

August 14, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben,

Thanks to the generosity of Equal Justice America, I had the great fortune of working at Disability Rights New Jersey this past summer. Disability Rights New Jersey is a non-profit organization established to advocate for and advance the human, civil, and legal rights of citizens of New Jersey with disabilities. By working with the dedicated and passionate staff members at Disability Rights New Jersey, I developed a deeper understanding of the legal challenges that many persons with disabilities regrettably face and I was able to learn the ways in which disability attorneys advocate for their legal rights.

During my time at Disability Rights New Jersey, I worked closely with several attorneys on a variety of assignments ranging from preparing research, to drafting pleadings, to even conducting investigations. I conducted research and prepared memoranda on a variety of topics related to disability rights, including issues related to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care, and other issues with systematic implications. I was also provided the opportunity to draft pleadings on an Americans with Disabilities Act discrimination case that were submitted to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. I found this assignment to be particularly rewarding, as it allowed me to advocate for the rights of a prisoner with paraplegia who has been denied access to basic medical supplies during his incarceration.

Many clients at Disability Rights New Jersey contact the organization to request legal assistance when their Medicaid services have been denied or reduced. During an ongoing Medicaid Fair Hearing, I was responsible for conducting the investigation of a client's claim for additional Medicaid services. I interviewed the client's physicians, therapists, and family members in order to gather evidence to support her request for additional Medicaid services.

In addition, I was also provided the opportunity to accompany advocates at Disability Rights New Jersey to state psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers to assist in monitoring the conditions at these institutions. I will never forget the observations I made while monitoring these institutions.

I am so appreciative of Equal Justice America for providing me with the ability to spend this past summer working at Disability Rights New Jersey. This internship allowed me to improve my advocacy skills while serving a vulnerable population. The attorneys and advocates at Disability Rights New Jersey truly do amazing work and I feel so lucky to have been a part of it.

Sincerely,

Justine Longa
Rutgers Law School, Newark

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

Re: Justine Longa

August 7, 2018

Dear Mr. Ruben,

We had the pleasure of supervising Ms. Longa's internship at Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ), New Jersey's designated protection and advocacy organization for people with disabilities. The internship began on May 21, and ended on August 3, 2018.

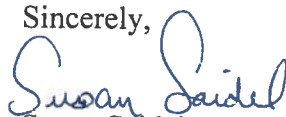
Ms. Longa worked closely with several DRNJ staff attorneys on a variety of assignments. She demonstrated a genuine eagerness to learn and to make a meaningful contribution to the representation of our clients. She drafted several documents that were filed as part of ongoing cases, including pleadings on an ADA discrimination case that were submitted to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and a letter to the head of a state agency to argue against the reduction of a client's Medicaid services. She also prepared internal memoranda on novel issues of administrative law with systemic implications. In an ongoing Medicaid Fair Hearing, Ms. Longa handled the investigation of a client's claim for additional community-based support by interviewing the client's doctors, therapists, and family members to gather evidence to support the case.

In addition, she had the opportunity to observe oral argument in federal court and negotiations with a prosecutor in municipal court. Ms. Longa also accompanied DRNJ advocates to state psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers to assist in monitoring conditions in state institutions.

Ms. Longa approached the internship with a critical mind capable of rapid uptake of new information. She effectively communicated her ideas with fellow interns, supervising attorneys, and clients. Overall, she was an asset to DRNJ.

Thank you for Equal Justice America's financial assistance that allowed Justine Longa to contribute her time to DRNJ. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Susan Saidel
Legal Director



Michael Brower
Staff Attorney

Advocating and advancing the human, civil and legal rights of persons with disabilities