

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

October 5, 2018

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to express my gratitude to Equal Justice America for providing funding that allowed me to spend my summer working with Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, and to describe my summer experience. I spend the summer as a law clerk at CLC, where I supported two staff attorneys in their representation of children in dependency proceedings.

My summer experience was challenging, eye-opening, and encouraging as I explore the many options available to me in the world of children's rights advocacy in the legal field. Learning from a team fiercely intelligent and compassionate attorneys showed me that dependency is an extraordinarily interesting area of the law in which there is much room for attorneys to create meaningful change. Minor's counsel, in particular, provides a perspective in dependency hearings that uniquely both amplifies the voice of the child and advocates for that child's best interests. This dual status creates both challenges and opportunities for the child's attorney to help guide the proceedings in a way that will ideally unite families and provide them with important supportive services.

Day to day, I worked under one of my two supervising attorneys both in and out of the courtroom. Each morning, I would report to the children's courthouse where my attorneys' hearings would take place. At the courthouse, I provided support predominately through conducting client interviews and interviews with family members or caretakers. Through

trainings offered by CLC as well as by shadowing experienced attorneys, I gained the skills necessary to conduct interviews with young children, most of whom have experienced significant traumas. At court, I also supported my attorneys by assisting in reading through reports to spot issues and to flag any topics in the report about which it would be necessary to speak with the child.

Each afternoon, I would return to the office space with my attorneys to assist in conduct phone interviews with clients, caretakers, family members and medical providers. I also wrote a memorandum of points and authorities outlining relevant legal authority for an issue that became the threshold question for one of my attorney's clients.

I am so grateful for getting the opportunity to spend my summer at Children's Law Center learning about the dependency system and the unique issues that children face as they go through their case. Without this summer experience, I would not have been exposed to an area of the law in which I now intend to practice upon graduation. Thank you so much for allowing me to work with CLC this summer—this experience truly shaped my career path, and the relationships I built through this internship will be essential to my goal of becoming a children's rights attorney.

Sincerely,

Hannah Lazarz  
UCLA School of Law, Class of 2020