August 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you for your organization's contribution to my summer work at the Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau. During my time there, I split my time between Social Security Disability cases and work on the firm's Elder Law Project.

In the former assignment, I managed a docket of about 15 cases for the duration of the summer. On these cases, I was responsible for everything from client interviews and contact, researching Social Security regulations, to contacting the Social Security Administration on the clients' behalf. The majority of the clients with whom I worked were low income, and were intimidated or frustrated when faced with the vast regulations governing their benefits. Many had difficulty even understanding the complicated forms and correspondence from the Social Security information, and greatly appreciated our office's offer to help them navigate this complicated system.

While working on the Elder Law Project, I managed a docket of about 20-30 cases throughout the summer. The Project allows anyone over the age of 60 to call our office with any sort of problem they may encounter. Often, it was the case that our office was the only place the client could turn for some relief in dealing with a difficult situation. If the client's problem fell into one of our practice areas (Family Law, Disability, Housing), or could be dealt with by the offer of brief assistance, we handled the case ourselves. If it reached beyond the scope of our expertise, we located an attorney who could assist our client and would be willing to take income into account when assigning fees.

Working with so many clients with so many varied experiences, I greatly sharpened my interpersonal skills. This summer has been instructive in the ins and outs of daily law practice that I was unable to learn during the first year of law school and its theoretical approach to law. In particular, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with low-income

people and become familiar with their unique challenges and legal obstacles.

Thank you for helping to provide me with this valuable experience and for the assistance wrought to our clients.

Sincerely,

Glenn Palaia

Boston College Law School

Class of 2014

## BOSTON COLLEGE LEGAL ASSISTANCE BUREAU

August 29, 2012

Katie Toman, Office Manager Katie@equaljusticeamerica.org
Equal Justice America
Bldg II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Rd.
Midlothian, VA 23112

RE:

Glenn Palaia

Summer 2012 Fellowship

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to your letter of 5-24-12, we submit the following joint evaluation of Glenn Palaia's EJA Summer 2012 Fellowship. Glenn was employed as a summer work-study intern at the Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau (BCLAB) from 5-29-12 through 8-17-12. BCLAB serves as a community legal services office and a training site for Boston College law students. Students provide free legal services to low-income clients in a range of civil matters in the areas of housing law, family law, elder law and public benefits. In his summer position at BCLAB, Glenn worked half time in the Social Security Disability Benefits Project (DBP) under the supervision of Lynn Barenberg, LICSW and DBP Project Director, and half time in the Elder Law Project under the supervision of Alan Minuskin and Alexis Anderson, clinical law faculty and supervising attorneys. Both of these positions involved high volume work which spanned a broad range of legal issues and a diverse client population. This split role presented the particular challenge of juggling priorities as both projects were client and time intensive.

In his DBP position, Glenn was responsible for approximately fifteen Social Security disability cases involving denials/appeals of initial applications, benefit cessations, and overpayments. His responsibilities included interviewing and counseling clients, contacting the Social Security Administration as needed, filing appeals and submitting documents on behalf of clients, monitoring client claims, and maintaining files. In addition, several of his cases required legal research on discrete issues. Glenn's assistance with the DBP caseload was a great asset to the program, and it was a pleasure to observe his professional development over the course of the summer as he gained confidence and assumed increased responsibility for his cases.

As to his significant work on the Elder Law Project, he also handled his legal responsibilities appropriately. This work entails substantial client interaction and Glenn became increasingly facile in his interpersonal skills during the course of the summer. He honed his abilities to identify the key legal issues presented by the elders and to establish appropriate priorities among the many issues presented for his resolution. Throughout the semester, his written work product has been succinct and effective.

EJA's support for Glenn's work at BCLAB was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lynn Barenberg, LICSW, DDF Director

Alexis Anderson, Attorney, Elder Project Director