

August 30, 2018

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Building II, Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23122

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I spent my summer clerking for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) in Alpine. I was so grateful to have this opportunity to serve my Far West Texas community and to work on a diverse set of projects. I was the first-ever summer intern in the Alpine office, and I was delighted to work closely with the two staff attorneys there and also to collaborate remotely with TRLA attorneys in other cities.

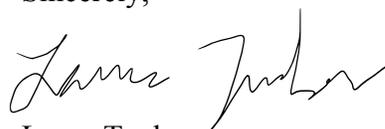
I am interested in employment and labor law and was included on a number of cases in this area. I met with a client with an unpaid wage claim, gathered all the details of his case, and drafted a demand letter. In a wrongful termination case, I helped a client explore her options under FMLA. In another wrongful termination case, I learned about the Equal Employer Opportunity Act and the potential claims for a client who believed she had been discriminated against because of her age and race.

I contributed to a farmworker class action by canvassing multiple clients to confirm the scope of their injuries caused by unsafe working and living conditions. I also did extensive research on past similar claims and compiled a spreadsheet that outlined damages awarded by other courts. I also researched and made a list of possible experts.

My largest project was a tax liability case. Our client initially filed for a protective order against her husband, who committed suicide shortly after. I conducted extensive research in the IRS code and the Internal Revenue Manual. I explored the process of applying for Innocent Spouse Relief, evaluated our client's eligibility, and briefed my supervising attorney on our client's best options. This project piqued my interest in tax law and its great potential to fight poverty, and I will look for further opportunities to become more involved in this field.

I learned a great deal this summer and was so honored to work alongside, and learn from, attorneys doing urgent and impactful work. I am also so grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting me, and I look forward to applying my experiences this summer toward new and meaningful opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Tucker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Laura Tucker

The University of Texas School of Law, Class of 2020

**LAW OFFICE OF  
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August 28, 2018

Katie Toman  
Equal Justice America  
*Via email:* katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Dear Ms. Toman:

I had the pleasure of supervising Laura Tucker during her summer internship with TRLA. TRLA assists low income individuals with a variety of civil law issues. During her internship, Laura primarily worked on employment, tax, and property cases.

Laura worked closely with two employment attorneys on three different cases. She met with clients to get complete information, assisted with gathering documents, created spreadsheets containing needed hour and wage information, and drafted a demand letter to an employer. For a multi-party farmworker case, Laura compiled information about each Plaintiff's particular damages and damages awarded in similar cases.

Laura also did extensive research regarding the eligibility for innocent spouse relief for a widow whose abusive husband committed suicide after being served with a protective order application. She reached out to two tax experts for guidance, immersed herself in the Internal Revenue Manual and IRS Code, conducted a fact investigation that relied not only on the client gathering documents but also on a public information act request, and developed an opinion regarding our client's eligibility as well as alternative options of tax relief for her.

Finally, Laura researched the Texas Property Code and case law for a property case in which the buyer wished to rescind a transaction based upon the seller's failure to own the property in fee. She determined the amounts the seller owed to our client and drafted a demand letter.

All of the attorneys who have worked with Laura over the summer have remarked that she was extremely thorough, going above and beyond what was asked of her, and that her work product was polished.

We enjoyed having Laura with us this summer. If you need anything further, please feel free to call me at (432) 837-9943.

Sincerely,

TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Chisholm", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Chisholm  
Attorney at Law

