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December 2, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the invaluable opportunity to work with the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, an experience that has been transformative both personally and professionally. As a student and aspiring attorney, my time at the clinic has been instrumental in shaping my understanding of the law's capacity to uplift and empower vulnerable communities.

When I joined the clinic, my primary goal was to gain practical legal experience while contributing to the well-being of those in need. Little did I know that the journey would not only meet but exceed my expectations, opening my eyes to the complex and vital work being done in the realm of disability rights.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my involvement was our focus on transactional matters that directly impacted the lives of individuals facing disabilities or financial constraints. Drafting Power of Attorneys, Healthcare Proxy forms, and 17A guardianships highlighted the significance of legal documents in safeguarding the rights and dignity of those who might otherwise be overlooked or marginalized. Working on simple wills underscored the importance of planning for the future and ensuring that individuals with disabilities or low income have a voice in decisions affecting their lives.

Through these experiences, I witnessed firsthand the profound impact that accessible legal services can have on the lives of individuals facing unique challenges. The genuine gratitude and relief expressed by our clients reinforced the critical role of services like the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic in fostering a more inclusive and just society.

As a student, this journey has been one of continuous growth. The clinic provided me with a platform to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world setting, fostering a deeper understanding of the law's practical implications. Beyond the technical skills gained, I developed a heightened sense of empathy and cultural competence, essential qualities for any attorney working in the field of disability rights.

Moreover, the clinic's commitment to mentorship allowed me to learn from an experienced professional who not only guided me in legal matters but also instilled in me the importance of compassion, patience, and unwavering dedication to the cause.

In conclusion, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic and for the meaningful work it does. The experience has not only shaped my trajectory as a legal professional but has also ignited a passion for advocacy and social justice that will undoubtedly guide my career.

Thank you for your vision and dedication to creating a more equitable and just society. I am eager to continue contributing to the mission of Equal Justice of America and to play a role in advancing the rights and well-being of those who need it most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabriella Pereira". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gabriella Pereira