

August 4, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I was fortunate enough to spend the 2010 summer working as a summer law clerk at Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS) in Petersburg, Virginia. The office is comprised of two staff attorneys who cover a variety of different legal areas including housing, public benefits, elder law and family law. Working with the two attorneys I obtained a better grasp of the law as well as how to negotiate the sometimes difficult legal process.

Although my particular area of focus is family law, CVLAS, like many legal aids, does not have the resources for their attorneys to concentrate in just one area of law. Thus, the attorneys worked hard to let me work on a variety of different family law cases, however, I was also able to receive training and work on housing, unemployment benefits, nursing home discharge, and a guardianship case.

One of the most memorable cases for me dealt with a client who was receiving unemployment compensation. The case had been appealed and CVLAS represented the client. The client won the appeal and the employer appealed again. I was asked to draft a letter to the VEC explaining why the employer's attorney should not be allowed to introduce new evidence. I found this extremely interesting as the VEC rules of evidence are very different from other agencies. Thus, I was able to learn more about an area of law that I had never worked on before as well as draft a succinct letter explaining our position in hopes that the VEC would not allow new evidence to be placed on the record.

Another memorable case for me dealt with a domestic violence situation. CVLAS represented the client for the protective order. The protective order was appealed and then the opposing party filed for a divorce based on abandonment. This case required a lot of paperwork, and therefore I was able to help my managing attorney by drafting the answer and cross complaint. As the divorce went forward I was able to answer opposing counsel's interrogatories as well as draft my own discovery material for my client. I was finally able to observe the appeal of the protective order in circuit court as well as the pendente lite hearing regarding custody and visitation for the children. The protective order stood and our client was granted physical and legal custody of her children.

Although the opportunity never came up for me to use my third year practice certificate, both attorneys in my office worked hard to give me the opportunity to gain valuable experience interviewing

clients and corresponding with other attorneys. I was able to observe settlement negotiations and participate under the attorney's supervision. I communicated with clients regarding their cases and now feel more confident with both interviewing clients and advising them. I have also been given to opportunity to return in the fall to use my third year practice certificate if the opportunity arises.

Overall, this summer internship was a great experience. I was able to focus on my area of interest as well as branch out and learn about new areas of law. I was able to attend a CLE regarding new area of poverty law and learn side by side with attorneys who work in the field. The attorneys in my office supervised me efficiently but also allowed me the room to grow and fulfill their expectations. Without the Equal Justice America fellowship I would not have been able to commit fully to this internship. The fellowship allowed me to work full time without worrying about financial issues.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Imholt
University of Richmond

LAW OFFICES
CENTRAL VIRGINIA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.
SOUTHSIDE OFFICE
2006 WAKEFIELD STREET • PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23805

(804) 862-1100 x 2124 • DIRECT DIAL (804) 518-2124
F: (804) 861-4311

October 28, 2010

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II - Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Re: Becca Imholt, EJA Fellowship Recipient Evaluation

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer, our agency had the pleasure of having Becca Imholt serve as one of our two summer interns. The other attorney in our office, Sara Amos, and I found her to be very helpful. She was a hard worker and always completed her assignments in a timely manner.

At the beginning of the summer, Becca expressed an interest in working on domestic violence cases. She helped prepare for several protective order and custody hearings by interviewing the client and potential witnesses. Becca is well suited to this type of work. She is a thoughtful listener and developed a good rapport with clients. She offered compassion but was not afraid to ask hard questions. She was also thorough in conducting interviews and patient in answering their questions.

In addition to her work with domestic violence victims, Becca was also willing to help on a variety of other cases including unemployment compensation, housing, SSI benefits, and consumer protection. Becca is excellent at conducting research: she researched and drafted a SSI appeal as well as an unemployment compensation appeal to the Special Examiner's office. She spent time researching the legal standard for grandparent visitation.

Becca also produced quality written work for our office. She drafted correspondence to clients and other attorneys. She wrote several motions and sketch orders for custody cases and produced defensive pleadings for a consumer case. In one particular divorce case, Becca drafted the answer and counterclaim as well as discovery questions and answers. She also learned to calculate child and spousal support.

After she had the opportunity to observe a protective order case, Becca expressed an interest in arguing such a case during her fellowship. Unfortunately she was not able to do so because the few protective order cases that we had either settled or were extended past her fellowship. We have noted her interest and offered her the opportunity to come back and argue a case under our supervision this fall.



Thank you for the opportunity to have an Equal Justice America fellowship recipient work in our office this summer. Becca Imholt is a dedicated worker, who helped to increase the office's productivity. Our clients were certainly better served because we had her around.

Sincerely,

Jessica W. Thompson
Staff Attorney