

September 30, 2013

Attn: Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director at Equal Justice America
KATIE@EQUALJUSTICEAMERICA.ORG

Re: Zachary L. Dorado Summer Fellowship with the Center for Family
Representation

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I write with respect to Zachary Dorado's summer fellowship with the Center for Family Representation ("CFR"). Mr. Dorado was a summer fellow with CFR from June 3, 2013 through August 9, 2013, and I was the CFR staff attorney responsible for supervising Mr. Dorado during his summer fellowship. Mr. Dorado was a great addition to our staff. Mr. Dorado assisted CFR with a number of writing and legal research projects. Mr. Dorado engaged in legal training sessions with CFR staff members. In addition, he also worked directly with staff members on a number of cases and projects, which are discussed more fully herein.

One of the research projects that Mr. Dorado worked on pertained to the effects of a finding of neglect on a parent who had a pending custody matter against a non-parent. Mr. Dorado was asked to research whether a finding of neglect in a Family Court Act Article 10 proceeding constitutes extraordinary circumstances in a pending custody matter such that a non-parent should be awarded custody of the child over the parent. Greatly due to Mr. Dorado's research, we were able to find persuasive case law, which indicated that a finding of neglect, alone, is not enough to constitute extraordinary circumstances in a pending custody matter. Mr. Dorado drafted a legal memorandum which will now assist staff moving forward with respect to this issue.

Additionally, Mr. Dorado assisted one of our staff attorneys with a written summation in a pending abuse matter that had continued over several court appearances. Mr. Dorado researched all of the legal issues and drafted the written summation for the attorney. While the Judge has not entered an order yet in this case, the written summation which Mr. Dorado drafted was well-written and highly persuasive.

Mr. Dorado also had the opportunity to observe various court proceedings, including fact-findings, permanency hearings, visitation hearings, and termination of parental right proceedings pending in Manhattan Family Court. He shadowed staff members, including myself, during our intake days, which is when our office is first introduced and assigned to represent parents in pending abuse or neglect cases in Manhattan Family Court. On the day that Mr. Dorado helped me with intake, I was assigned to a case where our client's children had been removed from her care. Our office asked for an emergency hearing for the children to be returned to our client's care pursuant to section 1028 of the

Family Court Act. Mr. Dorado assisted all of the preparation required for this type of emergency hearing. He met with staff and the client in order to prepare the client for the hearing. Mr. Dorado also contacted our client's service providers to ensure that our office had all of the necessary and instrumental information required for the hearing. As a result of Mr. Dorado's zealous advocacy, our client won the hearing, and her children were returned to her care.

In sum, Mr. Dorado was a pleasure to work with. He was eager to become involved in any assignment that was given to him. He also sought out staff members when there was a project that he wanted to work on, and took advantage of all of the resources available to him. Mr. Dorado was also very professional towards clients, and a strong advocate on their behalf.

If you would like any further details regarding his summer fellowship please feel free to contact me at 212-691-0950, ext. 211.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Amanda Stein
Staff Attorney
Center for Family Representation, Inc.