

Molly Nevius

August 25, 2017

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

Dear Dan Ruben,

This summer I worked as a Legal Intern at the East Bay Community Law Center in Berkeley (“EBCLC”), California. I was an intern in the Health and Welfare Clinic, a program that provides legal services to low-income Alameda County residents. Specifically, the Health and Welfare clinic is focused on meeting the legal needs of residents who need to access public benefits, who are living with HIV, and more. The clinic also operates as a Medical-Legal partnership, working with hospitals in Alameda County to streamline legal aid for those who most need it.

Many of the clients I worked with this summer had intersecting legal needs, particularly in the areas of public benefits, housing, and healthcare issues. EBCLC is uniquely qualified to assist clients with intersecting legal issues as they have multiple clinics that are each specifically designed to focus on specific areas of the law. I had many clients who received assistance from two to three clinics at a time. It wasn’t usual to have a client who was dealing with a Social Security issue also get assistance with food stamps, housing, and medical bills. Many of these issues resided in the same state/county agencies, and EBCLC does a great job of doing what it can to streamline client’s legal needs.

Though all of the clients I worked with were incredibly grateful to have someone working on their case (indeed, many were relieved to have someone who would listen to them at a basic level), many clients had been trapped in a bureaucratic struggle for benefits for years. Luckily, EBCLC was well-versed in the processes and often knew the most effective steps to take for each client.

I was incredibly grateful to all the clients who worked with me this summer. Without fail, they were thoughtful, generous, and helpful, despite difficult circumstances and consistent legal roadblocks. In many instances, clients were sharing very personal and painful details about their lives, and they all did so with great patience (and in many cases, great humor). For me, this summer was an important moment to try and practice client-centered lawyering while also working with multiple clients. EBCLC prioritized thorough, caring, and holistic services- it was a pleasure to work there with EJA’s assistance.

Sincerely,

Molly Nevius
University of California Hastings College of the Law, 2018



2921 Adeline Street, Berkeley, CA 94703
t 510.548.4040 f 510.845.2305 www.ebclc.org

EAST BAY
COMMUNITY
LAW CENTER

August 30, 2017

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

Dear Dan Ruben,

I was Molly Nevius's supervisor while she was an intern in the Health & Welfare Practice at East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC). EBCLC is the largest provider of free legal services in the East Bay and Berkeley Law School's largest clinical program. During the summer, we continue our clinical training model but accept students from across the country. The Health & Welfare Practice provides direct legal services to Alameda County residents through medical legal partnerships with local HIV/AIDS medical providers, Highland Hospital, and Children's Hospital Oakland. We also host a weekly public benefits clinic and a monthly Name and Gender Change Workshop. At EBCLC, students take their own cases with the supervision of an attorney. Attorneys typically only supervise one or two students each semester, so students get significant one-on-one training. This summer, I closely supervised Molly who spent 40 hours per week in our office for ten weeks.

Molly was a very hard working and thorough advocate for our clients. As a clinical program, we tend to maintain an open door policy for the students to check in with us even as we work on our own cases. Molly always showed up to check ins with the research done and well thought out. A quick search in our database system shows that Molly worked on at least 24 cases over the summer that ranged from reasonable accommodation requests in the housing context to advocacy with myriad public benefits programs.

Molly was always respectful and patient with our clients even when they were in crisis. I remember Molly worked with an elderly transgender woman who had been homeless for years. Molly listened to her concerns for two hours at one appointment and at least an hour at a second appointment. In the end, there was not much we could do for the client, but the client would leave our office relieved. And I think much of that was because of Molly's compassion.

In short, Molly was a pleasure to work with. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 510-548-4040 ext. 357 or dfaessler@ebclc.org.

Sincerely,

Daniel Faessler
Staff Attorney & Clinical Supervisor