

September 30, 2015

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to summarize my Summer 2015 Equal Justice America Fellowship experience. During the past summer I was employed at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) in Berkeley, California. I worked in EBCLC's Education Defense & Justice for Youth practice where I represented low-income youth in school expulsion and juvenile delinquency proceedings.

I gained significant experience as a legal researcher, legal writer, and oral advocate, all in aid of the exact client population that I hope to work with after law school. I came to law school specifically to do public interest work. As you know, the financial realities of legal education in the United States often make it difficult for law students, even those with the best intentions, to pursue such work. EBCLC is exactly the kind of organization that public interest minded students gravitate toward—a place dedicated to helping low-income and underserved families with pressing legal needs.

Additionally, EBCLC, which is also a clinic of Berkeley Law, includes a significant teaching component as part of its mission. It is an organization filled with talented, hardworking people and I learned a great deal in my time there. Without my Equal Justice America Fellowship I might not have been able to work at EBCLC this summer.

Given the tremendous experience that I had at EBCLC, I want to extend my sincerest thanks to Equal Justice America for giving me this fellowship.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Lavalais
University of California, Berkeley School of Law