

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Mr. Ruben,

My summer at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia was an invaluable and essential part of my law school experience. Working at PDS, I learned a wide range of important skills that I now believe every attorney should possess. I learned litigation strategies, legal theories, and, most importantly, how to effectively listen to and advocate for a client's best interest. I worked with a number of incredible attorneys and incredible clients. I can confidently say that I walk away from this summer more secure in my ability to be a good attorney and encouraged that there are organizations like PDS doing really great work in the world.

At PDS in the civil division, I was able to learn about paternity, child support, custody, and housing law. I was also able to attend hearings and depositions. One of the most impactful experiences I had was working with a father trying to gain custody of his son. After spending time with him and his son, investigating the facts, and really advocating for his interests in court, we were able to get the court to grant custody of his son to him. The process we went through to gain custody was harrowing for our client and important to observe and understand as a future attorney. I am so grateful for the experience that EJA allowed for me to have.

Sincerely,

Kandin Unger
George Washington University