

August 30, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I worked for Children's Law Center (CLC) in Monterey Park, CA, which the most rewarding experiences of my law school career. CLC is a non-profit organization, that provides legal representation to children involved in the juvenile dependency proceedings at Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court of Los Angeles County. The purpose of CLC attorneys is to ensure the safety and welfare of the children, ensure they are receiving beneficial social services, and, when appropriate, reunify them with their parents.

As a law clerk at CLC, I had the opportunity to interview clients, visit clients at their placements, prepare for adjudications, research and write memos, attend case plan meetings, and assist in finding resources and services to better assist the client's needs. The most rewarding part was the client interaction. These children are in very vulnerable positions, having to disclose very personal information to people they consider strangers. Having the opportunity to speak with these children, build a bond, and break down barriers was extremely gratifying.

In addition to helping our clients, I was also able to make connections with the managing and staff attorneys at CLC. CLC is comprised of four firms. I worked in CLC 3 under two staff attorneys. Although, there are over 30 attorneys staffed in CLC 3, everyone knows each other and do what they can to help each other out. While writing my memo, I consulted with various staff and managing attorneys regarding the issue and was able to get constructive feedback. This community environment was also present in the courtroom among all of the attorneys. County Counsel, Parent's Counsel and Children's Counsel were all respectful and worked together to do what was best for everyone involved.

Overall, working at Children's Law Center was the most rewarding experience of my law school career and solidified my passion to advocate for children. Due to my experience this summer, I plan to pursue a legal career as a dependency attorney and ultimately become a civil rights attorney for children. I would not have been able to pursue this opportunity, if it were not for the Equal Justice America Fellowship and I am grateful for the funding I received. Due Equal Justice America I was able to serve over 50 children this summer in dependency proceedings at Children's Law Center.

Sincerely,

Ashlee Walcott
University of San Diego, School of Law
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2019

August 31, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tracy Pham and I am attorney at the Children's Law Center of California (CLC). I was Ashlee Walcott's supervising attorney this past summer during Ms. Walcott's internship with our office.

CLC represents children in dependency court in Los Angeles County. The role of CLC attorneys is to advocate for the protection, safety and physical and emotional well-being of children. We fight to ensure the well-being and future success of our clients throughout the legal process. Law clerks at CLC are expected to provide day-to-day legal services for clients and to learn more about how CLC carries out its mission. As a law clerk, Ashlee helped with preparing for trials and hearings, interviewing clients and collateral sources, and writing motions, among other things.

Prior to her internship, Ashlee worked with youth clients as a social worker, assisting youth with their transition into adulthood. Ashlee also worked as a law clerk in for the public defender's office in delinquency and at Compton Legal Services. From the very beginning of her internship, I could tell that these experiences were very helpful in her work at CLC. Ashlee was able to relate and empathize with our clients with ease and conducted many interviews of clients, caretakers, mental health providers, and other collaterals. She also assisted in preparing for hearings and trials by conducting research and writing trial briefs. She completed each task given to her with aplomb and was very eager to learn and assist in any way that she could. I truly appreciated Ashlee's positive attitude and willingness to learn about the work at CLC and dependency law in general. By the end of her internship, Ashlee showed that she had a strong grasp of dependency and received very positive marks on her performance.

It was a pleasure to have Ashlee as my law clerk this past summer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at PhamT@clcla.org or by phone at (323) 980-5721

Sincerely,

Tracy Pham

Tracy Pham