

August 12, 2014

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

Re: Summer (2014) Internship Reflection Letter

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I want to thank you and Equal Justice America for the unconditional support you have provided during the past eleven weeks of my summer fellowship with Essex-Newark Legal Services in New Jersey. Within Essex-Newark Legal Services, my legal internship position was primarily within the SSI unit (Social Security Income).

As a returning Senior Legal Intern (thanks to EJA funding) I oversaw and prepared incoming legal interns within the SSI and Elder Unit, since the staff within these units is extremely short-handed due to funding. As of the summer of 2014, there has only been one attorney working within the Social Security Unit, so any assistance at all has been extremely valued and appreciated.

The bulk of my other duties comprised of interviewing clients during intake in order to evaluate files upon consultation. Another task of mine included presenting information on cases to the managing attorney, involving all aspects of complex litigation. One of the most thrilling tasks this summer included representing a client for SSI benefits at an administrative law judge hearing. This client was an individual I worked closely with throughout the summer. She was an unskilled single middle-aged mother who was a victim of a violent accident, suffered from a wide-array of symptoms including severe depression (due to the passing of her 1 year old child, and several miscarriages), and

anxiety attacks. The decision and opinion from the judge is still pending, and the opinion should arrive by the end of August.

A few other duties that my position entailed included assisting non-English speaking clients on their cases. I worked with a translator and non-English speaking clients very thoroughly and intimately to ensure that a language barrier did not create an obstacle towards receiving thorough legal representation. Researching and writing legal memoranda on subjects such as social security disabilities and the federal regulations that coincide with SSI was a vital part of my position.

Another client I worked with this summer, alongside another intern, involved a refugee from a concentration camp that existed during the Bosnian Genocide, which took place in the early 1990s. This client was a 62 year old man, and told his story of torture and brutal treatment that he received while he was in the concentration camp. He told stories of being violently beaten, and that those who oversaw him put out cigarettes on top of his head; he presented pictures of his broken nose, scars, and his emaciated body. Searching for a translator who spoke Croatian for the ALJ hearing and also learning/ researching the Bosnian Genocide was an interesting lesson and case to bring forth and narrate in front of the judge.

Your fellowship has allowed me to serve individuals who may not have otherwise been served. It also provided significant assistance for my living expenses throughout the summer (groceries, rent, and transportation). On behalf of Rutgers School of Law in Newark and Essex-Newark Legal Services I would like to again express gratitude and support. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or support to EJA in the near future. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Carney
Rutgers University School of Law

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August 21, 2014

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

Re: Supervisor Letter for Stephanie Carney- 2014 Summer Internship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I would like to thank you and Equal Justice America for assisting in the placement of law students at Essex-Newark Legal Services (ENLS). I am the managing attorney in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Unit and the Elder Law Unit at ENLS. This summer I had the pleasure (again) of supervising Stephanie Carney, a legal intern from Rutgers School of Law in Newark, who had the opportunity to receive a grant from EJA.

Stephanie worked predominately in our SSI Unit and her duties included interviewing clients, evaluating legal and medical documents, writing pretrial briefs, and presenting information on cases involving all aspects of complex litigation. *As a returning Senior Legal Intern, she also oversaw and prepared incoming legal interns, which helped significantly since we are so short on staff.* In addition, she was given the opportunity to represent a client on an appeal for benefits at an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hearing. The hearing included a vocational expert. Stephanie worked closely with the client all summer and fully prepared him for direct and cross-examination from the ALJ and the expert. Her direct examination was both relevant and insightful and her legal arguments were both masterful and fully supported by the record. The decision is still pending at this time and should arrive soon.

Your fellowship has allowed Stephanie to serve individuals who may not have otherwise been served. It also provided significant assistance for her living expenses throughout the summer and allowed her to be able to serve ENLS clients. On behalf of Essex-Newark Legal Services I'd like to again express gratitude and support for your program. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or support to EJA in the near future. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/s/Rachael M. Baldeo, Esq.