

July 30, 2013

Dan Ruben
Executive Director at Equal Justice America

Re: Scott Davidson, Cornell University Law School

Dear Mr. Ruben:

As the director of the Special Education Unit at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), and in answer to Part II of the "Fellowship Questionnaire Summer 2013," I am writing regarding Scott Davidson, a student at Cornell University Law School, who has been a summer intern at NYLAG from May 28, 2013 to August 2, 2013.

In our Special Education practice, we help low-income New Yorkers place their disabled children in classes where they will receive the free appropriate public education guaranteed them under federal and state law. The children's disabilities include learning disability, autism, intellectual disability, speech and language impairment, and emotional disability.

During Scott's nine week internship, he (1) interviewed the parents of disabled children to find out where their children were currently placed, how the placement failed to meet their children's unique needs, and what program they thought would better serve their children; (2) attended an impartial hearing, as well as a pendency hearing; (3) researched areas of special education law; (4) drafted a FOIA request; (5) accompanied a parent to a non-public school to assess its appropriateness for her disabled child; and (6) attended meetings between parents and the New York City Department of Education, which meetings could be adversarial.

Scott worked with me, as well as with my four colleagues in the Special Education Unit. We all found his work to be excellent. He is smart, mature, eager to learn, showed great initiative, and was willing to take on all assignments, including those that were tedious. His work was unfailingly of the highest caliber, and his work product was extremely helpful to us.

In sum, Scott was an extremely worthy Equal Justice America Fellowship recipient.

If further information is needed or would be helpful, please contact me at (212) 613-5040 or by e-mail at ldavis@nylag.org.

Very truly yours,

Laura Davis