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11/29/2022

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
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Building II, Suite 204,
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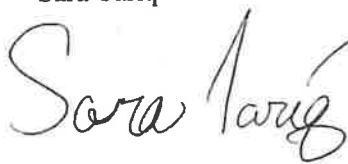
Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Sara Tariq, and I am a 3L at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. I had the pleasure of being a student intern at the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic this semester and I wanted to take a moment to thank you and your agency for funding this important clinic. I learned so much this semester and was able to enhance my skill set which I believe will enable me to be a fair and just attorney once I graduate from law school. Not only did this clinic teach me practical skills such as how to interview and counsel a client as well as how to negotiate on my client's behalf, it also taught me more about Disability Rights Law. It was not until I started participating in this clinic and learning about this field of law that I realized how difficult a world it is for the disabled community who are constantly challenged with trying to get accommodations or to make daily activities more accessible for themselves. During my clinical experience, I learned a lot about the rights and responsibilities others have to take care of their disabled loved ones. I learned about the 17A Guardianship Petition, Standby Guardians, Power of Attorney forms, and Health Care Proxy forms. As someone who yearns to make a difference for underprivileged communities, I realized that the disabled community is yet another such community. Many disabled persons don't know their rights or have anyone to

advocate for them. I was fortunate enough to meet and help quite a few clients this semester, but the one client that has deeply impressed me is the mother of a 9-year-old disabled child who took her child out of school due to excessive bullying and harassment by staff. Although we as student attorneys did not have the experience to help her achieve her ultimate goals, we were able to write her a helpful advice letter to give her general knowledge on New York State's Dignity for all Student's Act (DASA) and other organizations that might be able to assist her. We also had a speaker during our seminar who was the director of a special education advocacy group and she explained that with representation, there are strategies that could assist the mother and her young child because he has every right to attend school. This case inspired me to explore Disability Rights and Special Education Law as a potential career path. One day, I would like to be well equipped to help more clients that contact the clinic the way she did for her son. Thank you for funding this clinic and giving me the opportunity to discovery this essential field of law.

Best,

Sara Tariq

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Tariq". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Disability Rights Student Intern