

August 17, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This summer I was a law clerk for the Alliance for Children's Rights in the Education Department. A significant portion of my time was dedicated to advocating for special education and early intervention services for foster youth throughout Los Angeles County.

Under attorney supervision, I was assigned my own caseload and conducted communication with clients. I requested educational and medical records for clients in order to gather information to conduct a comprehensive review of records by which an advocacy plan could be developed, tailored to the client's needs. I was able to help clients by facilitating communications with schools and school districts and obtaining records, which are often difficult to navigate and prohibitively complex, especially for vulnerable communities of who have been failed by society.

Since many of the foster youth often moved multiple times to a variety of home placements, they were constantly moving from school to school. This led to fragmented communication between various schools and school districts, if at all. Special education needs were also often overlooked by schools resulting in their disabilities being left untreated, leading to continuation of poor grades and behavioral problems. The facilitation I conducted with these school districts and advocacy skills I developed to fight for my clients while often confronting with noncompliant and sometimes obstinate administrative personnel in obtaining records, was truly a rewarding experience, in being able to help clients get services they otherwise may not have without my and the Alliance's assistance.

Without going into specifics of sensitive information concerning clients who are minors, many of my clients had Fetal Alcohol Syndrome diagnoses and one client in particular had been moved around to multitudes of different homes and different schools, throughout California and out of state before he was in seventh grade. He had been abused and neglected by his past caregivers during his formative years. I managed to track down his education records from a range of school districts and locations and was able to comprehensively compile his information so that my supervising attorney to meet with the child's current caregiver and offer legal counsel and to inform him what steps should be taken, giving direction to an otherwise distressing situation.

The resiliency and the passion of the clients I had as well as their caregivers have been nothing short of impressive, and has been an incredible experience working with and advocating for these clients. Without the help of Equal Justice America, I would not have been able to afford this opportunity. However, with your support, I am happy to say that I have been given the ability to help others who have been marginalized by society and so desperately need it. After working with my clients on a daily basis this summer, I am now certain I want to pursue children's rights law as my ultimate career goal.

Sincerely,

Louisa Lau
Loyola Law School
J.D. Candidate 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Cliff Gilbert-Lurie
Ziffren Brittenham LLP

SECRETARY

Phillip Rudolph
Jack in the Box, Inc.

TREASURER

Chris B. Walther
Activision Blizzard

Matthew D. Babrick
Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Peter Benedek
United Talent Agency

James P. Clark
LA City Attorney

Trent Copeland
Attorney & TV Legal Analyst

Nancy de Brier
Attorney Search Consultant

Scott Edelman
Gibson Dunn

Giselle Fernandez
Journalist & Child Advocate

Susan F. Friedman
Producer & Director

Leslie Gilbert-Lurie*
Writer, Child Advocate & Attorney

Barbara Grushow
Barbara Grushow Designs

Angle Harmon
Actress & Child Advocate

Yasmine Delawari Johnson
Writer & Child Advocate

Jo Kaplan
Commissioner, LA County Probation

Mitchell T. Kaplan
Kaplan Stahler Agency

James Lichtman
NBCUniversal

Gwyn Lurie
Screenwriter, Alcove Films

Karen Mack
Writer & Producer

Steven A. Marenberg*
Irell & Manella LLP

Richard Martinez
Pomona Unified School District

Sue Naegle
Naegle Ink

Gary Newman
Fox Television Group

Kevin Reilly
Turner Entertainment Networks

Rick Rosen
William Morris Endeavor

Bruce Rosenblum
Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

Susan Saltz
Child Advocate & Film Producer

José F. Sanchez
Sidley Austin LLP

Toni M. Schulman*
Child Advocate

Pamela Soper, ex officio
CBS Television

Bart H. Williams*
Proskauer Rose LLP

Noelle Wolf
Child Advocate

Robert J. Woolway
FocalPoint Partners, LLC

FOUNDER

Francis M. Wheat*
1921-2000

PRESIDENT & CEO

Janis Spire

LEGAL DIRECTOR

Laura Streimer

* Past Chairs

August 30, 2016

Dan Ruben

Equal Justice America

Re: Louisa Lau, Legal Reference

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Please accept this reference letter regarding Louisa Lau. The Alliance for Children's Rights had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Lau for a ten week, legal fellowship during the summer of 2016. The Alliance for Children's Rights is a non profit legal organization which serves the needs of children in out-of-home care, primarily foster children, within the Los Angeles County Dependency and Delinquency Systems. We finalize adoptions and legal guardianships as well as provide education, health care and benefits advocacy. We also provide services for youth transitioning out of this system into adulthood. We provide low income families with resources needed to ensure that children in their care are provided with safe and nurturing homes.

As one of our legal interns this summer, Ms. Lau worked both within the Education Program and assisted clients on our intake line. While fielding these calls, she utilized legal issue spotting skills, ferreting out the concerns which were often hidden within a client's story. Ms. Lau demonstrated empathy when speaking with callers who were often in crisis.

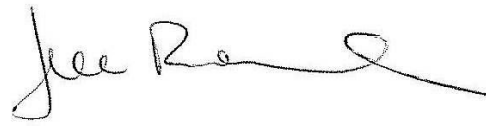
As an intern solely dedicated to the Education Program, Ms. Lau managed a case load of approximately twenty (20) cases, including communicating with the client and other persons relevant to their case such as their caregiver, education rights holder, appointed attorneys in dependency/delinquency court and their social workers/probation officers to keep such personnel up to date on the needs of the child. Ms. Lau was also required to advocate for the timely request and receipt of educational records from local educational agencies, most often school districts. Once educational records are received, Ms. Lau organized and reviewed the records. Ms. Lau successfully completed three file reviews.

Ms. Lau also completed a research project regarding how the trauma our foster youth suffer impacts their education, with a focus on building appropriate Individualized Education Programs ("IEP") for them. This project will contribute to the legal knowledge in our program and will continue to assist us in providing advocacy to many children in the future.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to further discuss the attributes of Ms. Lau.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Rowland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jill C. Rowland, Esq.

Education Program Director