

September 20, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you and Equal Justice America for giving me the opportunity to work at the Child Advocacy Law Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School this summer. I was able to work with some wonderful individuals and provide service to children, parents and families in need of legal assistance.

The Child Advocacy Clinic (CALC) is the oldest child welfare law clinic in the country. It provides families with direct aid by representing them in trial court proceedings. The cases generally deal with child abuse and neglect, child custody, and termination of parental rights issues. Additionally, the supervising attorneys and students at CALC look beyond solely legal needs, and strive to aid in other important aspects of our client's lives.

As a student attorney, I had the opportunity to work closely with supervising attorneys and fellow student attorneys on a dozen cases. I worked with an incarcerated parent who was fighting to regain custody of his son pending his eventual release from prison. I also worked to track down another client who ran away several times from her foster home after becoming jaded by the foster care system. Most of our clients face not only legal problems but also struggle with medical and socioeconomic hardship. As a result, I learned that although we are first and foremost lawyers, in certain situations we take on the roles of social workers and mentors.

Among the numerous clients I had a pleasure of working with, I developed a close relationship with one client in particular. My client was a seventeen-years-old young woman who struggled with termination of parental rights issues and had been placed in a foster home. In addition to her legal situation, she also dealt with various health and financial problems and was not receiving the services she needed from her caseworker from the Department of Human Services (DHS). After months of close coordination with the court and the DHS supervisor, I was finally able to help my client make some much needed progress in her life. She is now graduating high school a semester early and has started her college application process. She has been assigned a new caseworker and recently started receiving monthly financial assistance from the government. And most importantly, she told me that she finally feels like she is receiving the help promised to her a long time ago. I feel tremendously fortunate to have taken part in shaping this young woman's life for the better.

The Child Advocacy Clinic is a phenomenal legal clinic with amazing attorneys and support staff. I chose to work there this summer because of the clinic's reputation for providing its students with real world client-interaction and litigation experiences. And I'm happy to say that I

learned all of the above and more. Thank you Equal Justice America for your support in this experience.

Sincerely,

Tao Li

University of Michigan Law School 2015

M **Michigan Law**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL
CHILD ADVOCACY LAW CLINIC

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September 18, 2013

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
13540 E. Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112
Via email: katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

Dear Mr. Ruben:

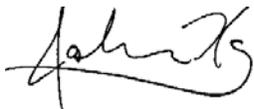
It was a pleasure to have Tao Li serve as an intern in the University of Michigan Child Advocacy Law Clinic for summer, 2013. I want to thank Equal Justice America for supporting her work here. This letter is her end-of-summer evaluation.

Tao did a wonderful job in the clinic. She completed all of her responsibilities, working full-time for at least 10 weeks, and she was always diligent and professional. She handled child welfare cases in our clinic, including interviewing, counseling, negotiating, advocating in court, and managing all aspects of her day-to-day casework. She engaged readily in supervision and effectively used the guidance provided by the faculty to grow as a lawyer. I was particularly impressed with her poise and her ability to learn quickly what had been an unfamiliar area of law for her.

Tao connected well with her clients and was highly competent in the representation she provided them. She stayed up to date on all required paperwork, whether that was case notes or legal documents, and she was well-liked by faculty, staff, and her fellow interns. In short, she was a delight to have in the office and provided very strong legal services for her clients.

Again, thank you for helping to make her internship possible. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (734) 763-5000 or jbkay@umich.edu.

Sincerely,



Joshua B. Kay
Clinical Assistant Professor