

STEPHANIE S. FITZGERALD

August 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

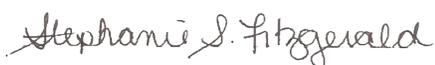
I am a second-year student at the University of Richmond School of Law and I interned at Legal Aid Justice Center in Petersburg, Virginia, throughout the summer. I worked under the supervision of Ms. Sylvia Jones, Managing Attorney in the Petersburg Office. My developing interest in public interest law and a desire to provide legal services to those in need throughout the community led me to apply for a position at Legal Aid Justice Center.

My internship experience at Legal Aid Justice Center was beneficial and rewarding. Throughout my time there, I gained exposure to many different areas of public interest law. I helped with the intake process and completed several intakes on my own. I also had the opportunity to participate in interviews with several clients who sought help from Legal Aid Justice Center on a variety of issues, including public housing, social security, and student loans. After the interviews, I assisted with research and trial preparation. In addition, I observed hearings in General District Court in Petersburg, Circuit Court in Colonial Heights, and federal court in Richmond.

In particular, I enjoyed assisting Ms. Nicole Dooley with the research and work on her special education cases. Throughout the summer, I attended several IEP meetings, sat in on client interviews with parents who expressed concerns about their child's education, and drafted client letters and records requests. My main interest lies in education law and I am glad that I had the opportunity to see the IEP process from the perspective of parents and children. It was rewarding to see the parents' appreciation to have an advocate for their children.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to an organization like Legal Aid Justice Center whose mission centers around helping those most in need. As a student, I appreciated the stipend from Equal Justice America to help fund my summer in Petersburg. I would recommend this internship experience to any fellow student looking for an opportunity that will be both personally rewarding and beneficial to the development of their legal skills.

Sincerely,



Stephanie S. Fitzgerald

Juris Doctor Candidate, Class of 2014  
University of Richmond School of Law