## SARAH SOBCZAK

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Dan Ruben Executive Director Equal Justice America Building II – Ste. 204 13540 E. Boundary Rd. Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

First and foremost I would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue my work at the Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL). After completing two semesters working at Legal Aid, I know now more than ever that I want to continue my law career in public interest.

I had a wonderful experience at CALL this semester. In addition to drafting motions, doing legal research, and following up with clients, I was given the responsibility to compile over one hundred scripts for our phone system so that callers could get legal information after hours or while they were on hold. The other intern at CALL and I spent over a month going through all the areas of law we assist and drafted each script. We then had two attorneys edit them and our supervisor finalized them. The project was a success and our director placed the scripts on the phone system early April. The goal of the "Diala-Law" project is to help those who desperately need legal advice, but often can't call during our open hours, or can't wait on the phone long enough to talk to an attorney. The scripts are not meant to be a substitute for legal advice, but rather a starting point for whatever legal questions they have. In addition to putting these questions on the phone system, the plan is for the scripts to go onto intranet for our office for all attorneys to be able to have access to when talking to clients.

The office environment was wonderful at CALL. I always felt like I could go and talk to any attorney working and they would lend a helping hand with anything I had questions about. My supervisors were always available to me whenever I had a question or got stuck in a project.

I love the turnover in Legal Aid. I love that I get to use knowledge from all areas of law in any given day. I love that you never know what the next caller is going to call about. With every caller you have to switch your mental game, so you always have to be ready. The manual has to be updated so that all the advice you are giving clients are relevant. A big part of my job this semester was doing quick research for attorneys who don't have the answer when the client is on the phone. I'll do the quick research, find the statute that may help or case law that is relevant and call the client back with some advice. Eighty percent of cases can be closed the day the clients call! I've done other internships where all I did was one type of law, which is fine, but I was really happy to gain experience in dealing with all areas of law this year.

There were a lot of success stories that I was involved with this semester. The successes make working at Legal Aid so rewarding. Every time you are able to help resolve an issue for a client you know that you are making a difference. Every caller must qualify for legal aid help, which means that they would not be able to afford an attorney otherwise, and to help them resolve an issue with a landlord, creditor, or any other opposing party puts an extra bounce in your step!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue my work at Legal Aid this semester. Knowing that there is only 1 legal aid attorney for ever 7,000 people in the State of Michigan who need an attorney has only solidified my desire to continue to work for Legal Aid after passing the State Bar.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Sobczak

Wayne State University Law School May 2007 graduate

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