

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building 2, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to thank you and your organization for providing the funds that made my 1L internship at the Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center possible.

This past summer I worked in both direct legal services and litigation. The direct legal services portion was focused on serving clients at LAS-ELC's Workers' Rights Clinics in California. The work ranged from client intake and consultation to administrative hearing representation. For example, I successfully represented a client in an unemployment insurance hearing. The client had been hurt at work and the state claimed she was unable to work at the time she claimed benefits. Through a direct examination and a closing argument at the hearing my client and I were able to demonstrate that the State made an incorrect determination.

I also participated in multiple wage claim clinics. During these clinics clients would come in for help processing their wage claims. Most often, immigrant laborers were not paid for work they did. I acquainted the clients with the process, calculated the size of their claim, and assisted them with the paperwork.

Perhaps the most significant moment of the summer came during one of our Workers' Rights Clinics in East Palo Alto. A client and her family came in to ask for help to determine if there was a legal action she could take against her employer. The client worked for a large staffing agency whose employees were sent to work as janitors at technology companies. Before law school, I worked for two years at Google. I rarely interacted with the janitors on campus during my time there. It turned out, however, that this particular client was staffed at Google at the same time I worked there. It was incredibly gratifying to know that I was able to help someone whom I might have overlooked in the past.

I am thankful to the EJA Fellowship for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Shane Seppinni
Stanford Law School '18

