

Dear Dan Ruben,

The summer Fellowship experience was deeply informative and aided in my pursuit of a law career. I was able to assist ex-offenders in expunging their criminal records when available and counseling them to an alternative plan of action if unavailable. One client in particular had a rather troubling story. This woman worked at an airport where the administration decided to run background checks on every employee. The administration received a criminal record for this client with numerous counts of harassment complaints. Through a long investigation we had come to learn that the client's neighbor had been filing harassment complaints against the client and stealing the court summons from her mailbox, so the client was totally unaware that the complaints were being filed. We encouraged the client to file a counter-complaint against her neighbor, which she did. During the hearing the judge warned the neighbor that the court would not look favorably on her if she continued to file unmerited complaints. We were able to file an Expungement petition to remove all of the dismissed complaints from the client's record. There were twenty-three counts in total. The client was able to explain the situation at work and keep her job. After running a subsequent background check her record appeared unblemished. The client was unbelievably thankful for my help. The overall experience was an emotional one because of the course this particular petition took. For the client to learn that she had an extensive record without any knowledge must have been appalling. We were able to get this situation resolved and the client was able to keep her job, thereby having the ability to support her family.

Throughout the fellowship I gained knowledge and experience in all aspects of lawyering including interviewing clients, legal writing, researching case-law, framing arguments, and how

to deal with all the real world problems that clients have. These skills are taught in the classroom, but cannot be fully appreciated or learned without an experience such as this.

Working so closely with other attorneys and clients was an invaluable experience that could not have occurred without the aid of Equal Justice America.

Best Wishes,

Nicholas Malet
Rutgers-Newark Law School
May 2015