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I take this opportunity to thank each and every person supporting the Equal Justice America fellowship. I had an amazing summer time at AEquitas. I spent time researching and writing for causes I believe in. Among other duties, I had an opportunity to develop a curriculum to train Prosecutors, Police Officers and Judges on prosecution of sexual offences. I was also able to provide technical support to prosecutors and police in Kenya prosecuting defilement and rape. Twenty-two clients from very poor background, including fifteen children were able to benefit from the technical support I provided.

Equal Justice America's Fellowship gave me the opportunity to acquire knowledge, new skills and an understanding of the dynamics surrounding prosecution of sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking, and human trafficking cases. I was able to polish my lawyering and advocacy skills and at the same time provide a service to the less fortunate in society. The fellowship has elevated my passion and commitment for social justice.

Before coming to Georgetown University, I practiced as a children's rights lawyer protecting the rights of women and children. I rescued children from difficult background and provided free legal representation to children and women from poor background. Children and women are always victims when conflicts erupt in families or states. Most of these victims have no access to legal services when they are direct or indirect victims. In Kenya every thirty minutes a woman or a girl is raped. Majority of these cases are not reported to the police. Even when they are reported, it is unlikely that a case will lead to an arrest, prosecution or a successful conviction. Factoring in unreported rapes, only about 1% of rapists will ever serve a day in prison. Part of the problem is that, there is very little technical support provided to custodians of justice- mainly investigators of the crime and prosecutors. Sexual violence crimes are complex and have unique dynamics that demand a nuanced response by those involved in prosecuting these crimes. To ensure an increase in case reporting, successful prosecution and conviction of sexual offence we need to increase victim safety and offender accountability. This can only be accomplished if

investigators and prosecutors understand the dynamics surrounding sexual violence crimes. Having worked under the supervision of AEquitas' staff comprised of former prosecutors and other allied professionals who have a history of collaborating with state, federal, and tribal governments and nongovernmental agencies to improve the criminal justice response to sexual violence and violence against women, I have learned/acquired the skills and developed a thorough understanding of prosecution of cases on violence against women. With this knowledge and skills I will be able to support many cases of violence against women and children.

I intend to use to curriculum to train judges, police officers and prosecutors on sexual violence. The training will provide them with resources and skills necessary to overcome emerging legal issues and challenges to successfully prosecution. I also had an opportunity to create a data bank with resources needed to support prosecution of sexual offences. I will also give access to the resource to Lawyers who provide pro bono legal services to children and women who are victims of sexual violence. So far I have been able to partner with a law firm that is willing to provide free pro bono legal service given access to the resource.

I am very grateful to Equal Justice America. My fellowship was an invaluable experience that would not have been possible without their financial support. The Fellowship gave me an opportunity to specifically work on issues I am passionate about- violence against women. Having been a victim of violence, I resonate with women and children who are victims of violence. During the fellowship I researched, studied and synthesized laws on violence against women, provided support to AEquitas Attorney Advisors. Attorneys and staff at AEquitas were always there to give me support whenever I needed. If Equal Justice America had not supported my fellowship I would not have had an opportunity to learn and support victims of violence.

I will forever be grateful to Equal Justice America for giving me the opportunity to support a cause I am passionate about.

Sincerely,

Alice Waguthi Kinyua
Georgetown University Law School *LL.M* 2014