

RYAN RENNAKER

August 31, 2015

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

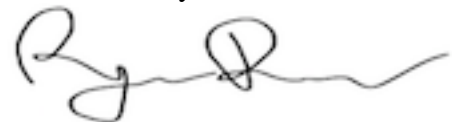
Dear Mr. Ruben,

As a legal intern in the Empire Justice Center's Albany office, I was given the opportunity to further develop and hone the skills that I need in my legal career. Through conducting legal research and drafting legal documents during my internship, I was able to refine my writing and research abilities and received valuable feedback from experienced professionals in my field. Furthermore, I developed essential skills required for advancement in my career, such as conducting interviews with clients, participating in administrative hearings and working on cases representing clients in state and federal court. As an intern with the Empire Justice Center, I was given the chance to work in an area of law that I am passionate about and was able to gain experience needed to advance my capacity for serving my future clients.

During this summer I represented various clients, but a few cases that stand out in my mind are an Auto resource case and an intentional program violation case that I was able to extensively participate in. The auto resource case dealt with a mother who had purchased a car to take her severely disabled children back and forth to the doctors was determined to be ineligible for public benefits because of the auto resource limit that New York State has. We were able to have discussion with OTDA to have her case reevaluated and restore her benefits. The other case that stands out from my experience was a disabled elderly man, who SNAP was claiming had committed an intentional program violation because he failed to show up for work requirements. Based on when our client received his SSD we were able to show that he was exempt from these requirements and it allowed him to get his benefits back. We also helped him find an apartment, so he could have a home to finally stay in. While I helped many other individuals these are the cases that stand out the most.

Thank you for this opportunity and allowing me to have an experience that will defiantly change my life for the better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan W. Rennaker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan W. Rennaker