

August 13, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to thank you again for awarding me a summer fellowship through Equal Justice America, and to summarize my summer's work with Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau.

To speak plainly, my Summer Fellowship experience was remarkable and edifying. At the Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau I was responsible for fifteen cases in the family law unit. While half of these cases were inactive or on the brink of closure, the other half were very much vibrant and requiring of my attention. All of my clients were from low-income backgrounds and all were on some sort of state assistance, whether it was food stamps, welfare, or disability. A third of my clients were non-native English speakers; half were non-permanent United States citizens; all of them were in abusive or destructive relationships with husbands or the fathers of their children.

Some highlights of my summer work that immediately come to mind involve a case I worked on behalf of a Colombian client. She had immigrated to the U.S. with her young daughter so that they could be with her husband. Just months after they moved here, however, the husband sexually abused the eight-year-old daughter, a crime for which a criminal case is still pending. Our involvement with her case was limited to the civil matter; we were trying to obtain child support, alimony, and a supervised visitation schedule for the couple's youngest daughter who is currently two years old. Though the case is still nascent – it is scheduled for a Pre-Trial Conference in the fall – I genuinely felt that my efforts helped to bring order, stability, and legal strategy to a situation that badly needed mending. I will never forget that client, and I told her as much.

Though I do not predict that I will practice solely family law in the long term, I nonetheless learned various skills that are translatable to any niche of the legal profession. On a daily basis I spoke with opposing counsel, court officials, administrative workers, opposing parties, and clients. I feel that much closer to being practice-ready, and for your involvement in my professional progression, I heartily thank you.

I wish you and your organization all the best in your future endeavors. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to flourish this summer.

Sincerely,

James Wiencek

# BOSTON COLLEGE LEGAL ASSISTANCE BUREAU

NAOMI MANN  
Attorney  
Extension 20258

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August 16, 2010

Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
Building II- Suite 104  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to thank Equal Justice America for providing Jimmy Wiencek a Summer 2010 Fellowship to work at the Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau (BCLAB).

Mr. Wiencek worked at BCLAB from June to August 2010.

BCLAB is a legal services office and training site for Boston College law students. We advise and represent low-income clients with a variety of legal problems, primarily domestic violence prevention, family law, landlord-tenant disputes, and Social Security disability appeals. Law students are trained in the skills needed to successfully represent clients in these cases, with close supervision by legal staff.

This summer, Mr. Wiencek's responsibilities involved client interviewing, preparation of case memoranda, drafting court documents, assistance at court hearings and case investigation. Mr. Wiencek was responsible for a caseload of about fifteen (15) cases, all in different stages of litigation.

Mr. Wiencek received rave reviews from clients, who appreciated his compassion and his hard work on their behalf. Many of our clients are in precarious financial and emotional situations, and Mr. Wiencek was able to soothe their anxiety while also focusing them on the tasks we needed them to complete for their cases. Mr. Wiencek handled many intense and difficult situations this summer with tact and poise.

Once again, thank you for providing Jimmy Wiencek a Summer 2010 Fellowship to work at BCLAB. Please feel free to contact BCLAB with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Mann  
Supervising Attorney