taking on full representation cases, Bay Area Legal Aid staffs weekly clinics and know-your-rights workshops which allow us to effectively serve a large number of urban and suburban low-income consumers

As the summer law clerk for our unit, Ms. Tanaka had the opportunity to work with the three staff attorneys in the consumer unit and to participate at clinic. Ms. Tanaka demonstrated considerable skill in handling a heavy workload and managing the expectations of three supervisors. Ms. Tanaka was a tremendously valuable resource at clinic. She has excellent communication skills and treats clients and clinic attendees with kindness, respect and patience. In addition to staffing clinic, Ms. Tanaka engaged in direct services assistance to low-income consumers, writing letters and making phone calls on their behalf. Ms. Tanaka researched law and created plain-language materials to teach other attorneys and advocates about an emerging area of the law. She produced a PowerPoint presentation which will be used in community outreach and education to service providers throughout the state who will be assisting low-income student loan borrowers affected by the closure of the Corinthian Colleges. Ms.

Tanaka was enthusiastic and excited about the diverse types of cases and other projects we worked on this summer.

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Ms. Tanaka provided an invaluable contribution to the consumer law practice area this summer. She is a compassionate advocate and is very well organized. Ms. Tanaka demonstrated research and writing skills in drafting client letters under time pressure at clinic and completed a complex

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research memorandum on issue of law under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. This summer, Ms. Tanaka was a fantastic advocate for her clients and an asset to Bay Area Legal Aid. We were delighted to work with her and are certain that she will be an asset to any organization or law firm as continues in her legal career. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 415-982-1300 x6344 or cjohnson@baylegal.org with any questions.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJR', written in a cursive style.

Claire Johnson Raba
Staff Attorney / Project Coordinator, Consumer Law Unit