

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to thank you and your entire organization for contributing to the magnificent experience that I had this summer.

This summer I worked as a student attorney at the Harvard Legal Bureau. As a student-run legal services office, the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau entrusts its student attorneys with the responsibility of managing their own cases. Although every student is well-supervised by an experienced and knowledgeable attorney, the organization emphasizes the decision-making autonomy of its students. This combination of exceptional instruction and unparalleled responsibility for a clinical internship formed an opportunity that I will never forget. I learned more about the fundamentals of lawyering during the past summer than I did during my entire first year of law school. I learned how to manage a busy caseload, how to approach the multitude of ethical quandaries that so readily materialize in the course of the practice of law, and how to confront and ultimately overcome unfamiliar problems. My interactions with my supervisors and various opposing counselors helped me conceptualize how I want to conduct myself as an attorney.

My practice focused primarily on housing law. During the course of the summer I worked on settling several eviction cases. Reaching each of those agreements was a fantastic experience. The first settlement that I negotiated involved procuring a sizable cash sum for a tenant family in exchange for their vacating a building which the owner had lost to foreclosure. Another agreement that I worked on required several meetings over a period of two weeks. Ultimately, my colleagues and I managed to attain an agreement that was favorable to our client's interests on the morning of trial.

I am most proud of my work on a case in which our office represented an entire tenant's association. After months of negotiations and creative problem solving, the parties involved finally reached an agreement which will help preserve the amount of affordable housing in the Greater Boston area.

Staffing the Boston Bar Association's Attorney for the Day table at the Boston Housing Court was one of the most thrilling experiences I had all summer. The Attorney for the Day program brings attorneys and law students to housing court to provide on-the-spot advice to unrepresented tenants and landlords on the day of their court dates. On any given Thursday, the day when nearly all of the eviction cases are heard at the Boston Housing Court, there are hundreds of unrepresented parties. Since there are so many individuals present who could benefit from impromptu advice, the attorneys and students who staff the program essentially provide a service that is akin to triaging at an

emergency room. Each advocate takes in as much information in as short amount of time as possible in order to make decisions about how best to allocate our scarce resources. I found the rapid rate of this activity to be incredibly exciting.

Most importantly, my work with the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau this summer enabled me to advocate on behalf of individuals who might not otherwise have received representation. As such, I think the work that my colleagues and I did benefited our clients in two ways. First, we were almost always able to attain better outcomes for our clients than they likely would have achieved on their own. Second, we were always able to ensure that they were active participants in a process that might have marginalized them had they been unrepresented. Any program that provides such enormous benefits to some of society's least advantaged people while teaching law students so much about the practice of law can only be described as extraordinary.

Very truly yours,  
Mitchell Stromberg  
Harvard Law School  
Class of 2009