

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Ste. 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My experience at DC Law Students in Court this summer was a positive one. We began the program by doing a broad overview of housing law in DC that was extremely informative. As a legal intern my main responsibility was to interview potential clients that came into the clinic to receive legal help with their housing issues. This was an interesting experience for several reasons.

Firstly, this process of learning made digesting a lot of housing law much easier than it would have been in the classroom. It is amazing how quickly one can understand a body of law when they are required to explain that law and apply it to a problem. Especially because it was being explained for the most part to individuals who did not have a legal background. I wish I had this type of experience earlier in my legal education because I believe it has changed my approach to how I will study law in the classroom and will likely make me a better student and lawyer.

The client intake process was also beneficial in the direct contact I was able to have with so many different types of people. DC Law Students in Court only represents individuals who are under the DC poverty line, however at the clinic advice was given regardless. I was thus exposed to many different types of people who were all looking for basic advice. I was able to work with various age ranges and people from many different backgrounds. I know this exposure will be helpful in the future since I hope to go into Family Law, which will also span across many different types of individuals.

I was also lucky enough to be a part of a mediation hearing in the small claims court. This was a great hands-on experience because the mediation happened to be between two rather aggressive parties who had very conflicting stories. While I was exposed to a mediation that did not settle and will go to trial, it was fascinating being able to see the process first hand.

Overall the most rewarding and memorable aspect of the internship was the small pieces of advice I was able to hand out regularly to help individuals either feel more informed, more empowered, or simply heard. It was eye-opening to realize that many people are simply looked over in the legal process or lost in the shuffle, even though they have truly great intentions. My desire to work in a legal field that directly solves individual's day-to-day problems was reaffirmed at DC Law Students in Court.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Aitken
Georgetown University Law Center
JD Candidate 2013