

HILLARY S. CHENG

February 3, 2014

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

Dear Equal Justice America,

I truly appreciate your support of my experience at New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA). Previous to my internship at NHLA, I understood that legal aid organizations specialized in poverty law and aiding low-income individuals with their legal needs. A semester at NHLA has opened my eyes to the broad possibilities of policy change and goals that a legal services organization can promote through advocacy, policy projects, legislation, class action lawsuits, and targeted efforts to reinforce the law through specific types of cases. This is exactly the kind of impact I seek in my future career, and I feel fortunate to have interned for NHLA.

Equal Justice America's dedication to supporting legal aid has made it possible for me to contribute hours of my time to NHLA. I have stayed late into nights and weekends to ensure that EJA's investment is being put to good use, and three of my clients were successful in their unemployment hearings. Two of these clients had been denied unemployment benefits in the NH Department of Employment Security's initial decisions; one faced a second-level appeal filed by her employer seeking to deny her benefits. In my interviews with them, my clients expressed their anxiety over the denial of their benefits and their dependence on these benefits to meet their daily needs and expenditures.

One client in particular was especially in need: he could barely pay for food, gas, rent, and car payments, and he ran frantically from one benefits-related meeting to another. He had been let go from his job due to medical absences, and I argued that he was unable to access a phone to call in his sickness. The appeal was successful, and I sincerely hope that the back-pay he received in unemployment benefits helped to ameliorate his difficult financial situation.

With all three of my clients, I could feel a sense of reassurance and relief the minute I told them that NHLA would be able to assist them in their unemployment appeals. This opportunity to help them through difficult financial times and prevent their employers from infringing on their legal rights is the reason why I find legal aid so meaningful. Thank you, EJA, for all your help and support in my internship at NHLA.

Regards,
Hillary S. Cheng
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2014
Suffolk University Law School



NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Working for Equal Justice Since 1971

www.nhla.org

January 7, 2014

Don Ruben
EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Claremont Office
24 Opera House Square
Suite 206
Claremont, NH 03743
603-542-8795
1-800-562-3994
Fax: 603-542-3826

Re: Hillary Cheng, Suffolk

Concord Office
117 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-9750
1-800-921-1115
Fax: 603-223-9794

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am pleased to report that over the course of her fall semester your fellow, Hillary Cheng, has provided excellent service to New Hampshire Legal Assistance and its clients.

Manchester Office
1361 Elm Street
Suite 307
Manchester, NH 03101
603-668-2900
1-800-562-3174
Fax: 603-622-5576

She successfully represented two unemployment compensation claimants at the Appeal Tribunal level, and convinced the Appellate Board to affirm an award of benefits to a claimant on an employer's appeal. She has counseled other clients in unemployment cases, and generally has become our most active advocate in this practice area.

Portsmouth Office
154 High Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-431-7411
1-800-334-3135
Fax: 603-431-8025

In addition, Hillary has provided timely and thorough research for me in several housing related matters, prepared exhibits, written interrogatories, and even assisted me in picking a jury. She also has done research for attorneys in our Concord and Claremont offices.

Berlin Office
1131 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570
603-752-1102
1-800-698-8969
Fax: 603-752-2248

Hillary has not only been diligent and timely in performing her work, but in spite of the demands of law school classes and another important internship, she has obviously made service to New Hampshire Legal Assistance's clients an extremely high priority. She has been an extremely valuable asset to this office. I thank you for assisting her and hope that you can continue to do so.

Administration
117 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-4107
Fax: 603-224-2053

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elliott Berry
Managing Attorney
Manchester Office
Tel. Ext. 2908

TTY: 1-800-735-2964

EB:cag