

September 11, 2013

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

Re: Impact of Equal Justice Fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for the financial support that made my work at LAF possible. Through my summer in the Public Benefits and Health Law Practice Group, I was able to help vulnerable low-income individuals secure basic necessities like food, medical care, and prescription medications.

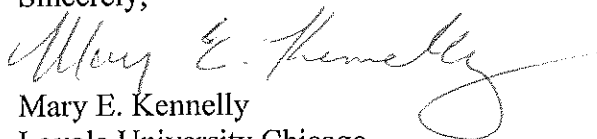
As a legal intern, I interviewed scores of clients who were denied the public benefits to which they were entitled. Of these individuals, one stuck with me. This case involved a retiree who entered a court ordered home monitoring program subsequent to a misdemeanor conviction. In that case, the Social Security field office ignored the agency's policy that supports community-based diversion programs and allows participants to continue to receive benefits while serving a sentence at home.

A laborer, my client contributed to the Social Security system during his working years. Now, he depended on his benefits for sustenance in retirement. Without them, he was nearly destitute. After fighting with Social Security for months without legal counsel, he had given up hope of securing justice. By bringing a formal appeal on his behalf, I ultimately secured for him all of benefits he was wrongly denied. He was not the only one to leave the courtroom richer that day. The experience of representing him gave me a treasure trove of new insights into the complexity of the attorney client relationship.

As lawyers, we demand of our clients names, places, and chronologies. We take from them mundane and extraordinary facts and boil them into a legally relevant concentrate. From this case, I learned that if I stopped there, my job would be only half done. Rather, my task included not only preparing arguments, but also assuaging my client's fears and anxieties so that he could tell his own story.

As lawyers sometimes we speak for clients, but this summer I learned the harder task can be helping a client speak for himself. Equal Justice America gave this man a renewed belief in fair play. It gave me the practice and mentors I need to become an effective attorney. Thank you for all Equal Justice America made possible this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary E. Kennelly". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

Mary E. Kennelly  
Loyola University Chicago  
JD Candidate, 2014

9/17/2013

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Please excuse my delay in providing you with this evaluation letter for Mary Kennelly, an EJA summer student with LAF this past summer. Mary was an outstanding summer fellow and I am thrilled to report on her work to you. This summer was a challenging time at LAF; we lost the head of the group in which Mary worked to cancer in June. His passing was remarkably sudden and left us both grief-stricken and busy. Mary was able to step in from day one and handle both case work and policy/legal research seamlessly. I cannot tell you what a difference it made to us all to be able to depend on someone so new to us at such a difficult time.

Mary's work ranged from negotiating on behalf of clients with state and federal benefits agencies, to researching civil procedure issues for our affirmative litigation, to assisting me with policy analysis on health care-related projects, to representing a client at a hearing before a Social Security Administration Administrative Law Judge. She interacted directly with clients, with a variety of LAF staff and with external partners on a regular basis. Her work in all of these areas was outstanding. She was thoughtful, respectful of clients, organized, spot-on with legal analysis, utterly dependable, and showed the insight of a far more experienced practitioner.

Not only was Mary's work product outstanding, but she was an excellent summer addition to our team. She was responsive to everyone—students and supervisors alike—in a timely and professional manner. I could always count on Mary to assess the dynamics of a meeting or event and match her communication style to it. Mary was also exceptional with

clients. She was compassionate with even difficult clients and, equally important, she was able to set boundaries with clients, a critical skill that many practitioners with far more experience still lack.

If you need any more information, please feel free to contact me at 312-347-8388. I would be happy to answer any additional questions you have about Mary's work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Chapman', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Caroline Chapman, Practice Group Director  
Public Benefits Practice Group  
LAF  
cchapman@lafchicago.org