



BAY AREA LEGAL AID

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

Final Fellowship Letter

Jake Kovalsky

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This summer I worked in the Consumer Protection Division of the Bay Area Legal Aid clinic where I helped conduct legal aid clinics around the state of California and drafted litigation documents for clients, attended agency partner meetings, went to legal aid seminars, and conducted research on consumer protection law issues.

The best thing about my time at Bay Area this summer was working the legal aid clinics. This was a unique opportunity to help people one-on-one in a fast-paced setting working across different areas of the law. People would come in there with bankruptcy issues, credit-reporting issues, housing issues, loan issues, collection issues and more. Getting everyone through required efficient communication and fast-paced decision making. It was also wonderful to help people when we could. If we helped people beyond clinic, that work largely took place in the office. One of my biggest assignments was drafting a demand letter to a predatory financial service company which had been providing illegal and harmful financial services to one of the people we were assisting. Attending agency partner meetings with Bay Area representatives and representatives of other organizations working on consumer protection issues was particularly appealing to me because what angered me more than anything was the number of companies who took advantage of those in financially troubling positions. These meetings were a great way to discuss large-scale litigation for consumer protection issues and issues affecting this segment of the population generally.

Besides exposing me to new problems and giving me new work experience, the people I worked with at Bay Area were exceptionally friendly and my experience wonderful. None of this would have been possible without EJA's gracious fellowship. Thank you for making this opportunity possible.

Sincerely,

Jake Kovalsky
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