

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

September 15, 2005

Dear Mr. Ruben:

The work I engaged in this summer as an Equal Justice America Fellow at the Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) is the work I came to law school to do. As you know, the VRLC is the first law center in the nation to specifically address the civil legal needs of sexual assault survivors. The opportunity to work in this cutting edge area of the law, and to learn from the dedicated and brilliant staff was invaluable and I have Equal Justice America to thank for that opportunity.

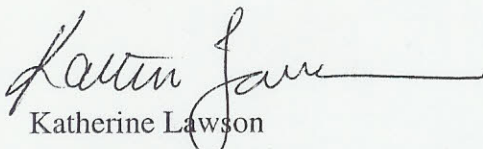
I have interned at the VRLC in a variety of capacities since June 2004. My role as Intake Coordinator this summer was by far the most rewarding and engaging of the positions. In the Intake Coordinator capacity, I interacted with clients every day – hearing their stories, issue-spotting complex legal issues, and assisting them in evaluating their legal options. This experience was formative on two levels. First, it certainly solidified my decision to focus my practice on direct service to clients, as opposed to the more policy-based opportunities in the field of woman's rights. The daily interaction with clients is what fueled me each day and made the work as rewarding as it was. Second, it re-energized and more sharply focused my commitment to working with this particularly vulnerable population.

In addition, I cannot begin to express how incredible the staff of the VRLC is and how much I learned from watching their practice this summer. I am indebted to my supervisor, Sue Finegan, who was exceptionally generous with her time and provided excellent mentorship throughout the summer. In addition, the attorney I worked most closely with this summer on cases, Colby Bruno, showed me what "zealous advocacy" of a client truly looks like. Her dedication to clients and dogged pursuit of their wishes was inspiring.

In summing up my experiences this summer, I suppose action speaks louder than words – I am continuing my work at the VRLC this academic year as the Anne E. Borghesani Fellow.

Thank you again for the incredible opportunity and for all of the critical work you do.

Sincerely,



Katherine Lawson

Suffolk Law School

Anticipated graduation: May 2006