

Faculty Supervisors

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JACK HORNICKEL
JANENE MARASCIULLO
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
JJLS@LAW.PACE.EDU

Executive Director

TODD D. OMMEN

Clinic Administrator

ROBERT WALKER

Assistant

Clinic Administrator

JENNIFER RUHLE

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Dan Ruben
Building II, Suite 201
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the creation and your support of the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law. The presence of this Clinic at our law school is deeply important, and the stories I have heard in my time here, as well as some of the cases we have been working on makes it clear to me how important it is that legal representation is available to those who are most vulnerable and may not be able to afford private representation.

My time at the DRC has been an enriching experience. Not only have I been able to gain hands-on experience with legal matters within the scope of the Clinic, but I have seen first-hand the impact that the accessibility of our representation has had on our clients. The cases I have worked on have opened my eyes to legal issues I never knew existed and helped me gain a better understanding of the reasons why some legal instruments are so important. For example, I always knew about guardianships, however, I never truly knew enough about it until I worked on one, and then I understood the types of situations which would make 17A Guardianships necessary. I also learned a lot about the reasons why it may be preferable for only a certain set of circumstances, due to its restrictive nature. I never knew what a supplemental needs trust was until this experience. I was always interested in wills, but working on one and reading real-world examples was very helpful. Lastly, I was able to witness and directly work on executing a power of attorney with one of our clients, and being in a client facing role was an important learning experience.

Once again, thank you, Mr. Ruben, for your support of this clinic. We want you to know that this clinic makes a major difference in the lives of all of the clients that seek our representation, while also serving as a great learning experience for student attorneys.

Warm regards,



Silvana Martinaj
Student Attorney

John Jay Legal Services
Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic