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December 6, 2022

Mr. Dan Ruben
Building II, Suite 201
13540 E. Boundary Rd.
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Rachel Neff and I am a 3L student at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. I have a passion for health law, specifically bioethics and advocacy for universal health care. This semester, I had the opportunity to work at the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at John Jay Legal Services as a student attorney. I am reaching out to thank you for giving me the chance to work at this clinic. It has been extremely beneficial for my growth as an attorney.

I, alongside my fellow colleagues in the clinic, had the opportunity to assist low-income individuals who have disabilities in Westchester County with various legal problems. Some of the legal assistance I provided was drafting wills, petitioning to the Surrogates court for the appointment of a successor trustee, and conducting legal research and drafting helpful advice letters.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that working at the clinic has provided. I have faced many challenges that have allowed me to grow as a person and a future attorney. Working with clients who have disabilities can create many obstacles that I did not foresee. Some unanticipated challenges included, for example, a client's lack of access to transportation to get to the clinic to get documents signed in the presence of a notary. This type of challenge was not a challenge I had never faced in my previous litigation experience. This challenge taught me that every client is different, and every client should be afforded equity in achieving legal assistance.

I have learned during this clinic to approach legal issues from every angle to foresee problems and outcomes. I have learned the importance of gathering all relevant information possible regarding a client's legal issue, and placing myself in the client's shoes. I also learned to take into account a client's disability, and how it may require a different strategy to achieve the desired result.

In my corresponding seminar to the clinic, I had the opportunity to learn more about the field of disability rights. During our seminar, we discussed challenges that may arise when providing legal assistance to clients who have disabilities. We also learned about ways that we can use legal instruments to assist clients with disabilities and make their lives easier and assure they

have access to vital financial assistance such as government benefits. By the end of the semester, I felt much more confident working with clients because of our discussions during our seminar.

I hope it is evident how grateful we are to have the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at the John Jay Legal Services. I believe that it is a mutually beneficial opportunity for both students who are passionate about disability rights, as well as clients with disabilities who are low-income and need legal assistance. Thank you so much for affording us this opportunity.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Neff". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rachel Neff
Student Intern