

August 22, 2012

Dan Ruben
Executive Director, Equal Justice America
13540 E Boundary Rd, Building II, Ste 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

RE: End of Fellowship Review

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I spent my summer fellowship serving clients for the Public Benefits practice group at LAF, or the Legal Assistance Foundation, in Chicago. I worked with clients whose food stamp or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) cash benefits had been terminated or reduced. I interviewed clients, collected the facts, and negotiated with workers and supervisors at the Illinois Department of Human Services. Though it was often challenging to connect with the personnel at DHS, I was often able to fix simple mistakes and to increase clients' benefits accordingly. On several occasions, I helped clients gain access to Medicaid. I also ran food stamps budgets for clients to ensure that they were receiving appropriate assistance.

Additionally, I helped with several larger projects for the practice group. I was able to work on a Social Security Disability hearing. I reviewed medical evidence, worked with the client and the client's treating psychiatrist, and drafted and revised a hearing statement. At the end of the summer, one of LAF's attorneys took the case before an Administrative Law Judge and received a fully favorable decision – a perfect end to my summer.

As a result of my work, I feel better connected to the people of Chicago, and I plan to continue giving back to the community. I truly appreciate the Equal Justice America funding that made my summer possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Stucky
University of Chicago, Class of 2014

August 28, 2012

Mr. Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Matt Stucky
University of Chicago School of Law

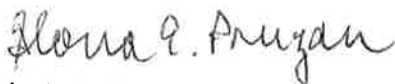
Dear Mr. Ruben:

Matt Stucky worked as a legal intern here at LAF (Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago) from June 2012 through August 2012. He is currently a student at the University Of Chicago School Of Law expecting his J.D. in 2014. Matt was an intern in our Public Benefits Practice Group. His primary assignment was to assist one of our staff with her caseload which included the full range of public benefits cases including SNAP, TANF, Medicaid and other cash assistance programs. In this capacity he conducted client interviews over the phone and in-person, provided legal advice and counsel to clients, he advocated with Department of Human Services (DHS) staff, performed legal research, and drafted various written documents including legal advice letters, research papers and letters and emails to DHS staff. He wrote a lengthy letter in support of a request for an on the record decision for a Social Security cessation case scheduled for a hearing which resulted in a favorable decision for the client. Matt also worked with our Crime Victim Compensation Project which assists victims of violent crimes who are applying for crime victim compensation from the Illinois Court of Claims.

Matt was an extremely efficient and industrious intern and always welcomed new assignments. He worked on both complex and more routine matters with a great deal of enthusiasm and intelligence. He was able to master and handle a wide range of substantive issues in different legal areas. His legal research and analysis were excellent. At the same time, he was very caring and compassionate with our clients who are often in crisis when we are working with them. In interviewing and counseling clients he also showed a great deal of patience and understanding.

It was great to have Matt with us this summer. He was a very intelligent, capable and hard - working intern. He managed to accomplish a great deal during the time he spent at LAF and was a very valuable resource for our staff. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,



Gloria E. Pruzan
Supervisory Attorney