

<b>Danielle L. Tabankin</b>

August 31, 2010

Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road, Building II, Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Attn.: Dan Ruben, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Ruben:

As a third-year student at Albany Law School, I am writing this letter to thank you for choosing me as an Equal Justice America fellowship recipient this summer. With the gracious financial help of Equal Justice America, I was able to help provide legal service to low-income victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

This summer, I had the opportunity to work with and assist victims of domestic violence and elder abuse through the Pace Women's Justice Center Family Court Legal Program. The Center serves over 2500 victims and survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse every year. It was a ten week program that I attended full-time. Providing assistance to these victims was an extremely valuable experience because I was able to help many women get orders of protection against their abusers, allowing them to feel safer and secure.

A typical day at the office would include interviewing various women of all ages that had been abused by their husbands or someone that they were in an intimate relationship with. Most victims would come in emotionally distraught and crying, while others would come in with substantial cuts and bruises. During the interview, I would listen to the victim's story and ask various questions in order to determine whether any family offenses were present. If it was determined by the supervising attorneys that we would represent the client, I would draft a Family Offense Petition. Often, the victims needed emergency custody and child support as well. I would then represent the client before a Family Court Judge at an *ex parte* proceeding and ask the Court to grant the victim a temporary order of protection against her abuser and any other relief necessary.

Working at the Pace Women's Justice Center was an incredible experience that was extremely gratifying. I enjoyed learning from the experienced attorneys that worked there and loved working with the other interns. The victims were extremely grateful for the services we provided to them and felt much better knowing that they had the Court's protection. Thank you again for giving me the financial support to help these victims move confidently forward with their lives.

Sincerely,

Danielle L. Tabankin  
Albany Law School