

August 15, 2006

Dan Ruben
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 allowing me to experience one of the most rewarding summers I have ever encountered. Having completed only one year of law school I initially felt apprehensive about interning at the Chicago Legal Clinic. I was nervous that I would not know enough law to be an effective employee. The joy of the internship though was the learning experience. The first day on the job I assisted my supervising attorney in drafting a court order. I knew then that this would be a hands-on job.

From that moment on, I actively participated in the day-to-day duties of the attorney I worked for. I talked to clients and tried to determine the issues they were facing as well as tried to answer their questions. In the first week I also interviewed potential clients who came to the clinic seeking help with petitioning the governor for executive clemency. I enjoyed this perspective of criminal law because so much of the work the clinic focuses on is family law.

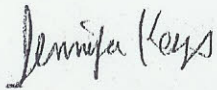
One of the most rewarding personal experiences this summer was being part of a guardianship hearing. Our client was awarded guardianship of a beautiful little girl she had been raising for four years. Both of the girls' parents were incarcerated. Seeing the client hug and kiss the girl after the judge rendered her decision was reward enough. But having the client hug and thank her attorney and me only made the moment more touching.

Professionally, I felt I accomplished the most when I interviewed and wrote the entire petitions of two of the clinic's clemency clients. I spent several hours interviewing each of the clients about the details of their criminal background and their entire life history since birth. I then weaved their tale in the best possible light in hopes that the prisoner review board and the governor will see that they have changed their lives and deserve a clean slate. We mailed the petitions to the state capital only days before my internship ended. Although it may take years before these clients receive an answer from the governor, I am proud that I was able to be a part of the effort to make their dream a reality.

The internship also afforded me the opportunity to meet many great people along the way. In addition to the clients, I also grew attached to the other interns and the staff at the clinic. In fact, I was so impressed with the attorneys' willingness to assist an aspiring attorney that I agreed to volunteer at the clinic this fall. I plan to interview two additional clients and write their clemency petitions, as well as assist a woman in an adult guardianship case.

Again, I would like to thank EJA for the fellowship. Because of the financial assistance your organization has bestowed upon me, I know I have made strides this summer in my goal of becoming a successful lawyer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Keys".

Jennifer Keys
DePaul University College of Law