

REBECCA S. MOSKOWITZ

April 7, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for providing me with funding to work at Bet Tzedek Legal Services this semester. Before applying to law school, I decided to pursue a public interest career in child advocacy. I believe that my experience at Bet Tzedek brought me closer to that goal by giving me an opportunity to work on substantive legal issues which helped me to refine my career aspirations.

Bet Tzedek provided me with a general overview of all their program areas including landlord-tenant, housing conditions, debtor's rights, and Holocaust reparations. I was assigned to work specifically on the Kinship Care Project where I worked under the supervision of a staff attorney to help relative caregivers obtain legal guardianships for their loved-ones. I communicated regularly with my supervising attorney to analyze and assess individual clients' needs, review cases to determine what next steps should be taken, to prepare legal materials, and to shadow him in court. I interviewed clients and helped complete numerous petitions for guardianships, petitions for name changes, and for grandparent visitation rights. Frequently, the children who were subject to these petitions were victims of abuse or neglect. The family members whom I helped to obtain guardianship provided stable, loving homes and ensured that these children would not end up in the dependency system. Often, these relative caregivers sought legal guardianship so they could receive public benefits to support the child, or to grant permission for vital medical care. Additionally, I worked with several mothers to help them

establish guardianships of the estate for their children of Iraq War veterans so these children could receive death benefits.

During my time at Bet Tzedek, I also had the opportunity to work in some of their other practice areas. I worked with a Holocaust survivor to help her apply for restitution payments from the German government. Additionally, I conducted client intakes in which I interviewed clients, identified legal issues, presented the case to a staff attorney, and conveyed legal advice or referrals to the client.

Interacting with clients was the most challenging and most rewarding part of working at Bet Tzedek. Though we often could do little other than to provide the client with legal information and referrals to other agencies, this triage procedure ensured that even those whose cases we were unable to take on were first given some guidance as to how to address their legal issues. In sum, I enjoyed my time at Bet Tzedek and look forward to building on this experience as I continue to pursue a public interest career.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Moskowitz
Class of 2009
UCLA School of Law