

August 3, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am a rising 2L at Harvard Law School and spent my summer working with the Children's Disability Project of Greater Boston Legal Services. I am writing to thank you and Equal Justice America for providing me with summer funding for my amazing legal internship.

Prior to law school, I worked as an English teacher for elementary and middle school students, in addition to volunteering at the Center for the Blind in Seoul, Korea. Based on such experiences, I knew I wanted to explore the areas of child advocacy, juvenile justice, and disability rights as a law student. With the funding from Equal Justice America, I was able to spend my summer helping to advocate for and represent some of the most marginalized members of the community in Supplemental Security Income benefits disputes with the Social Security Administration.

During the first week of my internship, I was already tasked with drafting a brief to be submitted to the Appeals Council. This client had a long list of serious impairments, including sickle cell anemia, which placed immense restrictions on her ability to maintain substantial gainful activity. Despite such limitations, she was wrongfully denied disability benefits by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). My supervisor and I worked hard to update her record with various medical opinion and memoranda that would bolster her case. Through numerous brainstorming sessions and meetings, we successfully pinpointed the ALJ's errors of law and submitted a brief detailing our arguments for an appeal.

Furthermore, my summer internship with the Children's Disability Project taught me the importance of effective, strategic communication, a critical skill to be a good lawyer. Depending on who I was addressing, whether it be our child clients, ALJs, physicians, or other advocates involved in the case, I needed to adopt different methods of communicating based on each individual's needs and goals. I often worked with clients from a wide range of cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds, and such interactions reinforced the lesson that, at the end of the day, what matters most for effective communication is to approach each situation with genuine compassion and interest.

Needless to say, my experience at Greater Boston Legal Services was truly inspiring. Thank you again for helping me in the process and allowing me to participate in the program as a summer fellow.

Sincerely,

Ji Young (Jenny) Shim
J.D. Candidate 2020
Harvard Law School



August 3, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to you about Jenny Shim's summer internship with the Children's Disability Project of Greater Boston Legal Services. I directly supervised Jenny's work throughout her summer internship.

The Children's Disability Project (CDP) provides skilled legal representation to children with disabilities who have been wrongfully denied Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. We assist vulnerable families in navigating all levels of the SSI appeals process by gathering evidence from doctors, therapists, and teachers and using it to present a compelling and accurate picture of our child clients. As a result of our advocacy, including both the written legal memoranda we prepare for administrative hearings and our representation at those hearings, many children have been awarded the benefits they need and deserve. In addition, we appeal unfavorable administrative decisions to the federal court when there is a strong legal basis to do so.

This summer, Jenny played an important role in our office. Her work in CDP entailed interviewing clients, factual investigation, evidence gathering, and preparation of cases for administrative hearings. She truly excelled at all of these duties. She drafted several briefs to various administrative levels, two of which were appeals of Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decisions to the Appeals Council. With only one week to prepare, Jenny represented a client before an ALJ and won the case. She also represented a client who had three complex cases and was always ready and willing to tackle challenging substantive legal issues and projects.

Jenny learns extremely quickly, is very well-organized, and demonstrated an ability to manage a large caseload with challenging issues. Although her young clients had complex medical impairments that were not always easy to explain to Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers, Jenny was very skilled at providing answers to complex issues in a clear and persuasive manner.

Co-Founders: Jane G. Smith, J.D. M.Ed., Taramattie Doucette, Esq.
"A person's a person, no matter how small" – Dr. Seuss

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Jenny's most admirable qualities are the eager dedication, sincere compassion, and zealous diligence with which she advocates for her clients. She is mature and responsible, and can be relied upon to complete any task in a thorough and timely manner. Jenny was a truly invaluable addition to the CDP during this summer, and we will miss her greatly. She genuinely cares about her clients and about the problems which people with disabilities and low-income individuals face in this society.

I appreciate and thank Equal Justice America for supporting Jenny's internship with CDP. I look forward to working with future interns supported by Equal Justice America.

Sincerely,

/s/ Taramattie Doucette

Taramattie Doucette, Esq.

Project Director

Children's Disability Project