

October 4th, 2018

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13450 East Boundary Road, Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to thank you for funding my summer in Washington, D.C. this year. I spent a phenomenal ten weeks at The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and would gladly promote the internship to anyone interested in mental health, disability rights, or criminal justice reform.

I was assigned to the policy and legal advocacy team, which is directed by Jennifer Mathis. She operated as my direct supervisor for the summer along with Bethany Lilly, who exclusively manages the policy docket at the Center. I had the exclusive opportunity to work on this team as the sole intern for their projects, which was a special honor.

Over the summer, I engaged in significant policy work. Most of my time was spent reviewing proposed policies and drafting comments. This included comments on proposed Department of Transportation regulation, proposed Medicaid waivers, and on specific statutes such as GINA, which covers genetic information.

In terms of litigation, I was assigned to three cases that were on Mrs. Mathis' docket. One was a traditional deinstitutionalization case that had been settled and was in the monitoring phase. The second was a supported employment case that was in the plaintiff-finding phase. My final case was a novel criminal-justice case which was in the very beginning phases of development.

Finally, I participated in several presentations and conferences. I assisted with planning for a hearing in front of the Maryland State Advisory Commission on Civil Rights, involving outreach to family members and other attorneys. I wrote and designed a presentation that was given at a national conference on homelessness in veterans. Lastly, I presented at a coalition meetings about reasonable accommodations in federal government agencies and concerns with a lack of EEOC enforcement in front of organizations such as the National Disability Rights Network.

The Bazelon Center has only one branch of individual direct services, which is their campus mental health project. Through this project, I connected with students across the country and drafted a model policy for campus mental health. I also had two of my own clients for this project. For one, I conducted intake, performed research, and eventually referred to outside counsel. For the other, I performed the entire representation, determining the proper relief and eventually providing advice and a demand letter for his campus.

Being in D.C. meant I was working with students from the top law schools around the country, in the presence of the giants of civil rights law during an interesting political moment. For example, I reviewed Judge Kavanaugh's entire case record and co-authored a summary that ended up being passed around to many other disability organizations. It was a truly phenomenal experience!

Best wishes,

Caitlin Machell



July 27, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

My name is Bethany Lilly and I am the deputy director of policy and legal advocacy at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. I was one of Caitlin Machell's supervisors this past summer during her internship.

The Bazelon Center is a national non-profit legal advocacy organization that promotes equal opportunity for individuals with mental disabilities in all aspects of life, including health care, community living, housing, education, employment, and voting. The role of the Bazelon Center is to engage in innovative impact litigation and policy advocacy in these areas, as well as provide expertise and technical assistance to local groups working on these issues in their states. Caitlin was tasked with working on the policy and litigation teams. Her policy work included submission of comments to federal agencies, analysis of school disproportionality data, preparation for testimony to the School Safety Commission regarding privacy rights, review of reasonable accommodation policies within the federal government, and work on health care policies affecting persons with disabilities. Her litigation work included preparation for a novel criminal justice reform case, research on supported employment, and data analysis on compliance with a settlement agreement. Additionally, Caitlin engaged with our campus mental health work, conducting two intakes and revising our model policy for colleges and universities.

Prior to her internship, Caitlin worked with the Protection and Advocacy agency for people with disabilities in Texas and because of that and her other experience working on issues related to persons with disabilities, she was able to integrate seamlessly into our office and assist with our projects and cases immediately. We were extremely impressed with her substantive work, her passion for and commitment to our mission and issues, and her work ethic. It was a pleasure having Caitlin intern with us for the summer of 2018 and we know that she will continue to be an amazing advocate for people with disabilities when she returns to Texas. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at bethanyl@bazelon.org or 202-467-5730 x 1304.

Sincerely,