

JACQUELINE M. WING

September 20, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Working at the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles this summer as an Equal Justice America Fellow was one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had. In addition to providing me with practical, hands-on legal experience, the internship most importantly gave me the opportunity to constantly interact with children in the foster care system. I quickly learned that when a child feels listened to, cared for and supported by her attorney, her experience in dependency court becomes so much more positive. While dependency court is oftentimes a sad place to be for children, I learned how to make the experience just a little better for some of them. Sometimes this meant handing out teddy bears in the courtroom, sometimes it meant educating a child on exactly what was going to happen in the courtroom; oftentimes it simply meant listening to the needs and wishes of a child and doing my best to make sure these needs and wishes were communicated to her attorney and the court. I will always cherish my internship at the Children's Law Center and am planning to return as a volunteer as soon as possible.

Each day at the Children's Law Center brought me powerful new experiences and provided me with heartwarming stories from interacting with our young clients. Many stories stand out in my mind, but I would like to share one in particular with you. One of our clients, who I'll call Isabella, had recently been returned to the care of her mother in Texas after a long run in the foster care system. Isabella had been through a lot, having endured sexual abuse and a tumultuous home environment growing up. But her mom had worked hard to reunify with Isabella, and Isabella was happy to be back with her. Isabella's case was likely going to be closed, which was expected to be a good thing. However, there was a major challenge because Isabella did not have legal immigrant status and the foster care system had been working with her to achieve it. She was going through the process to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and thought that she would have to be removed from her mother's care in order to qualify. My supervising attorney asked me to do some research about Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. After speaking with a specialist at Public Counsel in Los Angeles, I determined that Isabella would be able to qualify for Special Immigration Juvenile Status even if she remained in the care of her mother. When we told her, she was so happy. My supervising attorney told me Isabella asked her to specifically thank me for my help and that she was overjoyed. I really felt like, in a small way, I made a difference in her life.

Small victories, like simply relaying helpful and positive information to Isabella, helped reinforce my career goal to ultimately work in children's advocacy as an attorney. I'm grateful for the experience I received from the Children's Law Center this summer, and equally as grateful to Equal Justice America for making it possible for me to spend my summer giving back, if even in a small way, to my community.

Thank you for helping law students pursue meaningful public interest careers.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline M. Wing
University of Southern California Gould School of Law
(transferred from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law)
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2013

Attorney Leah Cohen-Mays
Children's Law Center
201 Centre Plaza Drive Suite 8
Monterey Park, CA 91754

December 6, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer, I had the pleasure of supervising and working closely with Jacqueline Wing at the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles. Jacqueline served as my Summer Clerk from May 2011 to July 2011.

I spent a lot of time with Jacqueline this summer. She shadowed me throughout the day. We spent time in court, in the office and out in the field.

Throughout our time together, I found Jacqueline to be professional, intelligent and pleasant. I was always impressed with her work ethic. She showed up early and prepared every day of her internship. She was a fast learner. Jacqueline was able to quickly adapt to the ever-changing, and often emotional, environment of child dependency law. She was also very proactive in anticipating my work needs without being prompted. And, she was always ready to assist me and others whenever necessary. Coworker's constantly came to me and raved about Jacqueline.

Overall, Jacqueline was an amazing intern. I know she will make an incredible attorney one day. She would be an asset to any organization. And, I wholeheartedly believe she will do great work through the Equal Justice America Fellowship.

Feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Leah Cohen-Mays
Attorney, Children's Law Center