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April 14, 2026

Mr. Dan Ruben, Equal Justice America  
Building 11, Suite 201  
13540 E. Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

We hope this letter finds you well. Our names are Shannon McCann, a 3L full-time student, and Hassanah Smith, a 3L flex student at Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. We both had the honor of participating in the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at John Jay Legal Services, Inc. this semester.


We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you for your generous support of this clinic. Your funding made it possible for us to participate in this transformative educational experience, one that has meaningfully shaped our comprehension of legal advocacy and client centered representation.

In our clinic work, we had the opportunity to work closely with several clients facing complex disability-related legal challenges. We engaged in counseling and advising clients on their rights, and prepared legal documents such as powers of attorney, supplemental needs trust documents, and advice letters. These tasks required not only legal research and writing, but also the development of empathy, patience, and active listening; skills that are critical for effective lawyering but rarely cultivated in traditional classroom settings.

In the seminar portion of the clinic, we engaged in many different simulation exercises that helped refine our professional skills in a structured, supportive environment. These included mock interviews, client counseling, negotiation simulations, and will drafting and execution simulations. The feedback we received from Professor Angley and peers in these exercises

helped us reflect critically on our techniques and approaches, deepening our growth as future attorneys. We also had several amazing guest speakers come to the clinic and speak to us about their experiences as public interest and disability rights attorneys. The guest speakers provided extremely helpful insight into this area of law and reminded us why we want to become public interest advocates.

This clinic offered us a unique and invaluable opportunity to serve members of the disability community while learning how to be more compassionate and effective advocates. We are sincerely grateful that your generosity has helped make this experience possible for us and many other students like us. Thank you for investing in the next generation of public interest and disability rights attorneys. We wish nothing but the best for this clinic.



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Shannon McCann, Law Student Intern



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Hassanah Smith, Law Student Intern

CC: Patricia Angley, Esq.