

# SAFEYYAH QUERESHI

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am pleased to provide this reflection on my summer experience, which was generously funded and enabled by Equal Justice America. I was fortunate to work with the Employment Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services from June to August. I was able to explore in greater depth labor law issues which I had been exposed to in my first year of law school through the University of Wisconsin's Unemployment Appeals Clinic. Working at a legal services organization enabled me to have a direct impact on clients and provided meaning to the lessons I had been introduced to in school. In particular, I cultivated my professional responsibility, interpersonal, writing, and research skills. I was driven to produce high-quality research documents quickly in order to help our clients who had no other recourse at the most desperate moments of their lives.

I specifically worked on cases concerning wage and hour, tax, discrimination, and unemployment insurance benefits. My work rotated between intensive client interactions—including representation at administrative hearings and fact-finding interviews—and research for GBLS attorneys as they worked to secure work visas, tax debt relief, and other services for their underserved clients. I worked closely with my supervisors as I delved into complicated cases and learned new material (namely, tax code and IRS guidance). I was the primary counsel for two complex unemployment insurance cases, which was a particularly enriching experience. One client contends with severe mental illness and substance abuse, which not only impacted his ability to work but also report on this to the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance. I helped him reverse unfavorable decisions on three issues of his with multiple pending claims and appeals. My client told me that he would not have been able to tell his story without my aid, and that he feels more informed and comfortable with the process of attaining unemployment insurance benefits.

My interest in labor law and advocacy for workers' rights was strengthened by my time at Greater Boston Legal Services. Now in my second year, I have greater confidence advising and representing clients for their unemployment benefit hearings in Wisconsin. Because of my internship at GBLS, I chose to take a tax course so that I can be better informed as I work with lower income clients in the future for tax and employment matters. I am also more accountable and aware of expectations in a professional legal setting. I am so grateful for Equal Justice America's funding of an invaluable summer legal opportunity—thank you.

Sincerely,  
Safeeyah Quereshi