

August 28, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My summer as a law clerk for the Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers is one that has left an undeniable mark on my ambitions as a future attorney. The Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL) is a non-profit organization that provides legal services to parents of Los Angeles County in juvenile dependency proceedings, ensuring that all parents have fair opportunities to retain or regain custody of their children. Located in Monterey Park near the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court of Los Angeles County, LADL provides legal representation for parents, regardless of income level. Having been raised in the Los Angeles area myself, it was an honor and privilege to be able to assist in maintaining and reuniting the families of Los Angeles through my legal clerkship with the Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers.

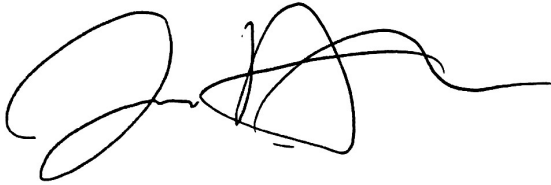
As a law clerk at LADL, the most invaluable experience I received was client interaction. Los Angeles County has the highest amount of dependency cases in the nation, and working closely with so many clients increased the passion I have for advocating for those who are in dire need of justice. LADL's mission is one that resonated with my unwavering belief in the idea that every person deserves the right to protect the sacredness of his or her family. Dependency is one of the most fascinating areas of law, because it marks an intersection of many issues that can only be addressed through a firm respect for justice and an unlimited capacity for love and understanding.

Over the course of my 10 weeks with LADL, I served around 80 clients by assisting them in completing the necessary paperwork for the court and helping to file motions in certain cases. The clients that I assisted included parents who were incarcerated, homeless, and going through some of the most challenging times in their lives. Not only was I able to work in Children's Court every day, but I also had the chance to volunteer at events in the legal community such as a conference hosted by the National Association of Women Judges in Beverly Hills.

Thanks to the Equal Justice America Fellowship, I was able to serve the families of the city that I love and was raised in. I have an infinite amount of gratitude for being able to serve as an

advocate for parents in dependency proceedings through my clerkship with the Los Angeles  
Dependency Lawyers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal tail extending to the right.

Jessica Lara Atwood  
Santa Clara University School of Law  
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2019