

MICHAEL HAEBERLE

September 20, 2011

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

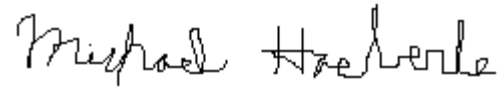
Dear Mr. Ruben

I had an incredibly rewarding summer experience at LAF which gave me great experience in many different legal practice areas. The variety of practice areas was one of the most exciting aspects of the summer. I was able to work on cases in housing, family, employment, public benefits and insurance law. This great variety was challenging in that I had to learn about many areas of law with which I was not previously familiar, but it was also exciting in the amount of exposure that I received. One of the best parts of the summer experience was the substantial amount of in-court time and the amount of responsibility that I was given. I was able to observe and participate in many different phases of litigation. I was involved in case screening, filing, motions, discovery and trial. The highlight was being able to write a reply brief for our summary judgment motion and then argue the brief in court. The amount that I learned through this variety of experiences was amplified by LAF's attorneys' willingness to teach. The attorneys that I worked with were always more than willing to assist me with a project or answer any questions that I had. They also went out of the way to make sure that I was well oriented to the work that I was doing. Notably, one of the attorneys took me on a tour of the Daley Center where I would be going to court, filing motions and picking up documents. Without her having taken time out of an incredibly busy schedule to explain this incredibly confusing building and complex procedures, I would have been utterly confused. The attorneys were very intelligent yet approachable, and the ability to work with these individuals was unquestionably a highlight of the summer.

Unquestionably, the best part of the summer was being able to work for such deserving clients. The stories that the clients told at intake were compelling and heart-wrenching. Especially in the housing cases, I was floored by the conditions which the clients were being forced to live in. One particularly painful story was of a client who suffered from a severe infection resulting from sewer water coming out of her shower, a condition which the landlord was refusing to fix. The most rewarding experience was being able to help an 80-year-old man who had been wronged by two different contractors. After taking out a reverse mortgage to remodel his two unit building to allow for tenants on the floor he did not live on (his only source of income besides social security), the contractor required left after obtaining his first payment and stole the furnace on the way out. Using what remained of the mortgage, he contacted another contractor and made sure that this contractor had insurance. This contractor left without finishing the job and took the rest of his money. It was incredibly satisfying to be able to obtain a settlement from the insurance company for him, as it will allow him to get his house in a livable condition. The

satisfaction that the work brought made it a pleasure to go in every day, and I am exceptionally grateful that Equal Justice America helped me be able to obtain such a wonderful summer experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Haerberle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Michael Haerberle

University of Chicago Law School, Expected Graduation June 2012