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Mr. Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
3007 East Boundary Terrace
Suite 201
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November 25, 2025

Dear Mr. Ruben,

We hope this letter finds you well. Our names are Samantha Diaz, a 3L student, and Danielle Zuma, a Flex 3L student at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. We both had the privilege of working as Student Attorneys for the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic (DRC) at John Jay Legal Services, Inc. We are writing to extend our deepest appreciation to the Equal Justice America for supporting our law student internship for the Fall 2025 semester. Your support has been instrumental throughout this semester. We would not have had the chance to engage directly in hands-on legal services, an experience that has broadened our perspectives, deepened our understanding of the law, and inspired us to continue serving others.

Our experience as student attorneys began with the privilege of seeing a 17-A Guardianship granted for a single mother who had been diligently attempting to obtain this guardianship for the past couple of months. We were able to meet with the client to have her sign the 17-A Guardianship paperwork, and we got to see firsthand how the work of the student attorneys and John Jay Legal Services positively affects these families' lives. We felt truly fortunate to witness the gratitude that emanated from our client in knowing that she and her son had received the help that they needed.

One of the most impactful moments in our time at John Jay Legal Services was when we had the opportunity to not only continue a case that was only recently opened, but to see it all the way through and have this client walk out of the office with a smile on her face. After meeting with us we received a letter from the client who expressed her appreciation and gratitude for all of the hard work that we did throughout the case. Witnessing firsthand the gratitude and appreciation for the services this clinic offers has provided

us with a truly amazing experience, and we would not have been able to witness such things had it not been for your continued support:

The seminar conducted alongside our clinical work was also extremely beneficial in further developing our professional skills. We were able to participate in various simulations such as client counseling, negotiation, and Will and Power of Attorney drafting and execution. These simulations allowed us not only to engage in various aspects of the legal field, but also receive feedback from Professor Angley, John Herrion of the NYS Division of Human Rights, and our classmates. This feedback gave us the opportunity to reflect on our methods and strategies, providing us with a valuable opportunity to grow as future attorneys.

During our internship at the DRC, we gained exposure to the wide range of laws and policies that shape the experiences and rights of people with disabilities. We learned not only about the legal protections that exist, such as those ensuring accessibility, preventing discrimination, and securing accommodations, but also about the complex ways these laws are applied in real situations. At the same time, we became aware of the gaps and inconsistencies that can leave individuals without the support or protection they need. This combination of learning about both the strengths and limitations of current disability law has given us a deeper understanding of the ongoing challenges within the field and the importance of continued advocacy.

Thank you again for your continued support of this program. It has truly been an amazing experience, and we are eternally grateful to have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that this Clinic has to offer. We are proud to be a part of the Equal Justice America Disability Rights community, and we will continue to advocate for this program to fellow students and members of this underrepresented community.

Sincerely,


Samantha Diaz
Law Student Intern


Danielle Zuma
Law Student Intern

CC: Patricia Angley, Esq.