

LAURA BALDACCI

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January 7, 2019

Seema Patel
Clinical Director
East Bay Community Law Center
2921 Adeline St.
Berkeley, CA 94703

Dear Ms. Patel:

I am a first-year law student at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and I am writing to apply for a summer internship at the East Bay Community Law Center. My work before law school on behalf of low-income consumers makes the Consumer Justice Clinic very appealing to me.

The focus of my professional work – in non-profit organizations, in government agencies, and in the private sector – has always been public service, with an emphasis on protecting indigent and vulnerable individuals. My experience over the past two years at the United States Bankruptcy Court solidified my interest in serving the public in issues of financial literacy, bankruptcy, and consumer protection.

While at the Bankruptcy Court, I directly served petitioners, many of whom struggled to represent themselves without the assistance of a lawyer. I worked with law clerks to improve the Frequently Asked Questions area of the court website to make the material more accessible. Reading and processing bankruptcy petitions every day provided me with a deeper understanding of the impact of the foreclosure crisis, credit crisis, and rising healthcare costs on low-income Americans. The work reinforced my commitment to ensuring justice for all parties in need of representation.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about EBCLC. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Baldacci

JOSHUA K. LU

2850 Telegraph Ave., Apt. C, Berkeley, CA 94720
(848) 545-7867 • Joshua.Lu@berkeley.edu

January 14, 2019

Phaedra Smith
Staff Attorney
Legal Aid of the Greater Bay Area
2000 Hamilton Ave.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am a first-year law student at University of California, Berkeley, School of Law who is committed to representing indigent clients. I would be honored to work with Legal Aid of the Greater Bay Area this summer.

I came to law school to make the education, public benefits, and legal systems available to people who have not been able to access them. As a volunteer tutor at several Oakland elementary schools during college, I worked with youth from low-income families. I enjoyed building relationships with the youth I served, and many of them experienced greater academic success through the tutoring I helped provide. But the work was bittersweet. The families I met faced overwhelming systemic barriers, and many were unable to access basic, essential services. Legal Aid of the Greater Bay Area fills the gap I observed as a tutor. I want to be part of that solution.

The jobs I have held to support myself and my family since high school have provided skills and experience that should be useful in a legal services office. In retail positions, I managed customer relationships, ordered inventory and handled vendor accounts, researched federal, state and local laws related to overtime work, and trained and supervised other employees. In college, as a writer and editor for the *Daily Californian*, I developed the ability to write clearly on a deadline. Currently, at the Worker's Rights Clinic, I research employment and disability law issues, draft memoranda analyzing potential cases, and work directly with diverse clients who are unable to afford the cost of representation.

Legal Aid of the Greater Bay Area does exactly the kind of work I am committed to doing. I would welcome the chance to discuss the possibility of a summer position with you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lu