

August 20, 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 sponsoring my summer work at Disability Rights Advocates (DRA). I am writing to express my appreciation for the funding from Equal Justice America and to share some of my experiences this summer.

DRA is a non-profit legal center that conducts litigation on behalf of people with all types of disabilities, including mobility, hearing, vision, learning, and psychological disabilities. While at DRA, I spent my summer working on cases on the following topics: access to public transportation for people with disabilities; the needs of people with disabilities in emergency planning; access to healthcare for people with disabilities; and opportunities for children with disabilities in New York City public schools. I conducted legal research and analysis on multiple topics and wrote legal memos. I conducted factual investigations, visiting and measuring spaces to determine their accessibility for people with disabilities, as well as making phone calls to inquire about accessibility. DRA's attorneys involved me fully in all of their work. I also participated in a variety of other tasks for ongoing cases/projects, ranging from coding documents for discovery and creating summaries of deposition transcripts to conducting interviews and outreach with class members. I attended six depositions and a court proceeding over the course of the summer, as well as regularly scheduled meetings and conference calls.

My experience at DRA this summer solidified my commitment to public interest work in general and in particular to public-interest work dealing with people with disabilities. My summer made clear to me how often the needs of people with disabilities are ignored or forgotten. In New York City, for example, many people rely on taxis for transportation, but under 2% of New York City's taxis are wheelchair accessible. By contrast, 100% of the taxi fleet in London is wheelchair accessible. Similarly, only a few specific stations in the New York subway system are wheelchair accessible, and in those stations, the elevators often do not work. Transportation around the city for people with mobility disabilities is an issue that I never fully considered before my summer internship, but it is now one that I will never forget and feel strongly about improving. I hope that my time at DRA has allowed me to assist people with disabilities in New York City in gaining equal opportunities in their everyday lives.

I am grateful to Equal Justice America for the chance to spend my summer improving access for people with disabilities. My experience at DRA was incredibly rewarding, and

I plan to pursue disability rights work in some form after law school. I hope other NYU law students will be able to participate in the Equal Justice America Legal Fellowships program in the future. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Jessica Scholes

New York University Law School, J.D. expected May 2013



Home Office
2001 Center Street, Fourth Floor
Berkeley, California 94704-1204
Telephone: (510) 665-8644
Facsimile: (510) 665-8511
TTY: (510) 665-8716
www.dralegal.org

N.Y. Office
40 Worth Street, Tenth Floor
New York, NY 10013
Telephone: (212) 644-8644
Facsimile: (212) 644-8636
TTY: (877) 603-4579
www.dralegal.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William F. Alderman
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Leslie Aoyama
Nordstrom Inc.
Mark A. Chavez
Chavez & Gertler LLP
Linda Dardarian
*Goldstein, Demchak, Baller,
Borgen & Dardarian*
Evan Davis
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, LLP
Ernest Galvan
Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld LLP
Lucy Lee Helm
Starbucks Coffee Company
Pat Kirkpatrick
Fundraising Consultant
Joshua Konecky
*Schneider Wallace Cottrell
Brayton Konecky LLP*
Janice L. Lehrer-Stein
Consultant
Bonnie Lewkowicz
Access Northern California
Laurence Paradis
Disability Rights Advocates
Eugene Alfred Pinover
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Cristina Rubke
Shartsis Friese LLP
Fernando M. Torres-Gil, Ph.D.
University of Calif. Los Angeles

DRA STAFF

Christine Chuang
Staff Attorney
Ronald Elsberry
Managing Attorney
Kara Janssen
John W Carson / LD Access Fellow
Kevin Knestrick
Supervising Staff Attorney
Michael Nunez
DRA Fellow
Laurence Paradis
Executive Dir. and Co-Director of Litigation
Shawna Parks
Co-Director of Litigation
Julia Pinover
Staff Attorney
Stuart Seaborn
Staff Attorney
Mary-Lee Kimber Smith
Managing Attorney
Rebecca Williford
Staff Attorney
Sid Wolinsky
Director of Litigation

ADVISORY BOARD

Ben Foss
Headstrong Nation
Joseph Cotchett
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy
Hon. Joseph Grodin
Retired Justice, Calif. Supreme Court
Karen Kaplowitz
New Ellis Group
Hon. Charles Renfrew
Retired, United States District Judge
Margaret R. Roisman
Roisman Henel LLP
Guy T. Saperstein
Law Office of Guy T. Saperstein
Todd Schneider
*Schneider Wallace Cottrell
Brayton Konecky LLP*
Michael P. Stanley
Legal Consultant
Gerald Uelmen
Santa Clara University School of Law

September 11, 2012

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

Re: Equal Justice America Summer Grant (Jessica Scholes)

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to thank and report back to Equal Justice America regarding its support of Jessica Scholes, a law student at New York University School of Law, who interned at the New York office of Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) as a law clerk during the summer of 2012. DRA is a non-profit legal center whose mission is to ensure dignity, equality, and opportunity for people with all types of disabilities through advocacy and high impact litigation. DRA represents people with all types of disabilities, including mobility, hearing, vision, learning and psychological disabilities.

Jessie worked on a variety of legal matters during her ten weeks at DRA. The cases that she was involved with addressed critical needs for people with disabilities such as access to transportation; access to healthcare; ensuring that municipalities maintained adequate emergency planning procedures; and opportunities for children with disabilities in New York City public schools. She performed legal research and analysis on multiple topics and drafted legal memos, including advocacy memos that may be used in future litigation. She also conducted a factual investigation on accessibility conditions at a major New York City healthcare provider and made both in person visits and phone calls to help us independently assess the accessibility of the services provided.

Jessie also participated in a variety of other tasks for our ongoing cases and projects, ranging from coding documents for discovery and creating summaries of deposition transcripts to conducting interviews and outreach with class members. She attended six depositions and a court proceeding over the course of the summer, as well as regularly scheduled internal meetings, trainings and conference calls. Over the course of the summer Jessie made numerous and valuable

contributions to DRA's work on behalf of people with disabilities.

On behalf of DRA, I want to thank Equal Justice America for its direct of support of Jessica and DRA's summer program. It is precisely this type of assistance that enables DRA to mentor and work together on pressing public interest projects with bright young law students such as Jessie. Please be assured that Equal Justice America's financial support was money well spent. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Knestrick", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Kevin Knestrick
Supervising Staff Attorney