

August 30, 2013

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road, Building II – Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
dan@equaljusticeamerica.org

Dear Mr. Ruben:

First, I would like to thank Equal Justice America for granting me the fellowship and providing me with financial support during my public interest internship this past summer. I have been committed to public interest during my law school career and I am grateful to organizations like Equal Justice America that relieve some of the financial burden that goes along with pursuing a public interest career.

I spent 12 weeks this past summer at University Legal Services (ULS), which is the protection and advocacy organization for people with disabilities who live in Washington, DC. I had the opportunity to work on a variety of tasks from client interviewing and counseling, legal research, and drafting demand letters and legal memos. I also had the opportunity to perform educational outreach to nursing home residents about programs in DC that offer assistance for people to move out of nursing facilities and return to the community with the services and supports they need.

While at ULS, I worked on a class action lawsuit on behalf of DC Medicaid beneficiaries living in nursing facilities who seek to exercise their right under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to transition to the community and receive public services in the most integrated setting. Part of the work I did on this case was analyzing the cases used by the defendant in opposition to plaintiffs' motion for class certification, focusing on the typicality and adequacy of representation elements required by Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

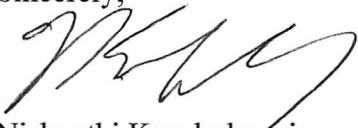
Working with a managing attorney, I worked to resolve an urgent matter for an individual who had been discharged from the community residence facility in which she lived because of a temporary medical condition. I conducted research into the regulations governing community residence facilities in DC and drafted a letter to the operator of a community residence facility and the DC Department of Health notifying them of the operator's improper discharge of a resident based on her temporary medical condition and the resulting violations of the ADA as well as other federal and local antidiscrimination statutes.

I also gained more understanding of Title II of the ADA with respect to effective communication in the context of police interactions. Under the supervision of a managing attorney, I took the lead on handling a case of a client who is deaf and was denied effective communication during a traffic incident with the DC Metropolitan Police Department. I was grateful for the opportunity ULS provided to me to work fairly independently on this case. I conducted phone interviews of the client and other witnesses, researched case law to determine the viability of the client's ADA claims, made a FOIA request on behalf of the client, and drafted

a complaint letter addressed to the DC Metropolitan Police Department regarding its failure to provide effective communication as mandated by the ADA. Then, along with the managing attorney, I conducted an in-person interview with the client to go over the research and other work I had done on his behalf, the status of his case, the options that were available to him and the consequences of the alternative options. After the meeting, I drafted a follow-up letter to the client to summarize what was discussed during our meeting and to write out in detail the options available to the client on how to proceed with his case.

I am so fortunate to have had the invaluable learning experiences at ULS and I must once again thank Equal Justice America for its support of students who want to pursue public interest opportunities in legal services organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya', written in a cursive style.

Nishanthi Kurukulasuriya  
J.D. Candidate, May 2014  
The George Washington University Law School