

Lauren “Luca” Winer

August 20, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for funding my summer 2014 working with Bay Area Legal Aid as a summer law clerk for the Domestic Violence/Family Law unit in San Francisco. BayLegal serves Bay Area residents who are close to or below the poverty line; my clients were exclusively women who had experienced domestic violence and were seeking legal services related to custody, visitation, temporary restraining orders or divorce. I worked with two supervising attorneys, Kemi Mustapha and Laura Alvarez and gained experience in many aspects of being a legal aid attorney.

I wrote deposition and trial questions, as well as cross-examinations. I prepared clients for what to expect in the courtroom, and discussed trial strategy with them. I also researched and wrote briefs on a variety of family law issues, including imputation of income to the custodial parent, whether the rebuttable custody provision in California Family Law 3044 still applies if the domestic violence survivor did not file for a restraining order, and when dominant aggressor analysis comes into play. Additionally, I filed documents with courts, conducted client intakes and income and expense declarations, spoke to opposing parties and counsels, and attended hearings.

One of the most meaningful client relationships I built was with a woman who had two small boys, who had been involved in various legal battles with her ex-partner since the birth of the six year old. I admired her tenacity and strength in dealing with years of court cases, and how she made herself available to me so I could help her. I wrote and researched two briefs for her case, and often had to call her to determine payment numbers or her exact work history. I also learned a lot from discussing case strategy with her; she knew the opposing party well, and was able to guess how he would get his

attorney to present his case; the give and take between her, my supervising attorney and myself meant we made a good team. For her, besides writing two briefs and conducting hearing preparation, I also conducted an income and expense declaration, and wrote directs for her and her four witnesses for a long cause hearing. The outcome of this hearing was extremely positive for our client; she got everything she requested, despite the case being in front of a notoriously difficult judge.

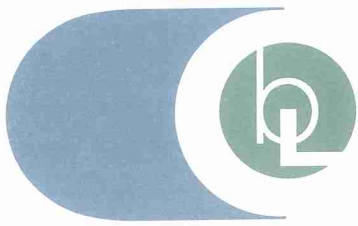
My other favorite client was a woman from Burundi/Rwanda; she was seeking custody orders for her daughter, and was living in a battered women's shelter in the interim while searching for work and better housing. We deposed the opposing party and his witnesses, and I prepared those questions. Through these depositions, we managed to demonstrate pretty conclusively that her ex-husband had been violent to others besides our client previously, and strongly intimate that his strongest witness was untrustworthy.

All in all, this summer was a valuable learning experience, in which I was able to work with public interest lawyers in the field in which I would like to work. I appreciate that you gave me the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to advocating on behalf of indigent women, a legally often-underrepresented group. I thank you tremendously for my summer experience.

Sincerely,

Luca Winer

University of Michigan Law School
Class of 2016



BAY AREA LEGAL AID
WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

September 1, 2014

Katie Toman
Office Manager
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Luca Winer – Summer 2014 Fellowship

Dear Ms. Toman:

This past summer, I had the fortunate opportunity to supervise Luca Winer, who joined our Family Law/ Domestic Violence Unit as a law clerk at the San Francisco Regional Office of Bay Area Legal Aid. I greatly benefitted from having Luca around this summer and cannot say enough great things about her work product and professionalism.

Luca was dealt a difficult situation within the first few days of starting her fellowship when I informed her that I would be moving to the Oakland office to fill in for a family law attorney who had suddenly left; Luca handled the situation with much maturity and flexibility. We decided that Luca would remain in San Francisco and complete assignments for both me in Oakland and another attorney in San Francisco. I was very impressed with how Luca handled having to work for two supervisors. She made sure to communicate regularly with both of us as she managed her multiple assignments. She always asked about the relative priority of any new assignments, and I could rely on her to get assignments done in a timely manner.

During the course of the summer, Luca handled many aspects of family law litigation. She drafted several legal research memos, deposition questions, and direct and cross examination questions for a big domestic violence restraining order trial. After receiving an assignment, Luca made sure to find out exactly what I expected from her and when I

Alameda County Regional Office
1735 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510.663.4744
Toll Free: 800.551.5554
Fax: 510.663.4740

www.baylegal.org

Katie Toman

September 1, 2014

Page 2

expected the assignment to be completed. She produced a quality product each time and was always eager for feedback in order to improve for the next assignment.

When Luca accompanied me to court, she always asked intelligent questions about what she witnessed during court hearings, demonstrating her superior insight and analytical thinking.

Later during the fellowship, Luca expressed a desire for more direct client interaction. I felt very comfortable giving her that experience after witnessing her easy and approachable manner with many of my clients. Luca often met with clients to draft declarations or stipulated agreements; she also regularly interacted with opposing attorneys, opposing parties, and other third parties, including witnesses and court staff.

Luca was genuinely interested in the practice of law and how to get the most out of her summer experience. It was a pleasure to have her as a law clerk this summer. Luca will make an exceptional attorney in whatever practice area she chooses, and I wish her much success in her legal career.

Please feel free to contact me at (510) 664-4744 or kmustapha@baylegal.org if you'd like to discuss Luca's fellowship further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kemi Mustapha', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kemi Mustapha
Attorney