

Faculty Supervisors

PATRICIA ANGLE  
JONATHAN BROWN  
ROBERT CISNEROS  
DAVID N. DORFMAN  
MARGARET M. FUNT  
ROBIN FRANKEL  
ERIN GLEASON ALVAREZ  
JACK HORNICKEL  
JANE MARASCULLO  
VANESSA MERTON  
TODD D. OMMEN  
ANTON PRIBYSH

**JOHN JAY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.**

ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW  
80 NORTH BROADWAY  
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10603  
TEL 914-422-4333  
FAX 914-422-4391  
JLS@LAW.PACE.EDU

Executive Director  
TODD D. OMMEN

Clinic Administrator  
ROBERT WALKER

Assistant

Clinic Administrator  
JENNIFER RUBLE

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Laurie Heldman, and I am a 3L at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law. I have a passion for civil rights and environmental law; I desire to do local policy work to improve equality and inclusion of individuals with disabilities. This semester, I had the opportunity to work at the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at John Jay Legal Services, Inc. This letter is intended to show my gratitude to you for providing this opportunity.

My experience with the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic was eye opening and inspiring. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to grow as a person and professional. The experience taught me the importance of being an advocate for individuals with disabilities and to learn more about their civil rights movement and unique and evolving needs. Through this clinic I also learned more about organizational and communication skills. It was challenging but rewarding to work so closely with clients. This clinic provided a comprehensive overview of different areas of disability and elder rights law, including, guardianships, supported decision making, wills, special needs trusts, and special education. Through working with clients, I feel much more comfortable practicing and providing pro bono advice or support in disability rights law. I appreciated how establishing a personal connection with clients and practicing with empathy were a major focus of this clinic.

I really appreciated the awareness raising and advocacy component of this clinic. I hope to work for a local government to advance environmental equality in the future, this clinic helped me learn about the intersection between disability rights and environmental justice, including inaccessible parks (inadequate access to greenspace) and lack of inclusion in the emergency/disaster planning process. I now actively discuss the connection between environmental rights and disability rights with my peers interested in environmental justice to help spread the valuable awareness I gained from my experience with this clinic. I will continue to be an advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities rights and consider their unique

needs in the face of climate change. Thank you for providing such an influential clinical opportunity.

Sincerely,

*Laurie Heldman*

Laurie Heldman  
Law Student Intern