

August 27, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you and your organization, Equal Justice America, for the financial support of my summer legal internship at the University of Chicago Law's Civil Rights Police Accountability Clinic. My internship has been a wonderful culmination of all that I have learned in my first year of law school and has confirmed my commitment to a career in public interest.

As someone who wishes to pursue a career fighting for a more equal criminal justice system, my internship has provided invaluable mentorship. My supervisor, Craig Futterman, and the other staff attorney's at the University of Chicago Law Clinics, are truly role models in which I hope to embody in my career.

Under the leadership of my clinic supervisor, I engaged in a wide variety of projects. First, I participated in preparing criminal defense for a client. In preparation for criminal trial, I participated in moot courts and contributed where I could. One of the areas I contributed was as a witness for the prosecution, answering questions in ways that were difficult to test the questioning attorney's ability to get her point across. Second, I have had the opportunity to interact with our client to prepare for trial and prepare other litigation documents. Interacting with our client has been extremely fulfilling, as a personal experience with an individual facing injustices in our legal system. In addition, I have drafted and prepared Discovery Responses for a class action suit.

Third, I drafted a memorandum to help the Invisible Institute, an organization that collects data from the government on police complaints. The data is utilized in civil suits to give credibility to claims of police misconduct on a wide scale. The memorandum I drafted was regarding how the data has been used legally, so the Invisible Institute could continue to get support for their work. Fourth, I have worked on a memo to analyze creative, potential lines of reasoning for a future lawsuit. Lastly, I have worked for the Illinois Torture Relief and Inquiry Commission. My work has been to review a client's police investigation torture claim, analyze the claim, and write and present a recommendation for the commission. This work has been extremely meaningful to me. I have found the feeling of responsibility for someone else is the ultimate motivator.

All in all, my internship experience, supported by you, has been fulfilling and a large first step in my public service career. This internship made me understand I am on the right journey. As I apply for public service positions for next summer, I am confident in my place fighting for a more fair criminal justice system. I feel as though I have learned more in my two months interning in the area I am passionate about, than I have for years of working in an area I wasn't. As a first generation college student from a family of immigrants, many times law school is filled with hurdles that sometimes feel insurmountable. Thank you Equal Justice America, for giving me this opportunity to help others in the area I am most passionate about, the deep injustices in the criminal justice system, while supporting myself.

Thank you,

Arielle Yoon

Arielle Yoon

The University of Chicago Law

Class of 2020