

Amy Smith
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Washington, DC 20001

August 28, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I want to thank you and Equal Justice America for enabling me to work at the Children's Law Center in Washington, DC, this summer. I came to law school hoping to eventually find a legal job that serves children and families. As a result, when I received an offer to work at the Children's Law Center, I was thrilled. CLC attorneys work as guardian *ad-litem*s, representing children in abuse and neglect cases. Other CLC attorneys handle health-related issues, special education cases, and adoption/guardianship cases. When I accepted the job, I was looking forward to the chance to see the work that CLC attorneys do up close and to help the attorneys work with the children and teens and handle their cases.

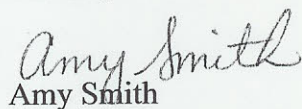
My summer at CLC was all I had hoped it would be, if not more. At the beginning of the summer, the attorneys in charge of the summer internship had us set professional goals for the summer. I wanted to be able to observe and assist with all the stages of my supervising attorney's neglect cases. I also wanted to improve my research and writing skills so that I could be more efficient and effective. Finally, I wanted to see a special education due process hearing and individualized education plan meeting, since I had seen the end results (worked with kids with special education plans) but had never seen the process that created the plans. I was hoping to be able to assist both of the attorneys who worked on the children's cases and to help the children themselves.

During the course of my summer, I met all of those goals. The supervising attorneys included me in all of the different stages of their cases, such as initial hearings, family team meetings, guardianship trials, administrative reviews, and permanency hearings. I was able to assist with these cases and help the children by calling service providers, requesting and reviewing school and psychiatric records, and other similar tasks. I spent time on research and writing projects, and I feel I improved my skills in those areas. I also enjoyed every minute of it. It was stressful and tiring at times, because the children's cases are very emotional in nature and because the issues related to the children's services can become very complicated. However, I felt like the job was a great match between my interest areas and my developing legal skill set. It was hard to leave the job at the end of the summer, and I'm looking forward to being able to work with CLC in the fall semester of my 2L year.

I'm grateful to Equal Justice America and to the sponsors of my fellowship for making it possible for me to work at CLC this summer. I truly enjoyed the experience,

and I believe that I was able to help the attorneys serve their children and teenage clients more effectively.

Thanks,

Handwritten signature of Amy Smith in cursive script.

Amy Smith

Georgetown University Law Center, 2009