

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

September 6, 2007

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My summer fellowship at the Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project was the most fulfilling and informative legal experience I have ever had. I had the opportunity to work on such a diverse range of assignments and received such helpful feedback that I feel my legal education and understanding have increased ten-fold. Safe Horizon is exactly the type of public interest organization that I strongly desire to work for upon my graduation from law school, and I am so grateful to Equal Justice America for enabling me to do such exciting and educational work.

This summer, I was able to augment my legal research and writing skills by writing petitions, motions, responses, client correspondence, and memoranda. I was also able to cultivate my ability to interview and counsel clients. The attorneys at Safe Horizon allowed the interns to participate in every stage of a client's case, including conducting the client intake interview. I had never had the opportunity to do this, and it was an incredibly instructive experience. I learned a great deal about court procedure by filing, serving, and preparing court documents. I also increased my knowledge of courtroom procedure and litigation by assisting the attorneys with pretrial preparation and observing hearings and trials. Each of these experiences added to my understanding of substantive domestic violence law, as well as the reality of being an attorney on a day-to-day basis.

My favorite experience of the summer was researching and writing a motion that would allow a client to withdraw her family offense petition after she decided that she did not want to pursue her case. The Law Guardian that represented her child was opposed to this withdrawal, and wrote a lengthy response to the motion that I prepared. I wrote another motion in response to this, and the judge found in favor of our client based on these documents. It was incredibly rewarding to see my hard work pay off in this manner, and to see the positive effect that it had on our client.

These experiences also cemented my desire to work in the field of domestic violence law when I graduate in the fall. I am so excited to secure a position with a public interest organization similar to Safe Horizon, and my time this summer was invaluable in helping convince me that this is the area of the law in which I would like to pursue a career.

Sincerely,

Sophy Cogill

The George Washington University Law School

May 2008