

# LAUREN WEISER

August 29, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to have worked at Advocacy, Inc. this summer. As you know, Advocacy, Inc. is Texas' federally mandated protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities. I found my experience there extremely rewarding. I particularly enjoyed dealing directly with clients and researching issues I wouldn't otherwise have had the chance to investigate.

One particularly memorable case I handled was for a client appealing reduction of his Medicaid benefits. The client suffered from mental retardation and epilepsy due to a prior bout with encephalitis that left him with very little physical and cognitive functioning. Accordingly, he required 70.5 hours per week of around-the-clock, one-to-one care but had been approved for only 43 hours per week. My duties involved collecting evidence, interviewing potential witnesses, and developing legal arguments in preparation for hearing and pre-hearing negotiations. I was also responsible for communicating the progress of the case to the client's mother and guardian, who was impressively brave throughout the ordeal, in addition to being grateful for having an advocate. Other memorable cases included helping a veteran with a mental disability negotiate with his guardian for increased financial independence and helping eight children with a variety of physical disabilities get durable medical equipment through Texas Medicaid.

In addition to helping clients directly, I performed several interesting research projects. In connection with an effort to propose legislation to improve Texas' juvenile justice and foster care systems, I analyzed statutes mandating post-disposition court supervision of juveniles who are simultaneously dependent and delinquent. I also researched how to improve veterans' access to mental health care in Texas, which involved attending meetings at the local VA outpatient clinic and a local jail, as well as analysis of state and federal law.

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This letter provides only a small glimpse into the variety of rewarding experiences I had during my summer at Advocacy, Inc., where I was able to participate in legal work that helped a wide range of people in need – from veterans needing mental healthcare to children needing medical equipment. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lauren Weiser  
The University of Texas School of Law  
Class of 2010