

August 29, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to thank your organization, Equal Justice America, for its financial support of my summer legal internship at the Shriver Center on National Poverty Law. As I begin my legal career, I can already see how my experience has been and will be formational.

The Shriver Center on National Poverty Law aims to advance laws and policies that impact the most vulnerable members of our society. Based in Chicago, Shriver Center attorneys represent clients in matters ranging from health care to housing, education to fair wages and paid sick leave. This year, the Shriver Center will mark its fiftieth anniversary.

During my internship at the Shriver Center, I worked on cases involving dozens of low income individuals and families. I conducted legal research assistance to the Shriver Center's affordable housing legal team and public benefits practice. I attended a court hearing conducted as part of ongoing litigation compelling the state to pay for Medicare benefits for low-income children. I also had the opportunity to discuss strategy in various current and potential cases with several members of the legal team. I gained a deeper understanding of the multiple ways a lawyer can conduct legal work in the public's interest, even within one organization.

In addition to research, I actively participated in meetings with the Shriver Center's many coalition partners, including stakeholders interested in education reform and local minimum wage and paid sick leave laws. One of the most memorable meetings was with Chicago Public School students, administrators, lawyers, and community groups seeking to better understand the impact of police in schools. I worked closely with a Shriver attorney to draft a public-facing resource to educate students about their rights when they interact with police within their school. I also participated in a convening of the Shriver Center's Legal Impact Network. It was an excellent opportunity to hear firsthand from legal advocates from across the country about the opportunities and challenges they see on the horizon for their clients and their communities.

Working at the Shriver Center gave me the opportunity to learn more about how local, state, and federal laws impact vulnerable populations. Given the breadth of the Shriver Center's work, I am leaving with a much deeper appreciation for how quickly the legal landscape can shift when a client's causes of action are statutory or rooted in administrative regulations.

This summer was truly memorable. Even now, after my internship has concluded, I am daily reminded of the timeliness of the Shriver Center's work representing low income individuals and families. I remain humbled and honored to have contributed to that work this summer.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitney L. Barth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'W' and 'B'.

Whittney Barth

Whittney L. Barth
JD Candidate, 2019
The University of Chicago, The Law School



August 31, 2017

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Whittney Barth spent her summer working at our organization, the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. Pursuant to the support your organization provided her, I have included the following evaluation for your records.

Whittney spent an exceptionally productive summer with us. Whittney distinguished herself with her tenacious approach to legal research and her unfailingly pleasant and professional demeanor. She will make a world-class public interest attorney should she choose to continue to pursue this work.

Specifically, Whittney drafted two legal memos related to the *Memisovski* case that involves a longstanding consent decree from a federal court requiring Illinois to properly fund the state's Medicaid program in order to meet its federal obligations to child recipients. At the request of John Bouman, the President of the Shriver Center, Whittney's first memo addressed whether a judicial mandate to comply with a consent decree is immediately appealable. The second memo was an overview of law of the case doctrine, with some specific analysis related to *Memisovski* and its companion case *Beeks*.

For Kate Walz, our Vice President of Advocacy, Whittney produced a memo analyzing different HUD policies and case law to see whether there was a difference in the amount of relocation resources available to residents displaced from the East Chicago Housing Complex depending on the program through which the Housing Authority received funding.

For Kate Walz's case involving the Chicago Housing Authority and the retroactive calculation of utility payments, Whittney produced two memos, one on the applicability of a leading case in the field, *McDowell*, and another on the doctrine of unclean hands. Whittney collaborated with another intern in the very early conversations on the doctrine.

Under the direction of Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley, our Community Justice Staff Attorney, Whittney and another intern created a "Know Your Rights" brochure for students who may encounter police in their schools. This brochure was shared and discussed with Shriver's Communication team and is currently under review for publication.

Whittney produced two memos for Wendy Pollack on the subject of home rule in Illinois, specifically what that state constitutional provision means for the municipal opt-outs happening in the wake of the Cook County minimum wage and paid sick leave ordinances. She participated in partner meetings, both in person and by phone, and advised on communications to that group. In addition to case law research, the second memo included a great deal of legal history research, which was conducted online and in person at the University of Chicago Law School library. In addition to





a 23-page memo, Whitney created a 4-page bibliography of historical sources, cases, and law review articles.

In addition to the major writing assignments outlined above, Whitney attended a court hearing with Stephanie Altman and Andrew Hammond on the *Memisovski* case, two community coalition meetings on fair wage and a fair work week ordinances with Wendy Pollack, several Lunch & Learns hosted by the Communications Department, two Shriver Center staff meetings, and a portion of Shriver's Legal Impact Network convening in late July where she helped staff the welcome table.

Whitney also attended a presentation on our East Chicago litigation, hosted at Goldberg Kohn, an Education Law Year in Review session, featuring Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley, at Loyola Law School, and a Policing in Schools session at Loyola Law School, featuring Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley and another Shriver Attorney Quinn Rallins, along with teachers, administrators, and a representative from the Fraternal Order of Police.

As I hope you can tell from this letter, Whitney contributed mightily to the Shriver Center's work in her short time here. We would be thrilled to have more interns like Whitney should your organization choose to sponsor them. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of further assistance.

Thank you for your support.

Andrew Hammond
Skadden Fellow/Staff Attorney.

