

August 26, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you very much for making it possible for me to work as an Equal Justice America Fellow this summer at Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. in Delaware. My goal is to work in direct legal services, so this summer was incredibly valuable in gaining experience in the exact type of work I want to do under the supervision of multiple talented attorneys.

The majority of the time I worked on cases involving both disability rights and immigrants' rights. I worked with a client with Alzheimer's disease in requesting a hearing after he was denied citizenship because he could not pass the educational requirements. The client had previously filed the proper paperwork documenting his disability, but the officer did not deem it adequate and still attempted to administer the exam to the client. I wrote a lengthy letter challenging the decision and worked with the client's family in gathering the necessary documents. I also worked with a young asylee with developmental disabilities and her caregivers in applying for permanent residency.

I also gained a lot of substantive knowledge on the workings of Medicaid and Medicare while I created a *pro se* Medicaid appeals guide and assisted another client in an appeal of a Medicare overpayment. I finally was able to learn more about special education issues and assisted an attorney with several small projects and I conducted legal research for on the burden of proof in special education due process hearings.

Finally, I was able to gain experience in elder law under the supervision of an elder law attorney. Our client was an elderly woman who was severely taken advantage of by someone that pushed her to sign a contract conveying the deed of her home over to him. We represented the elderly woman in a civil suit and I assisted in the deposition and the mediation. I also helped investigate and discovered a history of financial abuse prosecution which was helpful to our claims. This case made me feel especially enraged at the way vulnerable people are taken advantage of, however I have grown interested in learning more about these issues and how to prevent them.

I am sure that everything I learned this summer will be incredibly useful to my future career and I am so thankful for the support of Equal Justice America.

Kind regards,

/s/ Amelia Vangellow
Amelia Vangellow
Rutgers Law School, May 2018



DISABILITIES LAW PROGRAM

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.

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September 6, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am a supervising attorney at Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. I am writing to you to evaluate our summer 2017 law clerk, Amelia Vangellow. In addition to receiving cases from myself, she also received cases from two other attorneys in the Disabilities Law Program and from the supervising attorney of our Elder Law Program. I assigned various cases to her throughout the summer including a citizenship decision appeal and a permanent residence application through USCIS as well as an SSI appeal. My colleagues assigned her work in the areas of Medicaid, special education, and a contract dispute wherein we prevented financial exploitation of a senior citizen with disabilities.

Amelia's research and writing skills were excellent. She took on primary responsibility for analyzing issues and drafting the documents in two immigration cases, took on a research project to investigate possibilities for systemic advocacy when nursing shortages create *de facto* denials of approved Medicaid services, and prepared a self-advocacy guide to assist families whose Medicaid services have been denied, reduced, or terminated. Her work product was excellent.

Amelia had the opportunity to interact with clients both with attorneys and independently. She was able to put clients at ease and be a calm, confident, and welcoming presence to them. She served as the primary point of contact for several clients and was able to manage both the legal work on the cases and the often high emotions that accompany clients in crisis.

It was a pleasure working with Amelia this summer. Several attorneys in office, myself included, have stated that she is one of the best summer clerks that we have had. We wish that she could have stayed with us through the year. She will be an excellent attorney. When she graduates, we hope that she will consider us in her job search.

Sincerely,
/s/Brian S. Eng
Brian S. Eng
Supervising Attorney