

September 3, 2024

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America

### Equal Justice America Summer Fellowship Reflection

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Jacklyn Hadzicki. I am currently a rising 3L at Cardozo. Equal Justice America's Summer Fellowship program allowed me to return to Bronx Legal Services this summer. I had externed at Bronx Legal Services in their Education Unit in the fall of my 2L year, and quickly fell in love with the incredible team of attorneys and the education law field. My bosses will be life-long mentors. Each of my supervisors serve as shining examples of the legal practice, with decades of experience representing members of their communities and ensuring that we move towards a world where all students have access to an education that is centered in healing and focused on each student's progress.

During my summer internship, I was able to engage in all stages of education litigation. We represented students with disabilities and brought suits on behalf of their parents against the New York city Department of Education. Through the OATH office, we filed Due Process complaints to ensure that the student was receiving a Free and Appropriate Public Education as required by federal law.

I was able to participate in over ten cases and had constant direct client interaction. I assisted my supervising attorneys in client interviews, independently drafted affidavits, arranged

appointments with physicians, and drafted complaints and research memos. I also completed an opening statement, lead witness preparation, and wrote and delivered a closing statement at a hearing.

I truly believe that access to a proper education is the cornerstone of an equitable and just society, and my public education was the starting place for all my subsequent accomplishments. It was an absolute honor to collaborate with attorney's and families to secure their children's right to a proper education. This is all to say, without this Fellowship, I would not have had the opportunity to continue the work I loved, and I am forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Jacklyn Hadzicki

Cardozo School of Law