

VERONICA J. WILLIAMS

Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204, 13549 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

August 30, 2010

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I worked for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) near the rapidly growing border community in El Paso, Texas. TRLA provides free civil and criminal legal services to residents of Southwest Texas and it is the principal provider of these services in 68 Texas counties. Eighty percent of TRLA's clients are of Mexican descent and are oppressively poor—to qualify for free civil legal services, clients must have an income at or below 125 percent of federal poverty guidelines. This summer I served the public interest by serving communities that are in need of free legal services.

Working with TRLA furthered my goal of representing marginalized communities. I was primarily involved in the areas of labor and employment, probate, housing, public benefits and consumer law. I drafted discovery requests for a national origin retaliation and reviewed discovery produced in an age discrimination law suit. I represented a client at an eviction proceeding before a Justice of the Peace Judge. I also had the opportunity to successfully negotiate a settlement agreement between a landlord and former homeless client facing potential eviction. Towards the end of my clerkship I did outreach in Van Horn, Texas, a rural community outside of El Paso, Texas. In addition to learning different litigation strategies and refining my research and writing skills, I had the opportunity to interview clients and learn about how individuals who are oppressively poor grapple with their legal options. Overall, my fellowship experience was outstanding and confirmed my interest in pursuing a career in public interest law.

Sincerely,

Veronica J. Williams