

August 31, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This letter is to recap my experiences this summer at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. Overall, I had a great experience. I procured my 711 License to practice as a student, and so the attorneys at LAF immediately treated me like another staff attorney. They professionally treated me as an equal while still realizing that in some practical aspects of the law – filing motions, court procedure – their strong guidance would be necessary.

My experiences this summer reaffirmed my commitment to public interest law. In fact, I am continuing to work with LAF attorneys on several cases that are scheduled to go to trial later this year and early next year. It is exciting to see the process of civil litigation from start to finish. During this past summer, I made arguments in front of judges and conducted direct examinations. I do not know of another environment where I could have received so much practical experience between my 2L and 3L year of law school.

This summer proved to me that personal rewards could come from the least expected places. One case I did research on involved a client who was trying to procure a license to become a funeral director and embalmer. Unfortunately, she had a decade old conviction for drug trafficking about which the Funeral Directors and Embalmers Licensing Board had concerns. The ALJ saw fit to grant her probationary status, but the Board rejected the ALJ's conclusions of law and denied her the license. In doing so, they stated different grounds than they had at the original hearing – grounds that involved concerns about drug addiction. The client never used drugs, but when she was a new mother with no money her cousin convinced her that trafficking was the way to make some easy money. The client had been released from prison and her probation early because of her cooperation, stellar record while incarcerated and clean drug tests. She has also not reoffended since.

My supervisor tasked me with doing research to find ways to get the Board's decision overturned or at least remanded for another hearing. This licensing process has been going on for two years now; this woman's future is at stake. She trained for a profession that she strongly desires to enter, but if the Board's decision held, then she would have wasted all that time and resources. We filed our brief, and I just found out that the Illinois Attorney General's Office offered a deal whereby the client will be granted her license if she passes a drug test.

It is indescribably satisfying to see your work – the cases I cited, the arguments I developed – used to better a client's life. People don't come to legal aid because things

are going great for them, and most of the cases last so long that I did not see many issues resolved this summer. In short, it was nice to witness a positive resolution in favor of one of our clients. And this case showed me that the most satisfying solutions are often reached outside of the courtroom. Additionally, this project was a true collaboration. My supervisor and I kicked around ideas and theories just like two colleagues on equal footing.

I would like to thank Equal Justice America for providing part of the funding that made this summer experience possible.

Sincerely,

Meredith Berwick
The University of Chicago Law School
J.D., 2011 (anticipated)



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September 8, 2010

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Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
900 East 162nd Street
Suite 101
South Holland, IL 60473

September 3, 2010

Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Equal Justice America:

I am a Supervisory Attorney at the non-profit Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, and I was University of Chicago law student Meredith Berwick's supervisor this summer. We greatly enjoyed Meredith's presence in the South Suburban office this summer. She eagerly accepted and completed the tasks assigned to her -- everything from research to filing motions to representing clients in court.

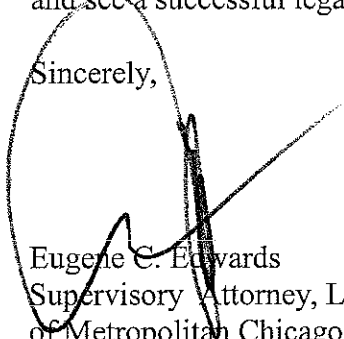
At LAF, we represent indigent clients in civil matters which means we have a heavy and diverse caseload. We expect our interns to be able to handle a variety of issues. Meredith was involved in cases including such issues as: bankruptcy, contract disputes, divorce, employment discrimination, family law, professional licensing and public utilities. She successfully collaborated with every attorney in the office and continues to work with our attorneys on a few cases that have continued beyond the summer.

I believe our office benefited from Meredith's presence this summer and that she gained a vast amount of practical experience in the practice of law. She took the initiative to seek out a position with our organization and procured her own funding to work for LAF. I watched her legal

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thinking and practical legal skills mature over the course of the summer,
and see a successful legal career in her future.

Sincerely,



Eugene C. Edwards
Supervisory Attorney, Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago