

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 Boundary Road, #204B
Midlothian, VA 23112

August 22, 2018

My summer at Legal Aid Justice Center was inspiring and encouraging. I left the summer confident in my desire to pursue a career in public interest, and with a better idea of what that could look like. I was in the Economic Justice Program, working with attorneys who are fighting evictions daily, addressing discriminatory housing policies in mobile home parks, and engaging in statewide class-action litigation.

I learned some of the techniques used, avenues taken, and unique challenges faced by attorneys in the public interest sector. My supervising attorneys graciously invited me to tag along to meetings with community activists, gave me interesting research topics to work on, and allowed me to draft documents to be sent to clients, co-counsel, and the court.

Over the course of the summer I was able to conduct client intakes, draft motions to be filed in general district court, and observe return dates and motions hearings in court. I also researched various complex topics in federal civil procedure for pending litigation efforts, and worked on a statutory interpretation brainteaser.

On top of the hands on legal experience I gained, I had the joy of working alongside other passionate and motivated interns who were equally devoted to seeking change and reform in some of the most unjust systems in the state.

I am grateful to have had the breadth and depth of exposure to the legal profession. I am also grateful to the gracious and generous attorneys at Legal Aid Justice Center who coached me, reviewed and critiqued my work, and encouraged me throughout the summer.

I am grateful, as well, for the kindness and generosity of the EJA team and sponsors. Thank you for supporting my public interest career.

Yours truly,
Emily Lopynski
University of Richmond

 LEGAL AID
JUSTICE CENTER

August 9, 2018

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

Re: Evaluation for Emily Lopynski

Dear Equal Justice America:

This summer Emily worked with our organization to serve members of the Richmond community who face eviction, discrimination, and unfair housing policies. Legal Aid Justice Center seeks equal justice for all by representing, partnering with, and advocating for low-income and marginalized people in Virginia.

Emily worked in the Economic Justice Program. The Economic Justice Program aids individuals and families in Central Virginia who face legal dilemmas related to housing, public benefits, employment, healthcare, consumer protection, or the rights of the elderly, and engages in systematic advocacy with, and on behalf of, low-income people in these issue areas.

Over the course of the summer, Emily assisted in several eviction cases, conducting intakes with clients, preparing case files, and observing court hearings. Emily also researched a variety of legal issues, involving everything from complex civil procedure issues to detailed statutory interpretation questions. She was even able to accompany our attorneys on client visits and meetings with community organizers, at times interpreting for Spanish-speaking clients.

It was a pleasure having Emily intern with LAJC this summer. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at marcel@justice4all.org or 804-643-1086.

Yours sincerely,



Marcellinus L.M.B. Slag
Attorney, Legal Aid Justice Center