

Jeromy Lewis
Equal Justice America Fellow
Summer 2010

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

August 6, 2010

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Today is the last day of my internship with Central Virginia Legal Aid Society in Richmond. Before I started law school last fall I had no idea what school would be about or how to approach it. By the end of the year I felt like I had a handle on how to manage school, but I realized how lost I was when I began to think about actually practicing law. However, my internship this summer gave me a great experience in seeing what daily life is like for a legal aid attorney. I sat in on and conducted client interviews and preparations for hearings. I dealt with upset clients on the phone and celebrated with thankful ones. I researched more debtor's rights and garnishment issues than I care to relate. I wrote memos that were considered and analyzed by judges in circuit and general district court. I even represented claimants at multiple unemployment compensation hearings.

All of these opportunities forced me to learn what it means to actually practice law. My first year of school taught me how to think like a lawyer, but I found out that internships will begin to teach me how to be a lawyer. Not only that, but I was finally able to do something meaningful with my education. Since I have only had summer jobs, this was the first job in which I felt like my work actually mattered in someone's life. Snack bars, shoe stores, and fast food restaurants do not compare to helping an unemployed single mother protect her child support funds in a bank account garnishment suit.

Thank you for giving me the funding to get this experience and to hopefully help a few people over the course of the summer. Your work and fundraising is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeromy Lewis
University of Richmond