

Dear Mr. Ruben

I am writing to tell you all about my summer internship in the Special Education Unit of the New York Legal Assistance Group. I was able to obtain my internship because of the generosity of Equal Justice of America. This internship was of particular interest to me because I, myself, have a learning disability and was once a student in the public school system. While I was fortunate to have parents who were able to advocate on my behalf until I was able to do so myself, other children were not as lucky. I, in fact, decided to become a lawyer so that I could advocate on behalf of those students who have no advocates. I found my internship at the New York Legal Assistance Group particularly satisfying in this regard. It was very gratifying to be able to help students obtain accommodations so they are able to flourish in school. It is very important to me to be able to give back as I was one of the lucky students who flourished as a result of the various accommodations that I was provided in school.

This is one particular experience that I had during the internship that I am the most proud. I was able to advocate on behalf of a client during an important administrative hearing. In this regard, I prepared arguments, appeared before a hearing officer and advocated on behalf of my client. It was most gratifying to be able to obtain the services that my client desperately needed. I want to thank you and your organization for providing me with this immensely gratifying and educational experience.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Mandel
Cardozo School of Law