

## **Nina H. Datlof**

---

Boston University School of Law  
Class of 2018

August 30, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer, I worked as a legal intern at the Disability Law Center, Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts. The Disability Law Center (“DLC”) is the protection and advocacy system in the state of Massachusetts. As such, it is a non-profit organization with special statutory rights and privileges to access information and records from both public and private organizations to combat abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.

Throughout my internship, I wrote memoranda, letters, and court documents to assist attorneys in representing their clients. In one particularly memorable case, I drafted a rebuttal for an attorney representing a disabled client who was denied mental health services on the basis of her disability. In another case, I drafted a letter to a state administrative agency urging it to rectify inconsistencies in its internal guidelines and the state regulations which caused confusion amongst staff and interfered with a developmentally disabled client’s ability to get justice after being injured by an agency employee. I also assisted an attorney in collecting and evaluating documents related to a suspicious death of a client with mental illness at a hospital and wrote a memorandum on theories I developed regarding the case.

The first year of law school was an exercise in abstract reasoning for me: I read cases about people I never met, anachronistic issues, and convoluted fact patterns. However, my internship at DLC showed me how cases arise, from its start at the intake desk to its finish in judgment or settlement. The attorneys at DLC felt connected to the cases they took on and spoke of clients’ issues passionately, which contrasted with the academic detachment with which cases are sometimes discussed in law school. My internship at DLC reminded me why I decided to go to law school, and has inspired me to focus on disability law in the future whenever possible.

I am grateful that Equal Justice America chose me as a fellow and its generosity allowed me to become an intern at DLC this summer. I am excited to pursue a legal career in public interest and hope to represent clients similar to those I encountered this summer.

Sincerely,

Nina H. Datlof

Boston University School of Law  
Class of 2018