

CARLOS WILDER

August 27, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

"Your Honor: This case is about a poor and disabled woman that is being evicted to the streets of Boston by virtue of her reliance upon her supportive sons and her inability to afford basic living expenses." These were the opening words I delivered that eventually helped free an elderly woman from fear of losing her home of forty-six (46) years.

When she came to our office, she appeared anxious. With no income for several years; she was forced to rely upon her two adult sons—and given her severe disabilities: lupus, anxiety, and depression—she felt hopeless. We attempted to settle the dispute with her landlord who was evicting her for spending her days cooking at her son's home; allowing her sons to visit her in her home when she was unable to lift something as small as a pan; and because she could not afford to provide herself with electricity.

The landlord did not relent and we went to trial a few weeks later where my co-counsel and I effectively advocated our client's position. After hearing the evidence, the judge was persuaded that the landlord could not prove that our client was in violation of her lease. This was a moment of excitement and great accomplishment. While gentrification and displacement continues to weigh on the indigent of Boston, I was proud to know that I prevented at least one person from being evicted to the streets.

This client is one of several that I have represented at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. Through my fellowship this summer, I have had the unique opportunity to act as a practicing attorney in handling over twenty (20) housing cases in the Boston Housing Court and in the Middlesex Superior Court. A typical week consisted of preparing motions, pre-trial memoranda, drafting and negotiating settlement agreements, participating in mediations, pre-trial conferences, and appearing in the Housing Court for a hearing or trial.

This anecdote is merely a snippet of the struggles that I watched my clients suffer through. Accordingly, I am thankful for the support that Equal Justice America has provided me to be able to assist the indigent in Boston in fighting through such difficult times in their lives.

Sincerely,



Carlos Wilder
Suffolk University Law School
J.D. Candidate 2018
University of Hartford 15'
B.S.B.A. Accounting | Rhetoric & Professional Writing