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November 29, 2022

Mr. Dan Ruben

Executive Director, Equal Justice America

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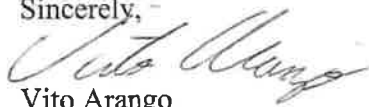
Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you so much for funding and continuing to fund the Disability Rights Clinic at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University. This clinic has not only allowed me an opportunity to take a credited class, but to also learn what it means to be lawyer in an area of law that is constantly changing and forced me to consider real-world client problems which are different from hypotheticals. I was fortunate enough to have multiple 17-A guardianship cases and was able to see just how demanding and restrictive these proceedings can be. They all required diligence even if my client and their guardian were well-informed about these guardianships. I was especially privileged because all of guardianship clients were cooperative and understood the ramifications of what would happen. I also learned, in a small-scale, how to balance my case load. Law school emphasizes organization, and the clinical experience adds a casework dimension to my legal education. This is helpful, as it is a glimpse into what I will be experiencing soon after graduation.

I was also able to attend the Livable Communities Village Fair where I, along with Professor Angley, were able to assist numerous senior citizens with information regarding health care proxies while also meeting other groups and organizations that assist the elderly. This was a very well attended event and we ran low on supplies because of the demand for our assistance. While I am very thankful for this opportunity, I learned that we could have been better prepared. I have also learned how to assist clients that have disabilities, such as hearing problems. While it could be anticipated that a Disability Rights Clinic would have many clients with impairments, it was not until I had such a client, that I was able to practically apply what I had learned. Conversely, I experienced some frustration when a client was either unresponsive or hospitalized and I was unable to fully develop their case.

Overall, this clinic has been very helpful as a law student. I am tremendously proud of the work that I have done and the service this clinic provides. All of this could only have been possible with the development and sponsorship from Equal Justice America, and I thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Vito Arango

Student Intern