

August 18, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I would like to thank you and Equal Justice America for making my summer internship a financial possibility. Without financial support, I would have been unable to gain this important career experience.

My summer internship with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLS-LA) was within their Family Law Advocacy Group (FLAG). I also spent one morning each week in the Domestic Abuse Self-Help (DASH) courthouse clinic. I also joined the Glendale Domestic Violence Taskforce. On a few occasions, I volunteered in the employment and immigration self-help clinics.

Most of my time in FLAG was spent working on the divorces and child custody/visitation/support cases of domestic violence victims represented by NLS-LA or assisted in pro per. In total, I worked directly on the cases of over 32 women. For many, I participated in an initial consultation interview to understand the legal services they were seeking and explain the legal options available to them. I also prepared initial pleadings; orders to show cause; declarations; and stipulated and default judgments. I observed numerous hearings and court dates in these cases as well. To the extent of our resources, I attempted to address the holistic needs of our clients by advocating for them with the Child Support Services Department, advising them on their public assistance cases, and referring

them to domestic violence counseling for themselves and their children. In some cases, I conducted legal research on points of law relevant to cases accepted for representation.

During my time in the DASH courthouse clinic, I worked with two to three in pro per litigants each week to apply for domestic violence restraining orders. I assisted a woman who had only recently immigrated to the U.S., a man seeking to protect his child from abuse, a woman seeking protection from her girlfriend, a woman whose abusive husband filed a restraining order against her, and many other litigants.

As a member of the Glendale Domestic Violence Taskforce, I drew on my background in non-profit data management to advise the Taskforce on its community needs survey. I also collaborated with the other Taskforce members and my prior internship employer, Break the Cycle, to implement a preventative outreach campaign in the Glendale schools.

One of the highlights of my work was an Armenian-speaking woman whom I assisted to gain a restraining order against her husband who had abused her for many years. Under the three-year restraining order, she was granted physical and legal custody of her children, as well as a move-out order against her husband, allowing her to stay in her home with the children. As a part of her divorce, she then received spousal and child support to help her support her newly reconstructed, safe family. I also referred her for domestic violence counseling for herself and her children. In just over a month, this woman transformed her life from one of daily fear of her alcoholic husband to a safe, independent life of her own.

My experiences this summer have reinforced my commitment to working in public interest law on behalf of domestic violence victims.

Sincerely,



Sandra K. Fluke

Georgetown University Law Center Class of 2012



August 24, 2010

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

Subject: Letter of Evaluation for Sandra Fluke

Dear Mr. Ruben:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of evaluation for Sandra Fluke. It was wonderful working with her this summer and I am fortunate for the opportunity she was provided to work with me here at Neighborhood Legal Services. Neighborhood Legal Services is a legal aid organization that serves the low income communities of North and East Los Angeles County.

Sandra handled a wide array of family law cases this summer ranging from child custody and visitation to restraining order matters. She drafted pleadings, managed cases, researched topics, and accompanied me to court. Once a week she also worked at our domestic violence clinic where she would work one-on-one with clients in preparing their restraining order documents and declarations. She was extremely professional and showed an understanding of the law rare in first year law students.

Sandra was also always extremely positive and dedicated. She dealt with clients in crisis extremely well and always went the extra distance for the neediest clients. Sometimes it was hard to get her to go home for the day!

Sandra was an outstanding law clerk and I sincerely appreciate the work she did here at Neighborhood Legal Services.

Sincerely,

Jimena Vasquez
Family Law Staff Attorney