

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

May 27, 2014

Dear Mr. Ruben

I am writing to thank you and Equal Justice America for providing me with the opportunity to engage in public interest work. With your financial support, I was able to assist many low-income individuals and families in Los Angeles with conservatorship and family caregiver matters at Bet Tzedek Legal Services. This fellowship offered me with the opportunity to gain invaluable legal knowledge and skills and reaffirm my pursuit in a public interest career.

I had a wonderful internship at Bet Tzedek Legal Services. I worked in their Family Caregiver Unit assisting issues in four main areas: (1) public benefits; (2) planning for incapacity; (3) elder abuse intervention and prevention; and (4) probate conservatorship. I prepared probate conservatorship petitions on the behalf of parents and family members with an adult who has developmental disabilities. I conducted intakes over the phone with the parents and family members and educated them about the conservatorship process. After receiving several inquires, I also created a one-page document on the role of the probate investigators for families. Additionally, I advocated for two families who reported difficulties in applying for passport on the behalf of their conservatees. In one case, the parent told me that the Passport Agency would not allow her to apply, even though she has limited conservatorship and has the power to contract on the behalf of her son, the conversatee. I provided the parent with talking points, so she can advocate for herself and her son. I also spoke with the supervisor of the Passport Agency and wrote a letter including probate codes on the matter. Working at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, I felt empowered to be a legal advocate for these individuals and families navigate through the complicated legal system and other governmental agencies.

To comprehensively address the clients' legal needs was a satisfying feeling and reaffirmation of why I decided to go to law school. The client s expressed great gratitude that someone was willing to listen and help their legal problems. Many of these clients encountered barriers, whether it may be language barrier or financial barrier before coming to Bet Tzedek, to access justice for their case. I am very fortunate that I was part of the organization with the mission to advocate the "just causes of the poor and helpless" and opened their arms to these clients who desperately needed the help.

The staff at Bet Tzedek Legal Services was incredibly friendly and helpful. They were easily accessible to answer any questions I had and provided constructive feedback on my assignments. I cannot imagine working with a better group of public interest attorneys. They provided a wonderful learning experience for me, as an upcoming public interest attorney. I look forward to working with them in the near future.

Sandy Yu  
JD/MSW Candidate  
UCLA School of Law, 2015