

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II- Suite 400
Midlothian, CA 23112

August 25, 2009

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and the staff and donors of Equal Justice America. The funding I received this summer allowed me a hands-on legal experience I would not have otherwise been able to participate in.

Disability Rights California is a full-service, multi-office non-profit organization serving the legal needs of individuals with disabilities across the state of California. DRC works on a broad variety of issues including benefits access, reasonable accommodations, forensic commitment, and special education. At the Bay Area Office I worked primarily on benefits for children. While DRC advises anyone who calls the office seeking help, the organization focuses on representing underserved and in-need communities. The cases I worked on this summer all involved indigent clients, ranging from a single mother who needed state support in order to care for her severely disabled daughter, to foster children with developmental and physical disabilities living in a group home who were being denied a portion of their state provided benefits.

In addition to the standard research and memo writing of a law school internship I was also fortunate to participate in client intake meetings. Observing my supervising attorney in these meetings I learned how to be a compassionate listener and ask sensitive or pointed questions in order to gain the information necessary to proceed with the client. I also got to experience first-hand the gratitude of our clients. Often they expressed how they had been turned away from other offices due to a lack of expertise, time or other resources. The relief they felt, simply from being able to speak with an attorney about their concerns, was palpable.

I would not have been able to pursue this opportunity without the generous funding I received from EJA. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Alex Kara Worgaftik, 2011
University of California, Hastings College of the Law