



October 13, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I enjoyed my summer immensely and am so grateful to have been brought onboard those ten weeks. There are several important things that I take away from this summer.

First of all, new contacts: I met attorneys at First Star, its parent firm Schiff Hardin, Congressional Aides, family law practitioners, and I had contact with Judges and important ABA members. I am grateful to have met many interesting people, all of whom have had something useful to pass on to me. I made both career contacts and new friends—and having worked in many different offices I truly believe that the people who surround you make the job as much as the work itself—and I couldn't have asked for better colleagues.

Second of all, I learned so much about a subject of which I knew very little coming in. While I do not believe my future will be specifically in the field of children's rights law, what I now know about family law and dependency proceedings will inform my decisions as I move forward as an aspiring criminal attorney. I now have a greater understanding of our legal system—both its victories and shortcomings—and no matter where I end up in my career I know that insight into this will prove an asset.

As for the experience itself, I am grateful for the independence and the chance to



display my self-motivation. I feel good knowing that I got to cut my teeth into some real substantive and important work from day one—when I was asked to speak in a Senate committee meeting the third week in I knew it would be a summer where I'd be challenged with plenty of responsibility! The mix of tasks was good as well—getting experience doing both policy work as well as editing the NACC brief and attending family court hearings left me feeling like I saw a lot of different sides of the legal process this summer.

In closing, thank you again for enabling a great summer internship—one that has made me feel more equipped to face the world as an attorney a year from now. I hope to stay informed about all of the great work First Star does, and I leave ready to do intellectual battle with anyone who questions the full spectrum of rights children should enjoy in dependency proceedings.

Sincerely,

Liz Westbrook

George Washington University