

August 31, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Ruben

I would like to thank Equal Justice America for the opportunity it provided me this summer. If it were not for EJA, I would not have been able to devote as much time as I did to my clerkship at Advocacy, Inc. (AI).

AI focuses on representing people with disabilities in legal matters. I researched several cases this summer. One case involved a woman who was treated unfairly by police because she was deaf. It turns out that the city in which the incident took place had a horrible policy on providing interpreters. It did not conform in any way to the standards set out by the Department of Justice and the National Association of the Deaf. I researched the case and wrote a letter to the chief of police and the legal counsel of the city. I attached to that a complaint to the Department of Justice that I wrote in order to compel them to take action and revise their policy.

The highlight of my summer was preparing and then delivering with my supervising attorney a power point presentation about living wills to a deaf senior citizens' community in San Marcos, Texas. We opened our presentation with an entertaining skit demonstrating what would happen if a person does not have a living will. Then we spent a substantial amount of time discussing what a living will is, how it functions and how to fill one out. Most of the people in attendance were not familiar with what it was. This was especially evident at the end of our presentation when we counseled people individually. The questions we were asked made it clear that people were learning about living wills for the first time. They were grateful for our informing them of the option to fill out a living will. We stayed there for four hours until everyone's questions were answered. It was a very gratifying experience.

Some of my other duties included helping to draft a motion for preliminary injunction in a case in which a young boy's Medicare was being reduced and drafting a motion to compel discovery. I also attended meetings with clients and I accompanied my supervising attorney to court. I learned many things that I would not be able to learn in law school and I feel that I helped a number of people. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have an unforgettable summer experience.

Sincerely,

Ian Spechler  
University of Texas at Austin  
School of Law, Class of 2007