

August 31, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This past summer, I had the pleasure of clerking with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid in Austin, TX. Specifically, I worked with the Consumer Law team. Quite simply, this was an outstanding experience. I was not only assigned substantive work, but I genuinely felt good about what we were doing to assist low-income individuals in Texas. The clerkship provided me with a rich learning experience. I drafted original petitions, discovery and motions; something I had no previous experience with.

Given that my clerkship took place during my final summer before graduating from law school, I took advantage of every opportunity I could to learn. One such opportunity was through volunteering at weekly legal advice clinics. This was a great supplement to my clerkship. The applicants seeking advice at clinics were gracious, and the attorneys were sharp and caring. Attending clinics really opened my eyes to the great need for attorneys willing to volunteer to assist low-income individuals. Although I cannot say with certainty what I plan to do after graduating next year, the importance of “giving back”—whether through volunteering at evening clinics or taking cases pro bono—has been rooted within me.

As a clerk, I worked on a breach of contract case that was especially rewarding. Without going into detail about the facts of the case, suffice it to say that without an attorney, the client was going to suffer a gross deprivation of his rights under the contract. Although the outcome had not been determined by the end of my clerkship, I was comforted knowing that the client had legal representation working to enforce his rights.

Often, financial considerations keep people from doing the important work carried out by organizations such as Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. The Equal Justice America student fellowship enabled me to accept a non-paying legal position for the summer, without the added worry of how I would make ends meet during my clerkship. For that, I am truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Jamie C. Larmond
The University of Texas School of Law
J.D. Expected, May 2010