

Monday, July 28, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am finishing the last full week of my internship at LAF, and I have truly enjoyed the experience. As a rising 2L, I have not represented LAF's clients in court, but I have gained significant experience in practical legal research and writing. I have drafted numerous letters and memoranda, a smattering of motions, and a complaint for a suit in federal district court. My assignments have been entirely substantive and have dealt with diverse legal issues. Most compelling have been the clients and their cases.

One client, whom we shall call "Diana," has been fighting to keep her home from being sold in foreclosure for nearly four years. Diana was wrongly denied a loan modification a few years ago and has been fighting to stay in her home ever since. Working with Staff Attorneys at LAF, I wrote a motion to vacate the underlying foreclosure judgment and order of default. Once the court vacates these judgments, LAF will have the opportunity to prove that Diana's lender broke its promises, contractual obligations, and the law. LAF has been able to keep Diana in her home, and I have been happy to help.

Another client, "Cathy," is seeking to gain title to her house in a divorce, but a thorny real property issue is preventing the divorce from moving forward. Since Cathy's husband cannot be located, the Illinois court refuses to award her the house even though she is the only paid for the home all by herself. The court claims it lacks sufficient jurisdiction over Cathy's husband. I have had the exciting opportunity to research for legal briefs arguing that Illinois courts *do* have the power to dispose of real property in divorce, even when service is by publication. If the banks can transfer real property with service by publication, then Cathy should have that right as well. Cathy has earned the chance to move on with her life with full ownership of the home that is rightfully hers.

These are just two of the fourteen clients for whom I worked this summer. It has been most rewarding to know my efforts have directly helped those in need. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

William Carpenter  
Intern, Consumer Practice Group  
Northwestern Law  
JD Candidate 2016