

JULLIA JUYEON PARK

August 17, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you very much for selecting me to be an Equal Justice America fellow for the summer of 2012. I had a wonderful experience as a legal intern with the LegalHealth unit of the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG).

I had three supervising attorneys, Randy Retkin, Julie Brandfield, and Nina Pejoves, who assigned me a wide variety of cases and types of work. Every Wednesday, I accompanied Nina to the Montefiore clinic in the Bronx. There, we conducted client intakes of clinic patients who came to us with legal issues. Through these clinic visits, I met a lot of extremely sick, low-income individuals on the verge of eviction, or other large-scale problems. Hearing about these people's stories made me realize just how privileged of a life I led. They saddened me, but at the same time, motivated and inspired me to work harder for these people's sake.

Following the client intakes, we would return to the NYLAG office to resolve the legal issues through research and negotiations with the relevant people. The issues covered a broad range of topics, such as health benefits, employment, and immigration. I really liked that I was exposed to so many different areas of law at LegalHealth. Working on different types of cases allowed me to discover my legal interests.

One of my biggest success stories from this internship is of a stage 4 breast cancer and HIV patient. From the palliative care ward of a hospital, this client wanted to ensure that a last-minute change of beneficiary request to her will would be honored in the case of a sudden death. Given the client's critical condition, this case was very time sensitive. After negotiations with a number of individuals at the life insurance company, I was able to get the change of beneficiary process expedited and also received confirmation that the patient's request would be honored. My resolution of the case gave the client great peace-of-mind.

Through this internship, I also received a lot of writing assignments. I wrote an advocacy letter for a client whose social security disability income had been wrongly withheld; I wrote a judgment proof letter to a landlord's insurance company who continuously harassed a low-

income client; I wrote a subpoena ordering the New York City Housing Authority to appear before the court; I submitted a race discrimination claim to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. These are just a sampling of the many interesting cases that I worked on and documents that I drafted.

I was also fortunate enough to accompany two LegalHealth attorneys to the Bronx Housing court. I was completely taken aback by the proceedings at this court. While I had expected orderly legal hearings before a judge, I was met with over-packed floors of attorneys, landlords, and tenants. Attorneys walked down the hallways, shouting out names of the opposing party. Many settlements occurred in the hallways, without having to resort to a court hearing. Contrary to my original thought, I did not even get a glimpse of the inside of the court. This visit to the Housing court was, nevertheless, a great, eye-opening experience for me.

The attorneys at the New York Legal Assistance Group were incredibly friendly and patient. I really enjoyed the close client interactions that I was able to experience and the various types of legal documents that I had the opportunity to draft. I had a great summer in New York City and the Equal Justice America fellowship helped make this experience possible. Thank you greatly.

Yours sincerely,

Jullia Park
University of Chicago Law School
Class of 2014