

August 11, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I interned at Day One in New York City. Day One is the only organization in New York City solely devoted to the issue of teen dating violence. Working alongside youth, Day One educates, organizes and advocates on behalf of young people at risk of or experiencing intimate partner violence. Day One provides comprehensive legal and social services to survivors of teen dating violence. Day One provides advocacy and representation for a variety of legal matters, including orders of protection, custody, visitation, divorce, child support, and immigration cases (U-Visa, VAWA, Battered Spouse Waivers).

This summer, I had various responsibilities that fell into two main categories – research and writing, and client work. I wrote eight memos over the summer on various legal topics. I also updated certain client documents to make them more accessible to youth. I researched other legal topics as well but did not produce formal memos, and I created a guide to gathering technological evidence from various phone, internet, and social media websites. I also compiled research on teen dating violence news over the past year and news on developing legislation in New York City. In terms of client work, I conducted initial legal intakes with prospective clients, accompanied clients to court, attending court hearings with Day One attorneys, communicated with necessary parties (including clients, opposing counsel, relevant parties at other agencies) and drafted various client documents, including orders to show cause, family offense petitions, U-Visa affidavits, and various divorce documents. I worked with clients of different ages, and I was able to work very closely with one client – a monolingual Spanish speaker who is 17 years old. I completed her initial intake and worked with her on drafting her family offense petition, and accompanied her to court to file for a temporary order of protection. I was the person at Day One who worked most closely with her, and I thought it was great that my supervisors trusted me enough to be the main person working on the case.

Overall, I had a wonderful experience at Day One this summer. This experience bolstered my desire to work in public interest and particularly to do domestic violence work. I faced increased challenges working with a young population but found it very rewarding and worthwhile. I came to law school thinking that I wanted to do domestic violence work and each experience I have had has convinced me that that is what I am meant to do. Sometimes work gets tedious but when I think of who I am working for, and how much this work affects people's actual lives, I get inspired to do all that I can to help our clients.

I am very grateful that Equal Justice America provided me funding so I did not have to worry about paying off bills, but rather focused on the work that I was doing and the people I was helping. Thank you very much for all the help that you have provided.

Sincerely,

Ione Curva
J.D. Candidate, May 2012
Rutgers School of Law - Newark

DAY ONE

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To Mr. Dan Ruben:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Ms. Ione Curva, an incoming third year law student at Rutgers School of Law - Newark. From May 31, 2011 through August 12, 2011, Ms. Curva has served as a legal intern at Day One under my supervision. Day One is the only organization in New York City exclusively providing direct legal services and preventative education in support of ending intimate partner abuse against young people, 24 years old and younger. Throughout the summer, Ms. Curva worked full-time (at least 35 hours/week) for 11 weeks.

During her time at Day One, Ms. Curva regularly met with Day One legal clients to administer intakes, prepare client cases, accompany clients to court to assist in filing for Orders of Protection, and prepare immigration petitions. In addition to her client work, Ms. Curva undertook a variety of research and writing assignments on topics, including but not limited to, admitting evidence of technological abuse and the rights of survivors of intimate partner abuse to an education free of violence. Ms. Curva worked at an extremely high level of skill, intelligence, compassion and professionalism. Her work was delivered on time and with a high level of thought and acumen.

It was a true pleasure to supervise Ms. Curva and I am very thankful for the support provided by the Equal Justice America, which allowed Ms. Curva to volunteer her services to Day One and the young survivors of intimate partner abuse that we represent.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. If there are any questions about Ms. Curva's service at Day One, please feel free to contact me at iharris@dayoneny.org or 212.590.9506.

Sincerely,



Ian Harris, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Day One