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August 20, 2013

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

RE: Katelyn Cherney

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Katelyn Cherney completed a fellowship with Legal Aid of Nebraska (Legal Aid) this summer. It quickly became apparent that Katelyn is a bright, dedicated, professional and hardworking individual who is passionate about public interest work.

This summer Katelyn was able to gain experience and provide assistance in several different areas. She provided assistance to individuals participating in Legal Aid's assisted pro se clinics to modify child support. Also, Katelyn was senior certified, and she was able to provide representation in court on behalf of several clients under the supervision of our attorneys. Additionally, Katelyn helped staff Legal Aid's Access to Justice (A2J) Self-Help Center. The A2J Center is a walk-in center open every afternoon where individuals are able to obtain legal advice. Lastly, Katelyn worked on a major research project in an area that Legal Aid is preparing to do some impact work.

The managing attorney of the Omaha litigation office, Muirne Heaney, provided supervision and had the opportunity to observe Katelyn at clinics, at A2J, and at court hearings. I have included Muirne's evaluation comments which are:

- Katelyn handled the direct examination of a witness in a trial. She had very good courtroom demeanor, she was very well-prepared, and she was able to get evidence admitted. Additionally, Katelyn gracefully handled "curveballs" the witness threw her during his testimony. Katelyn essentially second chaired this trial.
- Katelyn assisted our walk-in clients at the A2J Center. She began with sitting in on client interviews and observing the attorney and client. Katelyn then moved to conducting client interviews with an attorney observing. She did very well.

- Katelyn consistently acted as an aide to Muirne at the assisted pro-se clinics. This allowed Muirne to frequently see her interact with our clients. Katelyn has a nice demeanor with clients. She appears calm and self-possessed, helps clients over what appeared to them to be insurmountable barriers, and persisted in following through with clients when they needed follow-up assistance.
- Katelyn made great suggestions about content for our weekly meetings with our summer law clerks.
- Katelyn knew when to ask questions.
- Katelyn was punctual, reliable and completed her work in a timely manner.
- While self-possessed, she is not arrogant. Katelyn listens well to her peers and the attorneys.
- We had a fairly good sized group of clerks this summer. I would characterize her as a leader among the clerks. It was clear that she looked forward to the experience at our office and worked at making the most out of the experience. I believe she accomplished that goal.

I was able to directly work with Katelyn on the major research project she did this summer. Katelyn did a great job summarizing the issues, finding case law and supporting research, and in helping define possible legal approaches to address the issues.

In conclusion, we were very impressed with Katelyn. She has skills beyond what one reasonably could expect of someone completing their 2nd year of law school. We believe Katelyn has the skills to become excellent attorney.

Thank you for your assistance with this fellowship.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further. My telephone number is (402) 348-1069 ext. 204 and my email address is jgaughan@legalaidofnebraska.com.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Gaughan
Director of Litigation and Advocacy
Legal Aid of Nebraska