

August 31, 2011

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

Mr. Ruben:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to work as a student attorney with the Pediatric Advocacy Initiative with the University of Michigan Law School this summer. With support from Equal Justice America, I was able to provide necessary legal services and advocacy to low income clients facing unique pressures.

The clinic's patients are referred from local healthcare providers and legal and social service organizations. Majority of the client's have children with significant medical issues. The goal of the clinic's partnerships with these agencies, medial-legal partnerships, is to reduce the social determinants of health. As such, the clinic focuses on issues of family law, special education, and public benefits.

This summer, some of my projects included drafting a complaint to the state board of education on behalf of a client whose son's school district would not accommodate his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Additionally, I helped a client who was being challenged by her child's father for custody rights. The child has severe medical conditions that require 24/7 care that only the client could provide.

Through legal research, representing clients at hearings, and often counseling, I was able to not only advocate for my clients but I was also able to help them become a better advocate for themselves. Although emotionally challenging at time, understanding the every day struggle my client's were experiencing helped me provide the best legal services I could. Their appreciation of the little help I could give was rewarding.

This experience helped shape my career expectations and learn more about the skill set I have to offer to the legal community. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Celeste Davis  
Boston University School Of Law  
Class of 2012

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Re. Evaluation for Celeste Davis

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I was the primary supervisor for Celeste Davis this summer and am writing to let you know what a wonderful job Celeste did as a student attorney in our office.

As a student attorney, Celeste handled all aspects of her cases. From interviewing clients, to conducting legal and factual research, to drafting pleadings, to appearing in court, Celeste was extremely competent and professional. In one case, Celeste drafted a complaint to the Michigan Department of Education on her client's behalf. The client's son, an 8-year-old boy, had been playing a rowdy game one morning towards the end of the school year. Instead of following the child's behavior plan, the school called the police on the child. It later came to light that the school had neglected to give the child his ADHD medication. Despite her lack of background in special education law, Celeste's complaint was well-researched, well-written, and thorough. In another case, Celeste wrote and filed a motion on behalf of her client, a survivor of domestic violence, whose batterer had sued her for defamation. These cases are still pending, but Celeste's work was of the highest quality.

Celeste also appeared in court this summer on behalf of a Spanish-speaking client who was seeking custody of her daughter. The father of the child lives in Mexico and has had no contact with the child in years. Celeste worked beautifully with the interpreter and the client, and was extremely professional before the judge putting her client's testimony on the record.

On the whole, Celeste was a conscientious and wonderful addition to our office.

Sincerely,

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL  
PEDIATRIC ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

Debra Chopp