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JENNIFER RUHLE

December 1, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Leah Frattellone and I am a 3L at Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. I have a passion for elder law, disability rights, and family law. This semester, I had the opportunity to work at the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at John Jay Legal Services, Inc. I am writing this letter to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to work at this clinic. I gained invaluable experience and knowledge working as a Student Attorney which reignited my passion for public interest work.

My experience in the clinic taught me how to be both an advocate for low-income individuals and taught me important skills for communicating with people with disabilities. Throughout the semester, I had the opportunity to provide legal services to people with disabilities or people with family members with disabilities. My clinic partner and I worked on assisting a client to obtain a successor trustee for her supplemental needs trust after her original trustee passed away so she could access her funds without sacrificing her benefits. We also worked on a 17A guardianship case, where we had the opportunity to attend virtual court conferences and to work with Brooklyn Law School students who served as guardians ad litem for our client's son. We also had the opportunity to write an advice letter on Article 81 Guardianship. Overall, this was an enriching experience that sometimes pushed me out of my comfort zone.

The work I have done in this clinic has caused me to shift my career goals. Before starting the clinic, I wanted to work in a private law firm, practicing trusts and estates. After this experience, I have decided that I need to pursue a career in public interest in order to help those who need it most. I will never forget the happiness my client expressed when I told her that the court finally appointed the successor trustee for her supplemental needs trust. Not only is the feeling rewarding, but I also know I am making an impact in the community and the individual client's life by doing this work. I plan to dedicate the rest of my legal career to public interest law, advocacy, and policy work.

The Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at the John Jay Legal Services, Inc. improved my client communication skills and gave me the confidence to appear in court. I hope to pursue a career in public interest helping vulnerable populations such as people with disabilities, elderly people, women, families, and children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah Frattellone".

Leah Frattellone  
Law Student Intern