

Dan Ruben
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Dear Mr. Ruben

I first would like to thank you for the EJA fellowship I received this summer. I worked this summer at Break the Cycle. Break the Cycle is an organization that is dedicated to empower, engage, and educate the youth to build lives free of domestic violence. As a legal intern at Break the Cycle, I gained valuable legal experience while at the same time helping people.

My favorite activity was working with clients, who were victims of domestic violence. The way tasks are distributed among the office, depends on the clients. An intern would help a particular client with their case which required motion writing and crafting legal strategies that would be used in court. I developed my communication skills working with victims of domestic violence, which required great tact. I worked with one client, “Jane Doe” (I can’t reveal name for obvious reasons), who just graduated high school. I wrote her motion for civil contempt against a former abuser, and also aided her in other ways. She had green card issues, and I accompanied her to the US CIS office and helped her through a trying time. I also helped her find a dental assistant school to enroll in. When it was time for me to leave, she thanked me profusely, saying I helped get her life on track. I came into this summer hoping to learn the law and help individuals with legal problems; I had no idea that I would have had the chance to really make someone’s life better. Our job at Break the Cycle starts at helping the respective

client legally, and extends to help them get their life on track. I found the work very enriching and I enjoyed the opportunity to learn the law while being such a positive force in someone's life.

With Break the Cycle I also got to hold discussion groups with teenagers about the dangers of domestic violence and the importance of developing safe relationships. While my work might not show immediate results, I know with opening up this dialogue is important for teenagers. Domestic abuse is a taboo topic amongst a group where 1 in 3 knows someone affected by teen dating violence. That makes it even more important to have open discussions with youth, and I enjoyed that responsibility greatly.

I greatly enjoyed my time at Break the Cycle and thank you again for the EJA fellowship which made it feasible for me to work in the public sector.

Sincerely,

Rahul Reddy

George Washington University Law School

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