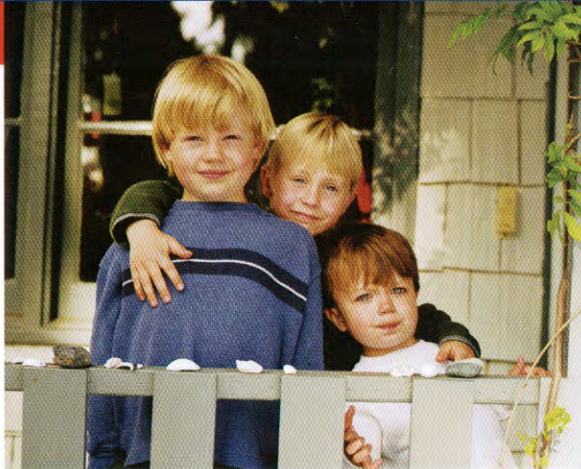
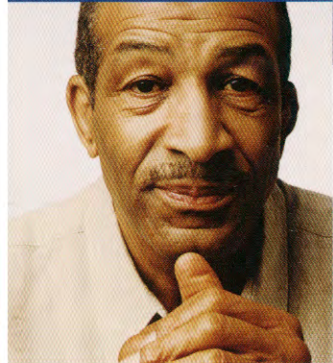


Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2003-2004



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

www.equaljusticeamerica.org



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004

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Working on behalf of children and families in need for more than a decade.

The promise of equal justice is the promise of America. "With liberty and justice for all," are the words recited every day by our nation's schoolchildren. It is a promise that has not been kept. The American Bar Association estimates that the United States fails to meet 80% of the civil legal needs of the poor. Unlike criminal defendants who are guaranteed an attorney by the U.S. Constitution, most low-income litigants must face civil adversarial proceedings without the benefit of counsel.

As a result, women and children victimized by domestic violence do not get the legal help they desperately need. Families are wrongfully evicted and forced into homelessness. The elderly and poor have no recourse when they fall prey to scams in the marketplace. The disabled are discriminated against without the representation they need to protect their rights. Bureaucratic abuse and neglect go without remedy, often causing families to lose life-sustaining benefits. There can be no justice for those forced to face these struggles without the help of an attorney.

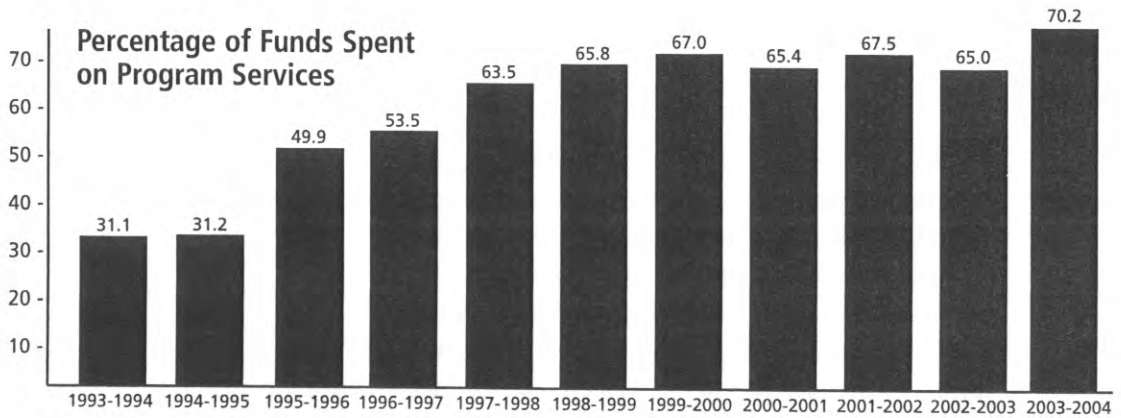
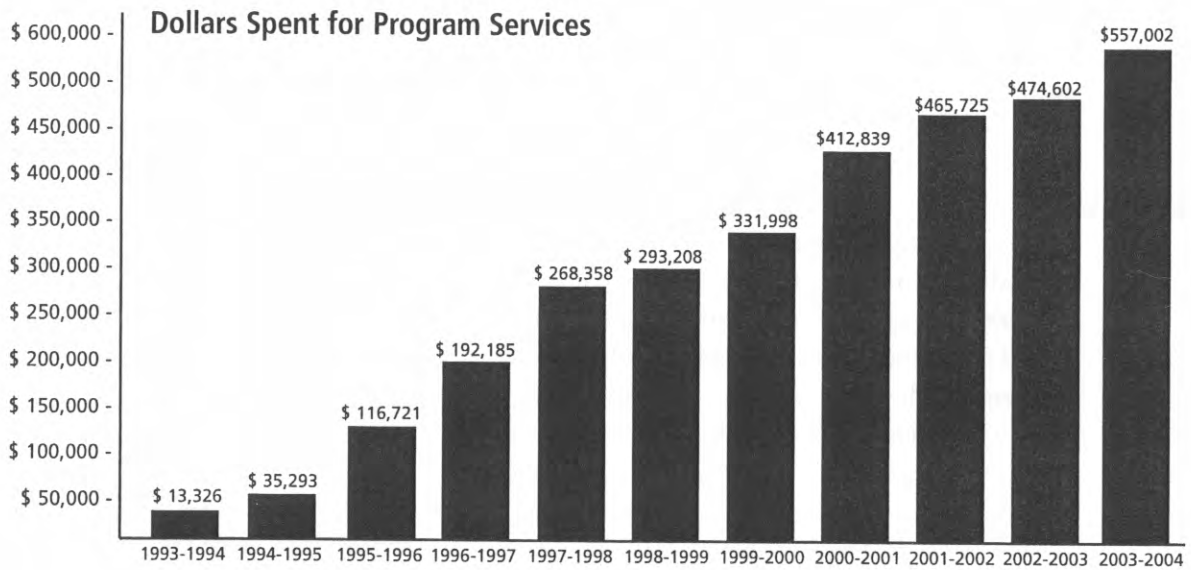
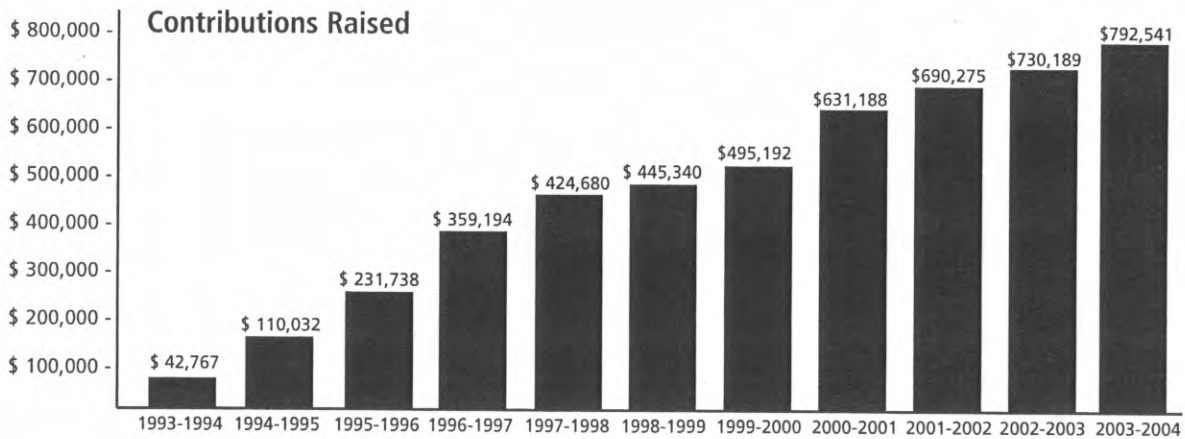
Who We Are

Equal Justice America is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1993. For more than a decade EJA has put law students to work with organizations across the country providing civil legal services to those most in need. Our efforts expose a new generation of law students to the urgency for pro bono assistance to our most vulnerable citizens. Students at more than 40 law schools now have the opportunity to take part in the Equal Justice America Fellowship Program.

What We've Done

- **Equal Justice America has sponsored fellowships for nearly 1,200 law students to work** with more than 150 legal services organizations across the country. Interning under the supervision of experienced attorneys, our fellowship recipients have provided crucial assistance to low-income clients struggling through the complexities of our civil justice system.
- **EJA has paid out more than \$3 million in grants** and has provided nearly 350,000 hours of free legal services with programs that work to protect the rights of the poor.
- **Six two-year post-graduate EJA Fellowships have been awarded since the fall of 2002**, launching the public interest law careers of outstanding young attorneys. More than \$420,000 has been committed to these post-graduate fellowships.
- **In September 2000, Pace University Law School established the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic** with a major grant and a continuing commitment from EJA. We have contributed more than \$150,000 to the EJA Clinic, which has become an integral part of the Law School's highly regarded clinical program.

Eleven Years of Growth



What They're Saying About Equal Justice America...

"It is with great pleasure and even greater gratitude that I write to congratulate you on the 10th anniversary of Equal Justice America. Our ability to avoid the most draconian reductions in services can be largely attributable to the contribution made by a corps of highly motivated and dedicated law student interns. The overwhelming majority of these wonderful and indispensable young law students has been financed by EJA. We need EJA more than ever before and the need is nothing less than urgent."

– **Martin S. Needelman**
Project Director
Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. A

"During these 10 years, Equal Justice America has quietly and effectively provided important support to the practice of public interest law, by funding law students whose talent, commitment and enthusiasm contributes immeasurably to this work. Equal Justice America's leadership is an invaluable help in ensuring that the next generation of idealistic young lawyers will be able to continue the tradition of public service."

– **Christine Todd**
Vice President, Administration
The Legal Aid Society of San Francisco

"We at CLS – and even more so our clients – have benefited greatly from EJA's support. Through the years EJA has provided tens of thousands of dollars in support of our summer and school year internship programs. Without EJA, our law student internship program would be far smaller. One of the wonderful things about legal services work is the presence of young, idealistic, spirited, highly skilled law students. By making it possible for students to work with us, EJA has helped keep our advocacy fresh and impassioned."

– **Catherine C. Carr**
Executive Director
Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA

"The support of Equal Justice America has helped us do even more to protect women from domestic violence and put the weight of our judicial system fully behind those who have been victimized. I know that Equal Justice America has a growing reputation for assisting organizations all over the country which provide legal services to the poor, including many groups that devote much of their efforts to protecting battered and abused women and children. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with Equal Justice America."

– **Victoria L. Lutz**
Director, Battered Women's Justice Center
Pace University School of Law
White Plains, NY

"How about all lawyers, particularly if you aren't doing your share of pro bono work, send a check..."

– **Nancy Q. Keefe**
Editor and columnist
Gannett Newspapers

“On behalf of the staff, students and Board of Directors of GBLS, allow me to congratulate you on the milestone of 10 years of service. Over the past several years Equal Justice America has provided funding for more student interns at GBLS than any other organization. EJA Fellowship recipients have been a tremendous help to our staff in providing legal assistance to the most vulnerable members of the Boston community.”

– **Robert Sable**
Executive Director
Greater Boston Legal Services

“While a 10th anniversary is a significant milestone for any non-profit, I’m especially gratified to see EJA’s growth—both because your mission is so aligned with our organizational interests and because of the collaborative and flexible interactions we’ve always enjoyed with EJA. I still remember our conversations about the program when you were first developing the idea. It’s amazing to see the growth of EJA from a concept to a real program providing public interest law placements for 200 students a year.”

– **Robert F. Gillett**
Director
Legal Services of South Central Michigan

“On behalf of the staff Board and most importantly the clients of Public Counsel, I wanted to congratulate Equal Justice America on its 10th Anniversary and thank you for all you have done to advance equal justice in our community. We are grateful for your support and proud of our collaboration.”

– **Dan Grunfeld**
President/CEO
Public Counsel Law Center
Los Angeles, CA

“Congratulations to Equal Justice America on your 10 years of commitment to serving the legal needs of the poor and for your contributions to the students who work with Bet Tzedek. We are incredibly grateful.”

– **Martin A. Kamin**
Executive Director
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
Los Angeles, CA

“Please accept our warm and hearty congratulations as you celebrate the tenth anniversary of your wonderful organization. We at the Chicago Legal Clinic have very much appreciated your support for the dozens of internships you have funded. Some of the best and brightest of the nation’s law students have been able to receive substantial funding for fellowships to work as interns in our offices. We are really grateful for our relationship with Equal Justice America and wish you even greater success in the coming years.”

– **Gerald P. Nordgren**
Director of Legal Services
Chicago Legal Clinic



**Report from Sheila Hayre
on her Two-Year Post-
Graduate EJA Fellowship
at the New Haven Legal
Assistance Association**

*"I am inspired daily by the talent and
tireless devotion of my colleagues
here at NHLAA."*

After graduating from the Yale Law School, the vast majority of graduates disperse across the country, and beyond, to begin their careers. Unlike most of my fellow students, after graduating and finishing my two clerkships, I wanted to remain in New Haven and work as a legal services attorney.

Given the paucity of public interest job openings in New Haven, without Equal Justice America's two-year fellowship, I would likely have found myself facing the prospect of either leaving New Haven in search of public interest work or remaining in New Haven but starting my career at a local for-profit law firm.

"I thank Equal Justice America for its generous grant that has made my work at New Haven Legal Assistance possible."

For almost a year now, as an EJA fellow, I have worked as a staff attorney at New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA) providing direct legal services to the poor. I specialize in family law—including divorce, alimony, child custody and visitation, and child support—and immigration. Every week, I travel to the nearby Lower Naugatuck River Valley, known in Connecticut simply as "the Valley," one of the poorest regions in the state, to interview and advise applicants in need of legal assistance. As one of only a handful of attorneys who speak Spanish at NHLAA, I have found myself working primarily with monolingual Spanish-speaking clients. I also teach Spanish pro-se divorce classes at night, aimed at assisting Spanish-speaking clients in filing for divorces on their own.

In addition to handling more traditional family law cases, I am one of the few legal aid attorneys in the state who offers basic immigration advice and assistance to the exploding population of immigrants here in New Haven and in Connecticut as a whole. In particular, I assist immigration clients in preparing and submitting VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) self-petitions. This relatively new immigration remedy permits an abused spouse or child of a United States citizen or permanent resident to "self-petition" for lawful immigration status without the cooperation of his or her abuser. In partnership with an immigration expert at the Yale Law School's Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, I also participate in an outreach clinic, in which we educate documented and undocumented immigrants about immigration law in general, advise attendees about their rights, and answer questions.

Together with two other legal services attorneys here in the state, I am in the midst of developing and implementing a series of immigration trainings to

educate domestic violence shelter advocates and legal aid lawyers statewide about the special issues facing immigrant survivors of domestic violence. The training incorporates various segments: an introductory workshop on “immigration essentials”; a multicultural panel discussion exploring domestic violence through diverse cultures; a look at the financial issues facing immigrants, including employment and benefits issues, as well as access to legal services; a session on coping with the criminal justice system and interacting with law enforcement; and, finally, a full-day presentation on immigrants’ remedies, including VAWA self-petitions and waivers and other relevant visas.

The stories of my clients are often far from heartening. I have worked with clients who are terminally ill, some of whom have died while I was representing them. Other clients of mine suffer from crippling mental disabilities that hinder them from acting in their own best interests. As is the case with anyone working with survivors of domestic violence, I have had clients return to their abusers, only to regret their decision, or, especially in the case of undocumented immigrants, calculate somewhat unassailably that they are better off returning and enduring the abuse than facing alone the uncertainties and instability that their illegal status makes inevitable.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of my fellowship at New Haven Legal Assistance has been the training and supervision I have received. The Director of NHLAA, Patricia Kaplan, has taken me under her wing, encouraged me to attend every possible training, and shared her wealth of experience and knowledge from having practiced family law for over twenty-five years. I am inspired daily by the talent and tireless devotion of my colleagues here at NHLAA. The victories they have won, both in and out of court, have improved immeasurably the lives of their clients and the system as a whole. I thank Equal Justice America for its generous grant that has made my work at New Haven Legal Assistance possible.

Sheila Hayre
Yale Law Class of 2002



**Report from Suzy Lee
on her Two-Year
Post-Graduate EJA
Fellowship at the Coalition
Against Slavery
and Trafficking (CAST)**

*“As an EJA Legal Services Fellow,
I provide direct legal services to
trafficking survivors, teach legal
education seminars, and advocate
for sensitive responses to and
expanded rights for trafficking
victims and survivors.”*

I am currently working as the Equal Justice America Legal Services Fellow at the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST). CAST is the first and only organization in the United States exclusively dedicated to fighting the trafficking of human beings to the United States.

It is a multi-ethnic human rights organization whose mission is to assist persons trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and slavery-like practices and to work toward ending all such human rights violations. CAST provides both legal and social services to its clients, as well as training and advocacy on trafficking-related issues at the local, national, and international level. As an EJA Legal Services Fellow, I provide direct legal services to trafficking survivors, teach legal education seminars, and advocate for sensitive responses to and expanded rights for trafficking victims and survivors.

“CAST’s goal is to help clients empower themselves as they negotiate the process of recovering from their trafficking experience. For the legal team, this means providing assistance to clients as they navigate through the confusing and difficult legal and administrative systems in the United States.”

My relationship with CAST grew from a frustration with more traditional forms of legal services provision for economically and socially disadvantaged communities. As a student at Harvard Law School, I worked in many legal services programs for underprivileged communities, including the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic, Harvard Defenders, and the Defending Human Rights in the U.S. Working Group of Human Rights Advocates. Each of these programs worked exclusively in legal services provision, and I often found that clients’ problems were almost never fully addressed by legal means alone. Indigent legal clients often have medical, mental health, employment, and housing needs that lawyers have neither the expertise nor authority to address. Thus, while seeking a partner organization for Equal Justice America’s post-graduate legal services fellowship, I sought an organization that offered services to complement those provided by a traditional legal services organization. In addition to providing this type of holistic program, CAST also has the distinction of being both an internationally-recognized and determinedly grass-roots human rights organization.

In the first six months of my fellowship, I have been working to expand CAST’s legal services programs and to further develop the model of services provision that combines both legal and social services. When I joined CAST, the legal department was staffed by one attorney, Charles Song, who is currently CAST’s Legal Director. He coordinated a team of pro-bono and non-profit attorneys to provide legal services in all areas of law that affect the lives of trafficking survivors.

My addition to the legal team made possible an expansion of direct services to trafficking survivors

in the Los Angeles area. I provide direct services, representing clients in their interactions with law enforcement agencies in the criminal prosecution of their traffickers and preparing immigration applications for clients eligible for “T-nonimmigrant status” – a special immigration status created for victims of trafficking. I also coordinate legal assistance on a wide range of issues, including civil litigation against traffickers, housing law, employment law, and commercial law.

CAST’s goal is to help clients empower themselves as they negotiate the process of recovering from their trafficking experience. For the legal team, this means providing assistance to clients as they navigate through the confusing and difficult legal and administrative systems in the United States. Thus, CAST’s legal team serves as a kind of in-house counsel for clients, assisting clients not only in their interactions with opposing parties and government agencies, but also in negotiating their relationships with their own attorneys. I work to ensure that, in whatever legal situation the client may find herself, she understands fully her rights and choices.

One important tool with which to inform and educate trafficking survivors about their legal rights is CAST’s Legal Clinic, which I developed and implemented in the first months of my fellowship. The Legal Clinic conducts short seminars on the legal issues that may affect the lives of trafficking survivors. For the Clinic, I have developed a library of materials, including lay-language glossaries and timelines for different types of cases. I have also recruited attorneys with different areas of expertise to teach seminars on a wide range of topics, including housing law, employment rights, and sexual harassment.

As a final component of my fellowship, I advocate for the rights of trafficking survivors with law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations. As a representative of CAST, I work with local, state, and national law enforcement officers to ensure that the interaction between first-responders and clients are cooperative and

supportive. I also provide trainings for student groups and non-governmental organizations, and participate in conferences that discuss strategies for protecting the rights of trafficking survivors, as well as the rights of immigrants, women, and underprivileged persons generally.

I am very grateful to Equal Justice America for the generous grant that has made this work possible.

Suzy Lee

Harvard Law Class of 2004



**Report from Jennifer
Ornelas on her Two-Year
Post-Graduate EJA
Fellowship at
Break the Cycle**

*“My EJA Fellowship at Break the Cycle
is exactly the kind of work that I want
to be doing.”*

Break the Cycle is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded specifically to address dating and domestic violence in the youth population.

Break the Cycle is the nation's first and only nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage, educate and empower youth to build lives and communities free from dating and domestic violence. Break the Cycle furthers this mission by providing young people, ages 12 to 22, with preventive education, free legal services, advocacy and support.

“A 17-year-old had a baby with her abusive boyfriend. Over the course of three days, he held her captive in his house, physically and sexually abusing her. Several times over the three days, he held a knife to her neck and threatened to kill her. We were able to secure her and her daughter a space in a safe house so that he would not find her and obtained a temporary restraining order against him.”

My Equal Justice America Fellowship began in the fall of 2003 and coincided with a major expansion of Break the Cycle. Based in Los Angeles since its inception in 1995, three new offices were opened that fall, in San Francisco, Washington, DC and New York City. I went to work in the new San Francisco office.

My EJA Fellowship at Break the Cycle is exactly the kind of work that I want to be doing. I enjoy working with teenagers and working on dating and domestic violence issues. I feel that I have played an important role in helping to launch this organization into a new city and in establishing the Education and Legal Services Program. I have presented Break the Cycle's law-based preventative education program to approximately 2,500 young people in San Francisco which makes me feel that my work is having a positive impact. Similarly, I feel that I have made a positive impact for my clients. I have enjoyed the relationship with my sponsoring organization, especially the working relationship that I have developed with the organization's other staff attorneys.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Non-litigation Direct Services:

I have referred approximately twenty individuals to legal services, shelters, or other community based organizations according to their stated needs. I have conducted eleven intakes with clients. I have advocated on behalf of eight of those clients. Other non-litigation services include; drafting intake summaries, drafting declarations for clients and witnesses, and provided advice to clients who opted not to pursue restraining orders.

Litigation Services:

My direct litigation services include: assisting six clients obtain temporary restraining orders, assisting one client obtain a permanent restraining order, assisting a client obtain a “stay away, no-contact” stipulation.

Community Education/Outreach

I have contacted and/or communicated with approximately 100 community-based organizations in order to introduce them to our services and attempt to build collaborative working relationships with them. I have contacted approximately 50 high schools in order to establish our program and gain entry into classrooms in order to present the education program. I have participated in approximately 20 high school health fairs where I answered questions regarding dating abuse, domestic violence, and the legal options available to young people experiencing abuse. I have participated in approximately five community legal or service fairs. I have drafted three electronic newsletters highlighting the services our program provides as well as the accomplishments we have made.

Trainings (of others)

I have presented Break the Cycle's law-based preventative education curriculum about teenage dating abuse and the law to approximately 2,500 teenagers in San Francisco. I have trained approximately 100 service providers about the dynamics of teenage dating abuse and domestic violence law.

Community or coalition-building

I have met with approximately 15-20 community organizations to discuss the best ways of coordinating our services for young people. Our office has joined the Bay Area Teen Domestic Violence Task Force, a coalition of community organizations that work on issues related to teen dating violence.

SUCCESS STORIES

A 19-year-old wife and mother was verbally and physically abused by her husband for three years before seeking help. Her husband repeatedly threatened her life and threatened to take their daughter and leave the country if she ever reported that he abused her. We were able to help her obtain a permanent restraining order against her husband and won sole physical and legal custody of her daughter.

A 17-year-old had a baby with her abusive boyfriend. Over the course of three days, he held her captive in his house, physically and sexually abusing her. He punched and kicked her so hard that she was left with deep bruises all over her chest and arms. Several times over the three days, he held a knife to her neck and threatened to kill her. He eventually let her leave his house to attend school and she knew that if she returned to his house, he would kill her. He knew where she lived and where she attended school and she was scared that he would find her. We were able to secure her and her daughter a space in a safe house so that he would not find her and obtained a temporary restraining order against him.

Jennifer Ornelas

Stanford Law Class of 2003



**Equal Justice America
Law Student
Fellowships
2003-2004**

List of Fellowships Sponsored by Equal Justice America During Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Law Student Fellowships

Fall 2003/Spring 2004

- Claudia Aranda, Columbia University, Welfare Law Center, New York, NY, Spring
- Sona Ashchia, Southwestern University, Bet Tzedek, Los Angeles, CA, Fall
- Eileen Brown, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Brian Callahan, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Casey Carrington, Harvard, Legal Services Center, Jamaica Plains, MA, Spring
- Tina Charoenpong, Yale University, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, New Haven, CT, Fall/Spring
- Elizabeth Cumming, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Avital Rosenberg Chatto, Bet Tzedek, Los Angeles, CA, Fall
- Doris Cho, Columbia University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY, Fall
- Meredith Denecke, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Myra Elgabry, Columbia University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY, Fall
- Abram Ellis, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall
- Ida Fuda, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Joyce George, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Andrea Gold, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Spring
- Ashley Green, New York University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Brooklyn, NY, Spring
- Abigail Greene, Yale University, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, New Haven, CT, Fall/Spring
- Anne Gregory, DePaul University, Uptown Peoples Law Center, Chicago, IL, Spring
- Karly Grossman, Temple University, Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Tiffany Harlow, Columbia University, Welfare Law Center, New York, NY, Spring
- Jamie Herkins, Rutgers University, Legal Services of New Jersey, Spring
- Elissa Hobfol, Chicago-Kent, Chicago Legal Clinic, Spring
- Annie Hsu, Columbia University, Welfare Law Center, New York, NY, Fall
- Melissa Leibman, George Washington University, Women Empowered Against Violence, Washington, DC, Spring
- John Levy, New York University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Brooklyn, NY, Spring
- Nancy Liao, Yale University, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, New Haven, CT, Fall/Spring
- Cory Miller, Georgetown University, DC Employment Justice Center, Fall
- Rosalind Raymond, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Limor Robinson, Yale University, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, New Haven, CT, Fall/Spring
- Catherine Shea, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall
- Samantha Sturgis, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Spring
- Brian Sullivan, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Spring
- Nneka Udoh, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Heidi Windmiller, Chicago-Kent, Chicago Legal Clinic, Fall

Law Student Fellowships Summer 2004

- Sara Abidisedeh, Boalt Hall, Fair Housing Law Project, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA
- Susan Abrams, Harvard, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Paige Abramson, University of Minnesota, Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA
- Damon Agnos, New York University, Georgia Legal Services Program
- Yana Albrecht, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Loren Alikhan, Georgetown University, People's Law Resource Center, Washington, DC
- Kevin Anderson, Harvard, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Diane Aniolowski, University of Illinois, Office of the Public Guardian, Chicago, IL
- Anna Arceneaux, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Conneil Arnold, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center Charlottesville, VA
- Annie Balck, Georgetown University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Sharon Balmer, Fordham, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Sarah Beard, Hastings, Legal Aid of Marin
- Nicole Beliveau, Columbia University, Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts
- Justin Bell, University of Michigan, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Sandra Berty, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Robert Bickel, Columbia University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Fernando Brito, George Washington University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- DaShondra Brown, George Washington University, MFY Legal Services, New York, NY
- Jessie Brown, Harvard, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA
- Jonathan Brown, New York University, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Jared Bybee, New York University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Brian Callahan, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY
- Julian Carini, Cornell, Homeless Action Center, Berkeley, CA
- Laura Carothers, Temple University, Senior Law Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Jessica Carroll, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Yobany Chacon, UCLA, Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Josh Chatten-Brown, Loyola University of Chicago, Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Betty Chen, University of Texas, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Jacqueline Cheney, Georgetown University, Medicare Rights Center, New York, NY
- Samyra Chequer, Southwestern University, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Henry Claxton, New York University, Family Law Center, New York, NY
- Chandra Claycamp, Harvard, Alaska Legal Services Corporation
- Matthew Conroy, Cornell University, Legal Aid Clinic, St. Louis University Law School
- Elizabeth Cumming, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY
- Laurel Davis, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Anne De Ases, George Washington University, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center
- Jea Hwun Deack, Boston College, East Bay Community Legal Center, Berkeley, CA
- Adrienne DeCuire, Howard University, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Alexandria Diaz-Almaral, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Kelly Dyerly, Hastings, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA

- Fabiana Esposito, George Washington University, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- Ryan Fahey, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A.
- Kirsten Feroe, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Edward Finnerty, University of Virginia, Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Michael Fluhr, Harvard, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- Heather Ford, Harvard, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Ade Galloway, Howard University, D.C. Law Students in Court
- Kyle Gann, New York University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Liang Gao, Columbia University, Legal Information for Families Today, New York, NY
- Joyce George, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY
- Matthew Goldberg, Hastings, Legal Aid Society, San Francisco, CA
- Frank Grier, Rutgers University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Anat Grosfeld, University of Michigan, Queens Legal Services
- Karly Grossman, Pennsylvania Health Law Project
- Namita Gupta, Cornell University, Lutheran Family and Community Services, Refugee and Immigration Program, New York, NY
- Rebecca Gutner, Columbia University, Catholic Charities Immigrant and Refugee Services, New York, NY
- Lillian Hardy, Boalt Hall, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco, CA
- Leanne Hartmann, University of Michigan, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Rebekah Heilman, Rutgers University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Margaret Hensler, Georgetown University, D.C. Law Students in Court
- Manuela Hernandez, George Washington University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Michelle Hodkin, Michigan State University, Maurice and Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice, Detroit, MI
- Kamilah House, Howard University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Rebecca Howrey, DePaul University, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Geoff Hu, Columbia University, Queens Legal Services
- Tonya Husbands, Rutgers University, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Newark, NJ
- Carolyn Im, Fordham, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Sumin Joo, Boalt Hall, Legal Assistance for Seniors, Oakland, CA
- Kathy Jung, Columbia University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Catherine Jang, University of Michigan, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA
- Pedro Koe-Thurston, Loyola University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Jennifer Eby Kone, Albany Law School, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Laura Kolb, University of Michigan, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Jill Kou, Harvard, Catholic Charities Immigrant and Refugee Services, New York, NY
- Molly Kovel, University of Michigan, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, San Francisco, CA
- Nolan Kim, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Anne Lainer, Columbia University, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Irene Lee, Cornell University, Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- Melissa Loh, Chicago-Kent, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Andy Lurie, New York University, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Amy Lyster, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Tiffany Marshall, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA

- Mary Mason, Harvard, Harvard Law School Immigration and Refugee Clinic
- Kathryn McCollough, Northwestern University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Maura McKenna, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Parul Mehta, Cornell University, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Cynthia Mendoza, UCLA, Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Lydia Mendoza, Columbia University, Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Noah Merheny, Boalt Hall, Positive Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Philip Milestone, Boalt Hall, Legal Aid Society, San Francisco, CA
- Suzanna Minasian, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Hoodo Mohamed, Georgetown University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Angela Moore, DePaul university, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Maribel Morey, New York University, Lawyers for Children America, Miami, FL
- Matthew Muller, Harvard, Legal Services of Northern California
- Christin Murphy, Cornell University, Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY
- Isabelle Mussard, Hastings, Child Care Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Jessica Myers, Harvard, Family Advocacy Program, Boston Medical Center
- Lindsay Nako, Boalt Hall, Equal Rights Advocates, San Francisco, CA
- Tan Thahn Ngo, Hastings, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Thien Nguyen, Columbia University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Robin Nunn, University of Chicago, Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York, NY
- Elizabeth Oh, UCLA, Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
- Emie Okorafor, University of Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Christina Olson, Harvard, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- Ruth O'Meara-Costello, Catholic Charities Immigrant and Refugee Services, New York, NY
- Emily Taylor Page, University of Pennsylvania, Senior Law Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Farah Paliwala, Harvard, Southeast Texas Legal Clinic
- Megan Palmer, Georgetown University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jessica Pamon, University of Illinois, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Elizabeth Perez, Hastings, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Nicole Perez, UCLA, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Jeremy Peterson, Harvard, Harvard Law School Immigration and Refugee Clinic
- Ricardo Pitts-Wily, American University, D.C. Employment Justice Center
- Carolyn Potamitis, DePaul University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Tatum Pritchard, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Tisha Pyatt, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Kirath Raj, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Amy Reichbach, Boston College, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Scott Sambur, Harvard, Palm Beach County Legal Aid Bureau
- Kimberly Sandler, Harvard, Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Carrie Seares, Rutgers University, Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project, New York, NY
- Tyler Shannon George Washington University, Migrant Legal Action Program, Washington, DC
- Christine Speidel, Harvard, Harvard Law School Legal Aid Bureau
- David Stankiewicz, Harvard, New York Legal Assistance Program

- Kelly Stolpman, University of Texas, Pro Bono Institute, Washington, DC
- Scott Swenson University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Debra Sudo, American University, Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, Los Angeles, CA
- Kristie Tappan, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Michael Thurston, Loyola University, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Kelly Trahan, University of Michigan, National Health Law Program, Washington, DC
- Conray Tseng, Cornell University, Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Jennie Tucker, Harvard, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Kerri Turner, Suffolk University, Children's Legal Services, Boston MA
- Manuel Valez, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Adam Van Dyk, John Marshall, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Joshua Varon, Temple University, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Neng Vue, University of Minnesota, Legal Services of Northern California
- Lea Weems, Harvard, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Jennifer Whitworth, Catholic University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Marc Wilson, Northwestern University, Office of the Public Guardian, Chicago, IL
- Gordon Wittick, Harvard, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Chin-Chin Yap, Georgetown University, Whitman-Walker Clinic, Washington, DC
- Geoffrey Young, Cornell University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Jennifer Zlotnik, Suffolk University, Children's Legal Services, Boston, MA

Legal Services Organizations Where Equal Justice America has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships

- AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- Advocates for Children, New York City
- Alaska Legal Services
- Appalachian Legal Services
- AYUDA Legal Aid, Washington, DC
- Battered Women's Alternatives, Concord, CA
- Battered Women's Justice Center, White Plains, NY
- Bread for the City, Washington, DC
- Bay Area Legal Aid, San Francisco, CA
- Bay Area Legal Services, Tampa, FL
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Boston College Immigration and Asylum Project
- Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau
- Break the Cycle, Los Angeles, CA
- Bronx Legal Services
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. A
- California Rural Legal Assistance
- Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services, New York, NY
- Center for Arkansas Legal Services
- Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
- Charlottesville-Abermarle Legal Aid Society, VA
- Chemung Legal Services, Elmira, NY
- Chicago Legal Clinic
- Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA
- Community Legal Resources, Detroit, MI
- Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Cornell Legal Aid Clinic, Ithaca, NY
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- DC Employment Justice Center
- DC Law Students in Court
- Disability Law Center, Seattle, WA
- East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Equal Justice America Disability Law Clinic, White Plains, NY
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- Legal Aid Society of Orange County
- Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY
- Legal Aid Society of San Francisco
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, CA
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, NY
- Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago
- Legal Services Center at the Door, New York, NY
- Legal Services of Central Michigan
- Legal Corps of Los Angeles
- Essex-Newark Legal Services, NJ
- Family Advocacy Program, Boston Medical Center
- Farmers' Legal Action Group, St. Paul, MI
- Farmworkers' Legal Services, New Paltz, NY
- Florida Justice Center
- Florida Legal Services
- Free Legal Aid Clinic, Detroit, MI
- General Assistance Advocacy Project, San Francisco, CA
- Georgia Legal Services
- Greater Boston Catholic Charities, Immigration Legal Services
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, Los Angeles, CA
- Harvard Law School Legal Services Center, Jamaica Plain, MA
- HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Los Angeles, CA
- Homeless Action Center, Berkeley, CA
- Kentucky Legal Services
- Knoxville Legal Aid Society, TN
- Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Champaign, IL
- Lawyers for Children, New York, NY
- Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Legal Action of Wisconsin
- Legal Advocates for Children & Youth, San Jose, CA
- Legal Aid Association, Detroit, MI
- Legal Aid Bureau, Chicago, IL
- Legal Aid & Defender Service, Pontiac, MI
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA

- Legal Aid of Central Texas
- Legal Aid of Marin County, CA
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon
- Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque, NM
- Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Legal Aid Society of New York City
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- Legal Aid Society of Orange County
- Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY
- Legal Aid Society of San Francisco
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, CA
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, NY
- Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts
- Legal Assistance for Seniors, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago
- Legal Services Center at the Door, New York, NY
- Legal Services of Central Michigan
- Legal Corps of Los Angeles
- Legal Services of Dutchess County
- Legal Services for New York City
- Legal Services of Northern California
- Legal Services of North Florida
- Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Legal Services of the Blue Ridge, Boone, NC
- Lifespan Center for Legal Services, Chicago, IL
- Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
- Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Make the Road by Walking, Newark, NJ
- Medicare Rights Center, New York, NY
- Mental Health Advocacy Project
- Merrimack Valley Legal Services, Lowell, MA
- MFY Legal Services, New York, NY
- Michigan Poverty Law Program
- Migrant Action Legal Program, Washington, DC
- Minnesota AIDS Project
- Montana Legal Services Association
- My Sister's Place
- Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, NY
- National Center for Youth Law, San Francisco, CA
- National Employment Law Project, New York, NY
- Native Lands Institute, Albuquerque, NM
- Neighborhood Law Project, Madison, WI
- Neighborhood Legal Services, MA
- Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- New Haven Legal Assistance Association
- New Jersey Legal Services
- New York Lawyers in the Public Interest
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- Northwestern University Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Northern Virginia Legal Services
- North Carolina Justice Center
- North State Legal Services, Hillsborough, NC
- Oregon Legal Services
- Pennsylvania Health Law Project
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Piedmont Legal Services, Charlottesville, VA
- Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Maine
- Political Asylum Project of Austin, TX
- Positive Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Pro Bono Partnership, Newark, NJ & White Plains, NY
- Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Public Justice Center, Baltimore, MD
- Queens Legal Services, NY
- Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York
- Rhode Island Legal Aid Bureau
- Rocky Mountain Children's Justice Center, Denver, CO
- Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project, New York, NY
- Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, New York, NY
- SeniorLAW Center, Philadelphia, PA
- South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Southeast Texas Legal Clinic
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
- Sugar Law Center for Economic Justice, Detroit, MI
- Tenderloin Housing Clinic San Francisco, CA
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Texas Rural Legal Aid
- Urban Justice Center, New York, NY
- Vermont Legal Aid

- Virginia Justice Center
- Welfare Law Center, New York, NY
- Westchester-Putnam Legal Services, NY
- Western Wisconsin Legal Services
- West Tennessee Legal Services
- Whitman-Walker Clinic, Washington, DC
- Women Against Abuse Legal Center,
Philadelphia, PA
- Women Empowered Against Violence,
Washington, DC



**Equal Justice America
Disability Rights Clinic**

Annual Report 2003-2004

*Training future lawyers and providing
free legal services to low income
disabled persons of all ages.*

I. Introduction

Completing its fourth year of operation, the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic at Pace University School of Law continues its dual mission of training future lawyers and providing free legal services to low income disabled persons of all ages. It has become an integral part of the Law School's Clinical Program located at John Jay Legal Services and its Health Law and Policy Program.

The Health Law and Policy Program provides Pace law students with the opportunity to gain specialized knowledge in the rapidly expanding field of health law. A Certificate in Health Law and Policy is awarded to those students who demonstrate proficiency in the field by taking a prescribed number of required and elective courses relevant to the practice of health law and related social and economic policy issues.

Pace Law School's clinical offerings enable students to gain proficiency in lawyering skills while representing clients pursuant to a Student Practice Order issued by the Appellate Division, Second Department of the New York State Supreme Court. Under supervision of full-time clinical faculty, students enrolled in clinical courses perform all lawyering functions normally reserved to lawyers admitted to practice. In addition to the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, clinical offerings are available in criminal defense, securities arbitration, and the prosecution of domestic violence in cooperation with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

II. Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic

The Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic provides students with the opportunity to learn and apply lawyering skills as well as the substantive law relating to the rights of disabled persons in a highly controlled and intensively supervised legal practice environment. For most students, it is their first experience with law as lawyers.

In a weekly seminar, students learn and practice lawyering skills such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, fact investigation, and conducting administrative hearings. The learning of these skills is integrated with relevant substantive law, including eligibility for the government benefit programs available to disabled persons (Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, Medical Assistance) and the planning tools available to disabled persons and their families (guardianships, wills, special needs trusts). The seminar also provides the opportunity for students to present issues and choices from the cases they are working on and benefit from the critical reflection of their colleagues. Ethical issues are discussed as they arise in individual cases with particular emphasis on the complexities of working with clients of diminished mental capacity. Students learn how to read and interpret medical records and work with medical personnel to describe a client's medical condition using legally relevant terminology. Students also learn how to work with other helping professionals, such as social workers, doctors, nurses and advocates, to identify and meet clients' non-legal needs. Readings from an excellent text¹ for clinical students are supplemented with readings directly relevant to disability law. A copy of the syllabus for the 2003-2004 academic year is attached.

Clinic students, either individually or in teams, have primary responsibility for the conduct of their assigned cases. The student lawyer is responsible for planning each lawyering activity, reviewing the plan with the Clinic faculty supervisor, conducting the

¹Stephan H. Krieger, *et al.*, *Essential Lawyering Skills* (Aspen Law & Business, 1999).

activity and finally, reflecting on the experience and the usefulness of the preparation. Throughout the year, each student engages in client interviewing and counseling, fact investigation and witness interviewing, legal research and analysis, and drafting a variety of legal documents and instruments. Most students have the opportunity to appear before a court or administrative tribunal.

For the 2003-2004 academic year, the Clinic was again offered as a two-semester course. This change was in response to our experience that one semester (14 weeks) was too short a time for students to master the building block lawyering skills and go on to apply them meaningfully on cases involving actual clients. Students still have the option of taking the Clinic for between three and six credits each semester. The three credit option is especially appropriate for part-time and evening students, who may be working full-time in addition to attending law school. All students participate in the seminar and each student's case load is tailored to his or her interests and time constraints. For example, a student who is not available during normal working hours will be assigned to cases which involve transactional work only, which can be performed during the evening hours and weekends. Other students with more flexible schedules are assigned cases which may involve day-time appearances before courts or administrative tribunals. Students enrolled in the Clinic for three credits are expected to devote eight to ten hours per week to clinic responsibilities. The time commitment for students enrolled for six credits is 15-20 hours per week.

During the 2003-2004 academic year, a total of seven students were enrolled in the Clinic. In addition to these seven students, an eighth student who had participated in the clinic during 2002-2003, received field work credit only during the fall semester.

The cases handled involved a variety of legal issues faced by disabled persons and their families. Clients were referred by several social service agencies with which we have formed alliances during the past four years, including Westchester ARC, New York Legal Assistance Group, Mt. Vernon Board of

Education, the Parent Connection at the Westchester Institute for Human Development, the Program for Family Support at North Central Bronx Hospital, and the Social Security Administration. Two former clients have returned to us for additional assistance as they developed new legal needs. All of the clients are low income. They are unable to pay for the legal help they need and were unable to secure representation from other sources of free legal services.

Social Security Cases

We are representing E.E., a profoundly deaf man, in his effort to have a Social Security overpayment of nearly \$10,000 waived. Prior to coming to the Clinic, Mr. E. represented himself at a hearing before a Social Security Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). After an unfavorable decision from the ALJ, Mr. E., again on his own, filed an appeal in Federal Court. After the government agreed that the ALJ's decision was in error, the case was returned to the Social Security Administration for a new hearing. The student assigned to the case is prepared to prove at this new hearing that Mr. E. was not at fault at causing the overpayment and is not in a position to pay it back. The student has also assisted Mr. E. to reapply for Social Security disability benefits and counseled him on how to avoid incurring an overpayment in the future should he be able to return to work.

We are also representing M.B., who suffers from several chronic conditions, in his appeal of the denial of Social Security benefits. The student handling Mr. B.'s case has learned about each of his ailments, spoken to Mr. B.'s doctors, obtained medical records and reports, and will represent Mr. B. in a hearing before an ALJ in August.

We are continuing to work with M.G., who, after receiving a negative decision from the Social Security Appeals Council, decided to reapply for Supplemental Security Income. The student assigned to Ms. G. is working with her doctors to ensure that they accurately describe her impairments and how they affect her ability to work, thus maximizing her chance of obtaining benefits.

Lifetime and Estate Planning

A student prepared wills for T. and M. J., the parents of a severely disabled child. Although the parents are of modest means, they wanted to ensure that their daughter's eligibility for government benefits was not jeopardized by any inheritance. The student counseled them about their options and drafted wills which create a supplement needs trust for the daughter in the event of their deaths.

We are also assisting L.C., the guardian of her mentally retarded son, G. G.'s grandmother died and left him a share of her estate, which included real property. The student assigned to Ms. C., has filed petitions in Westchester Surrogate's Court asking for permission to sell G.'s share in the property and to establish a special needs trust with the proceeds so that G. can continue to receive Medicaid benefits.

Guardianships

We worked with four families of disabled adults who needed legal authority to make financial and other decisions for their family member. In each case the family members were extensively counseled about the options available to them and how to manage their relative's funds without jeopardizing their eligibility for government benefits.

Guardianship petitions have been filed in three of the cases, one in the Bronx, and two in Westchester.

Other Advocacy

We worked intensively with the son of a long-time nursing home resident (D.C.) who had been admitted to a psychiatric hospital. When Ms. C.'s doctors decided she was able to return to the nursing home, the nursing home refused to readmit her. The student assigned to Ms. C.'s case researched relevant state and federal laws and determined that Ms. C. had the right to appeal the home's decision. Although Ms. C. and her family ultimately decided that it was in her best interest to go to another nursing home, the student was prepared to prove at a hearing that Ms. C. was entitled to return to the home where she had lived for eight years.

We also continued to work with J. S., a mentally retarded man and his elderly mother. When the S.'s failed to pay their rent for several months, their landlord filed eviction proceedings. The student who had been working with Mr. S. appeared on his behalf in court and negotiated a settlement of the matter so the S.'s housing was preserved. The student also arranged for on-going case management assistance for this very vulnerable family.

III. Plans for the Future

All students with on-going cases have agreed to continue to work on them over the summer. This represents a high degree of professionalism on their part and will ensure continuity in representation.

Six students have enrolled in the Clinic for the 2004-2005 academic year. We will continue to offer high quality representation to disabled persons and their families being served by cooperating social service agencies. Moreover, we anticipate that the Clinic's graduates will continue to use the skills they developed to effectively represent disabled clients once they become practicing attorneys.



Letters from Legal Services Organizations

Annual Report 2003-2004

Section 2

BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES CORP. "A"

EAST BROOKLYN OFFICE

80 JAMAICA AVENUE • BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11207 • (718) 487-1300 • FAX (718) 342-1780

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Martin S. Needelman, Esq.

MANAGING ATTORNEY
Paul J. Acinapura, Esq.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD
Rev. Peter A. Mahoney

RICHARD J. WAGNER
Director of Litigation

February 28, 2003

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan:

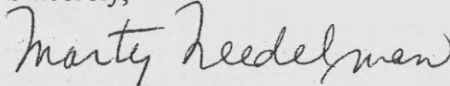
It is with great pleasure, and even greater gratitude, that I write to congratulate you on the 10th Anniversary of Equal Justice America. The birth and development of EJA could not have been more timely and fortuitous for legal services organizations such as ours.

Indeed, over the last eight years in particular, the economic cutbacks and other restrictions imposed upon providers of legal representation to the poor have created enormous caseload and other burdens upon us largely related to resulting staff reductions. Our ability to avoid the most draconian reductions in services can largely be attributed to the contribution made by a corps of highly motivated and dedicated law student interns. *The overwhelming majority of these wonderful, and indispensable young law students has been financed by EJA.*

Dan, without the availability of these summer and school year interns I cannot imagine the additional burdens our staff lawyers would have had to bear and, even worse, the loss of services to scores of clients that would have resulted at a time when they were most needed. And, given the economic picture in the foreseeable future, our need for EJA-sponsored law student interns is surely going to grow dramatically in the coming year.

We need EJA more than ever before, Dan, and the need is nothing less than urgent. We wish you all the success in the world, not only because you deserve it, but because *your* success is *our* salvation. Again, our heartiest congratulations on your 10th year.

Sincerely,



Martin S. Needelman
Project Director



GREATER BOSTON
LEGAL SERVICES
...and justice for all

December 11, 2003

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

On behalf of the staff, students and Board of Directors of GBLS, allow me to congratulate you on the milestone of 10 years of service. Throughout this period, GBLS has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with EJA, one for which we are extremely grateful.

Over the past several years Equal Justice America has provided funding for more student interns at GBLS than any other organization. EJA Fellowship recipients have been a tremendous help to our staff in providing legal assistance to the most vulnerable members of the Boston community.

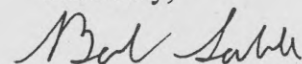
GBLS is the primary provider of free, civil legal assistance to low-income people in the city of Boston and 31 surrounding cities and towns. Over the last year, GBLS served more than 18,000 people with legal issues. The support of Equal Justice America helped to make that possible.

As you may know, Massachusetts, like many states, is facing a severe budget crisis that threatens the health of legal aid programs across the state. As we are forced to lay off staff due to mounting budget deficits, we are more dependent than ever on the energy and skills of the summer students, and the resources offered by generous supporters like EJA.

The partnership we have enjoyed with EJA has also offered an invaluable opportunity for the students it supports. They have been afforded a hands-on opportunity to hone their legal skills, discover first hand the joys of a career in justice law, and develop practical skills which will make them better lawyers in the future.

On behalf of our entire staff, allow me to express how deeply we appreciate our relationship with Equal Justice America and look forward to continued cooperation in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert Sable
Executive Director



December 3, 2003

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan:

As I was checking your website for some information, I learned not only that Equal Justice America is celebrating its tenth anniversary, but that you also recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Pace Law School. I write to congratulate you and EJA on such richly deserved honors!

While EJA seems such a simple concept, I know there is nothing simple about what you have accomplished. Many good ideas flounder under the wrong leadership, and fundraising, even for the most worthy causes, is a hard job. The fact that EJA has flourished is a testimony to your vision, but just as importantly, to the leadership and hard work you have brought to this organization.

The DC Employment Justice Center is honored to be a recipient of many grants from EJA to support our law clerk program. Through EJA's generosity, over the past three years, we have been able to hire over a dozen law clerks from D.C. area schools. Not only did these students have a learning experience they could never get in the classroom, but they were also able to do so much good for so many workers. In our three short years of existence, we have recovered over \$800,000 in unpaid wages and benefits for our clients, returned dozens of people to jobs from which they were wrongfully terminated, and won medical care for hundreds of injured workers who were being neglected by their workers' compensation carriers. Without the assistance of our law clerks, many of whom also provide valuable translation services for our Spanish-speaking clients, these figures would be much lower.

We are grateful for EJA's support but more importantly, proud to be associated with and supported by such a wonderful organization. Keep up all your amazing work! Congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Conti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith M. Conti

MAIN OFFICE: 1350 CONNECTICUT AVE. NW, SUITE 600, WASHINGTON, DC 20036

PHONE: 202.828.WORK FAX: 202.828.9190 www.dcejc.org justice@dcejc.org

SATELLITE OFFICE: 1640 GOOD HOPE ROAD SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20020



April 28, 2003

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to salute Equal Justice America on its tenth anniversary. We at CLS—and even more so our clients—have benefitted greatly from EJA's support.

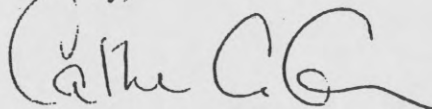
Through the years, EJA has provided tens of thousands of dollars in support of our summer and school-year internship programs. That support has brought us over 20 law student interns since 1997. Our EJA interns have helped us provide direct legal services to our clients on a wide range of problems—from stopping evictions to obtaining disability benefits for children, from protecting workers' employment rights to preserving families' welfare and food stamp benefits.

While providing us and our clients with many hours of skilled legal work, EJA has also helped introduce students to what it is like to make a career in legal services and public interest law. We know that a number of our EJA interns have gone on after graduation to work full-time in legal services and with other organizations dedicated to representing poor people and communities. Other interns have chosen different career paths but as a result of their exposure to our work will continue to serve our clients through pro bono service.

Without EJA, our law student internship program would be far smaller. One of the wonderful things about legal services work is the presence of young, idealistic, spirited, highly skilled law students. By making it possible for students to work with us, EJA has helped keep our advocacy fresh and impassioned.

Again, we wish to thank you for your support of our work and wish EJA all the best in its second decade.

Sincerely,



CATHERINE C. CARR
Executive Director

D.C. LAW STUDENTS IN COURT PROGRAM, INC.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA • THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY • GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY • HOWARD UNIVERSITY

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PRO BONO ATTORNEY
SCOTT M. GROGAN

January 6, 2004

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Congratulations to you and to Equal Justice America on your ten years of outstanding service! The benefits provided to our clinic and the community by Equal Justice America are simply amazing.

D.C. Law Students in Court is a legal services program dedicated to serving low-income residents of the District of Columbia year-round. As a law school clinic, our "staff" of third-year law students drops precipitously in the summer but halting intake would deprive countless tenants of the information and assistance necessary to avoid eviction and homelessness. Throughout the summer we rely on student volunteers to maintain services and access to information. Unfortunately, our inability to pay interns forces the majority of them to volunteer only part-time and work at more traditional jobs for their own rent money.

During the last three years, EJA has changed that limitation by providing grants to students each year for full-time, full-focus service throughout their summers. The smart, dedicated students that have received EJA grants have conducted intake and counseling interviews, educated individuals on their rights and legal options, negotiated optimal resolutions to consumer conflicts, and researched myriad legal issues. I only wish we'd discovered you sooner!

We are tremendously grateful to Equal Justice America for its dedication to helping students and organizations provide the legal services needed throughout our nation. Public interest funding such as that provided by EJA and its contributors is crucial in enabling students to work in the public interest during school and into the future. We look forward to many future years of successful partnership.



United Way

C.F.C. #8077

806 7TH STREET, NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

PHONE (202) 638-4798
FAX (202) 638-0304

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorien S. Buehler".

Lorien S. Buehler

Supervising Attorney

D.C. Law Students in Court Program



The Legal Aid Society
EMPLOYMENT LAW CENTER

*Advocating for workers,
their families and communities*

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James B. Wnght
Douglas R. Young
James B. Young
Thomas H. Zellerbach

June 4, 2003

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan,

On behalf of the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center, I would like to express heartiest congratulations and thanks to Equal Justice America upon its tenth anniversary. During these ten years Equal Justice America has quietly and effectively provided important support to the practice of public interest law, by funding law students whose talent, commitment and enthusiasm contributes immeasurably to this work. Through Equal Justice America, countless low-income people have been helped with legal advice, counseling and representation through an increasingly complex civil justice system. With this help clients have successfully supported families, fought discrimination, gained access to benefits, and protected the safety and education rights of children, making important inroads in the struggle to make justice a reality for all members of our society.

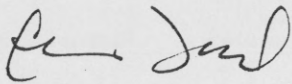
The Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center works to improve the working lives of low-income and disadvantaged people, utilizing an array of strategies including impact litigation, direct legal services and legislative advocacy on behalf of our clients. Equal Justice America Fellows have joined our work with semester and summer funding over the past six years, assisting in litigation and providing services to a growing number of clients. One Equal Justice Fellow staffed our Language Rights Hotline, providing counsel to individuals who suffer discrimination based on English language proficiency or accent. Another provided important research and client follow-up assistance for our Workers' Rights Clinics, and a third Fellow successfully represented several individuals who had been unlawfully denied unemployment insurance benefits. Two Fellows spent summers assisting in advocacy and litigation to protect the employment rights of low-income individuals in transition from welfare to work, contributing to the success of the project.

At least two of our Fellows have gone on to post-graduate public interest practice. Eve Stotland, who received a fellowship in 1998, now practices as a staff attorney at The Door Legal Services Center in New York City, assisting low-income youth in a variety of civil matters. Katie O'Brien Evans, a Fellow in 2000, is now working with LAS-ELC co-counsel on an important U.S. Supreme Court race discrimination case.

June 4, 2003
Page two

We are so pleased to have worked with and mentored these talented young lawyers, and share the pride that you must feel in their demonstrated commitment to equal justice. We are grateful that Equal Justice America recognizes the important work that is being done on behalf of low-income people and provides such meaningful support. Equal Justice America's leadership is an invaluable help in ensuring that the next generation of idealistic young lawyers will be able to continue the tradition of public service. Thank you, and warm congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Todd".

Christine Todd
Vice President, Administration



LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION
OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

111 West Jackson Boulevard
Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3502
312.341.1070 Phone
312.341.1041 Fax
312.431.1206 TDD
www.lafchicago.org

March 12, 2003

Mr. Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian VA 23112

By fax to: 804.744.6789

Dear Dan:

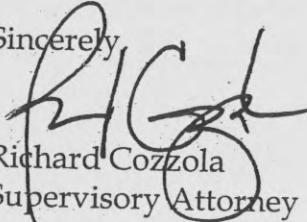
We are writing to congratulate Equal Justice America on its 10th anniversary and to thank you for your continued support of law students at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

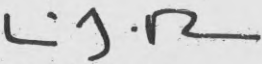
As you know EJA has been an important element of our ability to provide civil legal services to the poor in Chicago for several years. Funded through EJA Fellowships, law students have provided a broad range of advocacy services for our clients — everything from intake interviews, to legal research on appeals, to courtroom advocacy for victims of domestic violence.

Just as importantly EJA has helped develop careers in legal services to the poor for a number of the EJA Fellows who have been here over the past four years. At least seven EJA Fellows have been hired by LAF and are working in neighborhood offices and special projects. These fellows include Lisa Southerland and Kim Jordan (Loyola Rachel Heaston, Alma Ramirez, and Matt Newstead (DePaul), and L. Kate Mitchell and Cleo Kung (Northwestern). And two of these EJA alumnae have received NAPIL fellowships for their projects with LAF: Cleo Kung for immigration outreach to the Asian community in Chicago, Alma Ramirez for advocacy in the Latino community in Chicago -- with a focus on family law, housing and employment issues.

Again, let us thank you for EJA's support, and for helping us to identify and support law students who are committed to direct representation of the poor in Chicago.

Sincerely,


Richard Cozzola
Supervisory Attorney


Lisa Palumbo
Supervisory Attorney

LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN

"... there can be no equal justice where
the kind of trial... (one) enjoys depends on
the amount of money (one) has."

--Hon. Hugo Black
Griffin v Illinois
351 US 12 (1956)

Washtenaw County Office: 420 N. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1104 • phone (734) 665-6181 • fax (734) 665-2974

April 21, 2003

Mr. Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Dr.
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan,

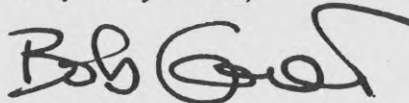
I am writing to congratulate Equal Justice America on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Your outstanding fellowship program has been putting students from a number of law schools to work both during the school year and in the summer at Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM). One particular area of our program which has benefitted significantly from your funding is the Family Law Project, founded by University of Michigan law students, which serves indigent survivors of domestic violence in Washtenaw County.

In addition to the significant community service provided through EJA, the program offers law students the chance for public interest employment. I have long believed that students who are able to work in public interest settings while attending law school are much more likely to continue in public interest careers after graduation. With threatened cuts to legal services funding ever present, your program ensures that these students will continue to have work opportunities, and that our struggling low income clients will at least to some extent be protected from the impact of cuts because student intern services will continue to be provided.

While a 10th anniversary is a significant milestone for any non-profit, I'm especially gratified to see EJA's growth— both because your mission is so aligned with our organizational interests and because of the collaborative, flexible interactions we've always enjoyed with EJA. As you know, LSSCM was one of EJA's "founding partners"— I still remember our conversations about the program when you were first developing the idea. It's amazing to see the growth of EJA from a concept to a real program providing public interest law placements to 200 students a year.

I'd like to congratulate EJA on its 10th anniversary. We thank you for 10 years of support and look forward to continuing the successful relationship we've established.

Very Truly Yours,



Robert F. Gillett
Director

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* Executive Committee Member



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April 21, 2003

Dan Ruben
 Executive Director
 Equal Justice America
 3010 Fox Chase Drive
 Midlothian, VA 23112

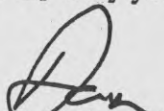
Dear Dan:

On behalf of the staff, Board and most importantly the clients of Public Counsel, I wanted to congratulate Equal Justice America (EJA) on its 10th Anniversary and thank you for all you have done to advance equal justice in our community.

Your efforts to support outstanding law students in their public interest work has resulted in more justice in Los Angeles. As you know, your support has enabled Public Counsel to help children get adopted out of the foster care system, fight consumer scams that prey on the elderly, assist non-profit organizations with their legal needs, help abused women and support our many other endeavors on behalf of those who need justice the most but can afford it the least.

We are grateful for your support and proud of our collaboration. Once again, congratulations and thank you!

Very truly yours,


 Daniel Grunfeld
 President/CEO

Bet Tzedek Legal Services

THE HOUSE OF JUSTICE

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Nursing Home Advocacy
Project Director

Cassandra Stubbs
Skadden Arps Fellow

Jill S. Tabachnick
Jewish Federation/
Bet Tzedek Fellow

Toni M. Vargas
Staff Attorney

Eric M. Carlson, Of Counsel

April 29, 2003

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Writer's Direct Line: (323) 549-58

Writer's E-mail: @bettzedek.org

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Congratulations to Equal Justice America and to you on 10 years of supporting and promoting the civil legal needs of the poor by putting law students to work in public interest organizations across the country. We applaud the important work you do and the achievements of Equal Justice America during the last 10 years. Bet Tzedek is fortunate to have had the support of Equal Justice America and we look forward to working with your organization in the future.

Each year your organization has supported our summer program by offering generous awards to students who provide legal services to the elderly, indigent and disabled residents of our community. More recently Equal Justice America has been able to fund several students in our Fall and Spring semester programs. We are equally appreciative for your consistent support of our programs and services.

Again, congratulations on your 10 years of commitment to serving the legal needs of the poor and for your contributions to the students who work with Bet Tzedek. We are incredibly grateful.

Best wishes,

Mitchell A. Kamin
Executive Director

Robin Sommerstein
Human Resource Director/
Volunteer Coordinator

Bet Tzedek Legal Services provides free legal services to needy persons without regard to race, religion or national origin. Bet Tzedek is funded in part by the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles, United Way, the State Bar of California, the City and County of Los Angeles, the City of West Hollywood, and private donations. Bet Tzedek (The House of Justice) is a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

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February 21, 2003

Mr. Daniel Ruben
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan:

Please accept our warm and hearty congratulations, as you celebrate the tenth anniversary of your wonderful organization! You have reason to feel a great deal of satisfaction, as you look back over the last ten years.

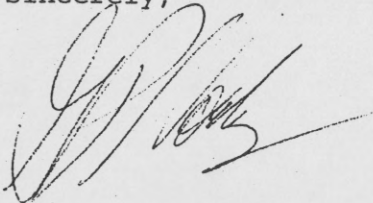
We at the Chicago Legal Clinic have very much appreciated your support for the dozens of internships you have funded. Some of the best and the brightest of the nation's law students have been able to receive substantial funding for fellowships to work as interns in our offices. These fellowships have been both during the school year, on a part-time basis, as well as during the summer, on a full-time basis, for ten weeks.

The students selected for fellowships have had the opportunity to gain valuable legal experience, including consistent client contact, as well as earn a wage, which helps them offset some of their expenses. We have already had dozens of law students funded by Equal Justice America from the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Chicago-Kent, Loyola of Chicago, DePaul, John Marshall, University of Illinois, the Washington College at American University, and Harvard University. Some of these students have impressed us so much that they later have become staff attorneys in our organization. Other students have gone on to make substantial contributions to the public interest, through other organizations.

As you know, our Clinic has been serving low-income clients for more than 21 years. We have 17 attorneys and 13 support staff working out of four offices in Chicago, and serve thousands of individuals each year. The student interns have enabled us to assist more clients than we would otherwise have been able to help. In fact, many of our students have been qualified to represent our clients in court, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711.

If anyone should need further information about the internships you have made possible for our Clinic, they should feel free to contact me directly. We are really grateful for our relationship with Equal Justice America, and wish you even greater success in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Nordgren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerald P. Nordgren
Supervisory Attorney



**Letters from Equal
Justice America
Fellowship Recipients**

Annual Report 2003-2004

Section 3

July 27, 2004

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My Summer Fellowship at the Legal Aid Clinic of the St. Louis University Law School has been a success. I have had the opportunity to provide direct legal services to the poor and indigent in St. Louis City and County, specifically focusing on family law issues. I have interviewed clients, drafted legal pleadings and memoranda, and acted as 2nd chair to my supervising attorneys during hearings and trials. I have researched legal issues for my supervising attorneys and provided them with legal memoranda detailing various legal issues. Here are some examples of the matters that I have participated in:

- Earlier this summer I represented an 85 year-old woman who was being sued by her credit card company. This woman lived in subsidized housing and had very little income and no assets. I wrote a letter to the bank's attorney, laying out the facts of the case (the charges were clearly fraudulent), and followed up with numerous phone calls. Eventually, the bank agreed to drop the claim against my client.

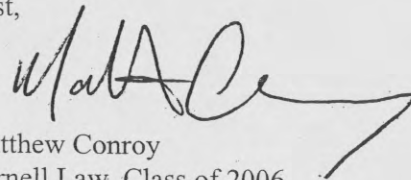
- More recently, I worked on a trial with my boss, Marie Kenyon, involving the relocation of a set of triplets from St. Louis to Texas. After a lot of investigation and legwork developing the facts of the case, we went to trial and engaged in a marathon settlement conference (8 hours!) between the mother, father, and grandparents of the triplets. I am happy to report that we reached a settlement, and the triplets are going to Texas to live with their mom and grandparents, which all parties agreed was in their best interest.

- Yesterday, I represented an indigent client in a Social Security disability hearing - we don't have a final determination yet, but the judge appeared very sympathetic to my client and her claim for disability. The judge also spent some time after the hearing answering my questions and giving me additional insight into the case.

As my experience here draws to a close, I am struck by how much I have accomplished and how more there is to do - there are many people out there that need legal help but cannot afford it. I think this summer has affirmed the importance of providing direct legal services to the poor, and will serve as an important touchstone for me during my career as an attorney, challenging me to dedicate my time, talents and resources to this mission.

Thanks to you and your organization for the opportunity that the EJA Fellowship has provided.

Best,



Matthew Conroy
Cornell Law, Class of 2006

December 17, 2004

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

As one of four directors of the Temporary Restraining Order Project, I have had an incredible experience this past semester. The EJA Fall Fellowship has allowed the other three directors and me to contribute a great deal to the New Haven community.

The TRO Project coordinates the volunteer efforts of over fifty Yale Law School students in addressing the pervasive problem of domestic violence. The Project maintains an office in the New Haven Superior Court. This office is staffed throughout business hours each weekday every week that school is in session (excluding exam period).

While the student volunteers are obviously not full-fledged lawyers and are therefore, unable to provide legal advice and representation to our "clients," we nevertheless play an extremely important role. Some of the temporary restraining order applicants that we help cannot read or write. Several of them cannot understand the legal formality and language used throughout the TRO application forms. Our volunteers play an instrumental part in guiding applicants through this complex application process. Furthermore, our volunteers can make accessible a number of community resources addressing domestic violence: the Victims' Advocates, the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, the statewide legal services hotline, the marshals who serve temporary restraining orders, etc.

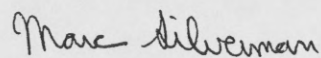
As directors of the Project, Gina Guarienti, Benjamin Novick, Abja Midha, and I train new volunteers and refresh returning volunteers at the start of each semester. We are also responsible for coordinating with the appropriate court clerks, domestic violence service professionals, and Yale Law School faculty and administration. Our duties also include logistical tasks such as creating the volunteer schedule and arranging courthouse tours for the volunteers.

The most rewarding components of my experience with the Fall Fellowship have been the gratitude of TRO applicants and the inspiration of law students. TRO applicants are referred to our office by the court clerks. They often arrive confused, upset, and in a state of crisis. It is extremely rewarding to help such an individual sort through their domestic violence issues and help them to work within the judicial system to obtain relief and protection. Furthermore, we do our best to contribute to empowering these individuals. When an applicant who had arrived crying or shouting, leaves the courthouse with a glimmer of hope, one cannot help but feel happy.

Perhaps just as rewarding as a successful applicant's gratitude has been the motivation and inspiration that this program can offer the student volunteers. This is one of the few community service programs available to students in their first semester at Yale Law School. So, a number of students participate and many continue to participate throughout their three years here. Several become passionate about the plight of domestic violence victims and pursue progress on this issue in their scholarship and future careers. In addition, several volunteers have reported back with success stories. I have received several email messages and had a number of conversations in which a TRO Project volunteer relates their happiness at having helped an applicant obtain a TRO. Such volunteers discuss how great it feels to apply their legal education to actually helping someone in the community around them. One of our most important goals is to inspire each of our volunteers to maintain such a commitment to public service throughout their educations and careers. A taste of one TRO applicant's gratitude can send a volunteer off on any number of public interest paths. These are the stories that make my position so rewarding.

Thank you and Equal Justice America for the opportunity to serve in such a role. It is an honor to play the role of TRO Project director.

Happy holidays,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc Silverman".

Marc Silverman
Yale Law School, 2006

317 Beirut Avenue
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

August 28, 2004

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I would like to begin by thanking Equal Justice American for awarding me the 2004 Summer Fellowship that enabled me to spend the summer working at the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles ("CLC"). My summer at the CLC provided me with invaluable work experience that affirmed my decision to pursue a career in child advocacy. CLC is a non-profit, public interest law corporation whose attorneys represent the vast majority (over 80%) of the 30,000 abused and/or neglected youth under the jurisdiction of the dependency court in Los Angeles County. With less than 100 attorneys representing thousands of children, each in dire need of services and support, the organization relies heavily on its Summer Clerk Program. Being a part of this much needed organization, where every attorney and summer clerk had the opportunity to affect so many lives, inspired me to continue working for children's rights.

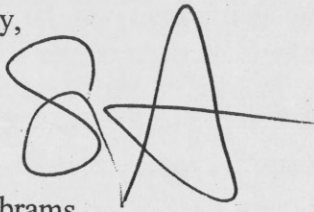
As a summer law clerk, I was able to assist a senior CLC partner with her immense caseload. My responsibilities included preparing for trials, filing motions, and advocating to keep the children we represented (our "clients") out of the delinquency system. I was also responsible for ensuring that each client was living in a safe, loving environment and was receiving the necessary therapy, educational services, and medical treatment. Having direct client contact strengthened my desire and my ability to be a strong advocate for children's rights, and the most valuable aspect of my summer experience was this contact. On a daily basis, I conducted interviews with child clients, their relatives, doctors, therapists, foster families and others. These interactions brought home to me the significance of the work I was doing, making the gripping stories I read in the case files a reality. The majority of children represented by the CLC enter the dependency system already having faced seemingly overwhelming challenges. As an organization, the CLC has the power to influence the decisions being made about our clients' lives. Given that these children are at a turning point, where a single decision by the court can mean the difference between making a positive new start or spiraling downward in a vicious cycle of abuse, the importance of an organization like the CLC cannot be overstated.

In addition to direct client advocacy work, I researched policy issues regarding youth in the dependency system. Specifically, I looked into whether mandatory drug testing as a condition for placement of dependent youth violates their privacy rights. I also studied "crossover youth", children who have been or may moved from the dependency system into the delinquency system because of a crime. The issue of crossover youth has received much political attention recently, and I hope to work in this area in the future. Professionals in the child welfare field are becoming increasingly aware that a large percentage of children in the dependency system, removed from their homes and supposedly being cared for by the state, are ending up in the

juvenile justice or criminal justice systems. In fact, this summer I drafted statements advocating to keep a number of our clients from being placed in the delinquency system. While we were successful in keeping some of our clients from being placed in the delinquency system, including a girl who had been in foster care most of her life and had recently lost her brother in a gang shooting, there is still much work to be done in this area,

Once again, I'd like to thank you for making my incredible experience this summer possible. I learned a great deal about the dependency system in California, and I sincerely believe that I made a difference in the lives of the CLC child clients. Furthermore, I got to witness firsthand the reality that many challenges remain for dependant youth. My experience has made me even more committed to dedicating my legal career to this field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SA' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Susan Abrams
Harvard Law School
Class of May 2005

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Friday, August 20, 2004

Dear Dan Ruben:

It is my honor to share with you some of my thoughts about the summer I spent clerking for the Child Care Law Center, thanks to the Equal Justice America Fellowship.

As a first-generation high school graduate, a multiracial woman, an immigrant, and a single parent, I am unshakable in my convictions that those who overcome barriers and are privileged to participate in institutions of power are empowered to become critically-needed advocates. Unfortunately, though not incidentally, many of us who do overcome are obligated by our financial constraints to forsake our hearts' work. Programs such as Equal Justice America help to fill a critical need.

The Child Care Law Center is an exemplary organization on a number of levels. Nationally, it is the only legal non-profit dedicated solely to childcare law. Locally, it is, in my experience, one of the few organizations that truly attempt to practice a non-hierarchical office culture. I felt at all times welcomed to bring the multiple facets of my identity to the table and was meaningfully and authentically engaged in dialogues.

Along with two other clerks (both from UCLA), I spent the first week in an intensive, well-organized, and instructive training on substantive issues of poverty law, including Cal Works, landlord-tenant law, as well as on the Information and Referral line. I was also encouraged to attend a few choice outside trainings offered by Bay Area Legal Aid and the Youth Law Center.

Under the supervision of a highly knowledgeable and kind lead attorney, Eve Hershcopf, I answered calls on the Information and Referral line once a week and conducted research on the varying legal questions posed by callers. This gave me an opportunity to research landlord-tenant issues, health code regulations, Child Protective Services regulations, as well as employment law. The attorneys in the office always asked me my opinion on the calls before offering guidance and then patiently led me through the research and analytical process necessary to ensure the callers received the appropriate information.

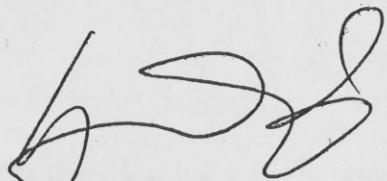
I was also tasked with conducting research on issues of welfare fraud and childcare liability. I spent the majority of my research and writing time, however, on a project that I have been deeply interested in since I served as an advocate for homeless mothers and children. Sparked by a call from a school district employee, I was given the opportunity to research a novel legal question: "What are the legal rights of homeless preschoolers under the McKinney-Vento Act?" This memo presented several challenges. My supervising

attorney patiently guided me through an often-frustrating process of looking for an answer that does not yet officially exist. I compiled a large set of documents including notes from numerous interviews I conducted with various officials and advocates. I then attempted to craft a memo that reflects the non-official regulatory guidance on this question as it stands while still positing possible alternative answers that could prove beneficial in securing the rights of homeless preschoolers.

I intend to share the information I have learned over this summer with as many fellow advocates and interested organizations as possible and feel very grateful to Equal Justice America for enabling me to have this learning experience.

I hope that I may develop to be a well-respected legal advocate and that as I do I can help spread the word, particularly in communities of color, about the opportunity that your organization offers.

I thank you deeply,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabelle Mussard', written in a cursive style.

Isabelle Mussard
University of California
Hastings College of the Law
Class of 2006

400 West 119th Street, #4-U
New York, NY 10027

September 27, 2004

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I sincerely wish to thank you for awarding me an Equal Justice America fellowship. Your organization's strong dedication to the public interest allowed me to perform significant legal services work this past summer that would not otherwise have been possible for me to do, and which experience I will treasure for years to come.

I spent my summer employed at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A", a non-profit organization that provides free legal services to low-income Brooklyn residents. There were two major projects I worked on over the summer: a civil fraud case against local predatory lenders and a case of first impression challenging the constitutionality of a local public housing authority's eviction procedures. Brooklyn unfortunately is a national hotspot for a particular type of predatory lending, whereby unscrupulous home-selling companies buy foreclosed homes at auction, make a series of cosmetic "repairs" to the premises (such as covering rotted wood floors with new carpeting or freshly painting water-damaged walls), then sell them to low-income, first-time minority home buyers several months later for profits in excess of \$100,000 per transaction. By the time the homeowners become aware of the extent of damage to their new homes, the mortgage company in league with the home selling company has secured its profits through federal foreclosure insurance, and the home selling company is free to begin the process anew. My employer filed several civil fraud suits against these companies in an effort to make them cease their predatory practices against local residents.

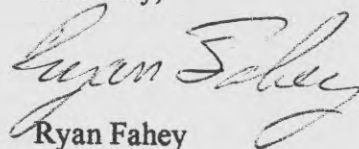
To establish the pattern and practice of fraud alleged in these complaints, we needed to find past victims who would be strong witnesses to the allegedly fraudulent conduct. I worked with two other Columbia students, including EJA fellowship recipient Jessica Carroll, to identify past victims of the named defendants and interview them about their experiences. Using public records and information supplied through discovery, we were able to uncover over 100 potential victims that we contacted by mail and telephone. We personally interviewed over 10 such victims and their families, all of whom were willing to be witnesses and who presented strikingly similar stories of financial hardship and emotional turmoil stemming from their home purchases. We also advised our supervisor on his strategy for deposing the officers of the defendant companies, and I performed additional legal research on the viability of summary judgment should the officers assert their Fifth Amendment privilege during their depositions.

The second project I worked on involved a public housing authority's attempt to evict a tenant solely because she was the victim of domestic violence. The housing authority contends that the client is "non-desirable" because of her victimization, despite the fact that it runs a number of social service programs designed to preserve the tenancies of such victims. Although the housing authority's management is instructed to refer tenants to social workers for family-related incidents, it has no standards in place to govern when a domestic violence victim is referred to its social service programs or when they are singled out by the housing managers for eviction. In light of the fact that the housing authority openly treats some domestic violence victims as not having committed terminable offenses, its seemingly arbitrary and capricious treatment of the client, and the enormous chilling effect such arbitrariness would have on domestic violence victims' willingness to seek outside help, we alleged that the housing authority's failure to promulgate clear, ascertainable criteria guiding whether management decides to terminate domestic violence victims or refer them to social services violates the client's right to procedural due process. We furthermore alleged that the definition of non-desirability that she is charged with is unconstitutionally vague for its failure to notify tenants that their victimization could be construed as a terminable offense and for permitting housing officials to arbitrarily single out some victims for termination.

Under the guidance of my supervisors, I performed much of the legal research on this case and wrote the attached Verified Petition to the New York Supreme Court, in which we challenged NYCHA's practices as unconstitutional and requested a stay of the client's administrative termination proceedings until the constitutional issues in this case have been adjudicated. I also co-wrote the memorandum of law supporting the petition. The justice assigned to the case has issued a temporary restraining order postponing the administrative termination hearing until he can reach a final decision on the stay issue, thereby at least temporarily preventing the client from having to undergo a potentially traumatic and humiliating adversarial proceeding. A verdict in the client's favor on the merits could provide greater security to local domestic violence victims facing the loss of their public housing and serve as precedent for greater protections nationwide. Hopefully, I will be able to contribute to this effort throughout the school year, in whatever capacity my schedule allows.

Working on these projects has been an incredible experience. It is an honor to have made meaningful contributions to cases with such far-reaching ramifications, and I hope that my efforts may have been of some use to these cases' ultimate resolutions. I cannot thank you enough for my summer opportunity, and I hope that you will continue to provide support for such public interest work in the future.

Sincerely,



Ryan Fahey

400 West 119th Street, #2L
New York, New York 10027

August 23, 2004

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I found that working at Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts (LACCM) this summer was rewarding both personally and professionally. Through my internship at LACCM, I employed the research and writing techniques that I learned in my first year of law school. I also developed new skills through experiences including interviewing clients, participating in unit meetings, and observing in the courtroom. In addition, I was fortunate to work closely with attorneys who are passionate about their vocation, on issues to which I am deeply committed.

Through my work in the Family Law Unit at LACCM, I developed a better understanding of both the legal and non-legal obstacles facing victims of domestic violence. While I have found that legal help is not often a cure-all for our clients, I have also witnessed how important it is for clients to know that they will not have to go through the legal system alone. It is especially important for victims of abuse, who have been intimidated and bullied by the opposing party in the past, to have support in standing up to their abuser in court. Although, I found working on such difficult cases to be emotionally challenging at times, I also found it immensely satisfying when my work helped a client.

The attorneys and staff at LACCM were truly committed to ensuring that my internship was a learning experience. From the start, they included me in trainings and staff meetings, invited me to attend and observe their hearings and trials, and asked for my input and feedback on assignments. In only my second week at LACCM, I attended the Family Law Task Force retreat, where I participated in discussions about the major issues facing family law practitioners working in legal assistance. I also had the benefit of meeting many of the attorneys who are leading the effort to implement reforms in the Family and Probate courts.

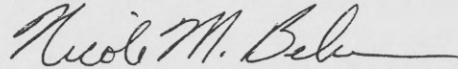
Although I was hired as an intern for the Family Law Unit, once I expressed interest in improving my research and writing, my supervising attorney arranged for me to work with other units in order to increase my opportunity to employ these skills. As a result, I had the chance to work on cases involving housing law, discrimination in public benefit distribution, tort claims, and mental health-related legal issues. Based on my peers'

description of their work this summer, I believe that my internship experience was unusually comprehensive. I can honestly say that I learned something new everyday.

Furthermore, I will be utilizing all that I have learned this summer almost immediately upon returning to school in the fall. My improved research and writing capabilities will be essential to my work as a moot court editor in the coming semester. The experience that I gained in working with victims of domestic violence will aid me in continuing my work with the Domestic Violence Project at Columbia. Finally, witnessing the myriad of legal issues facing women provided me with an array of possible topics to explore when I begin work on the Journal of Gender and Law in the fall.

I cannot possibly summarize all that I gained from my work at LACCM. It is no exaggeration to say that this experience far-exceeded my expectations for a summer internship. I am truly grateful to the staff at LACCM for giving me this wonderful learning opportunity and to EJA for sponsoring it and allowing LACCM to use their resources for those who are really in need.

Sincerely,



Nicole M. Beliveau
Columbia Law School
Class of 2006

112 Warwick Road
Newton, MA 02465

August 26, 2004

Dan Ruben
Executive Director of EJA
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I would like to thank you and your organization for helping me give back to my community this summer. I truly appreciate Equal Justice America and its dedication to fulfilling the promise of equality on which our nation was founded. Without legal representation in civil proceedings, low-income litigants cannot access the rights and privileges which the law affords them.

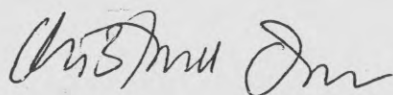
I spent the summer at the Harvard Law School Legal Services Center, which provides legal services to low-income individuals in the greater Boston area. I worked with clients who would have remained unrepresented or underrepresented were it not for the dedication of organizations like Equal Justice America and the Legal Services Center.

As a member of the family law unit, I spent most of my time working on divorce and paternity suits. Our group gave priority to parents with children and individuals who have suffered from domestic abuse. Consequently, most of my clients were women seeking an equitable amount of child support or trying to leave an abusive relationship. Without competent legal representation, many of these women would not have received the financial support they need to provide for their children, and others would have become so frustrated with the difficulty and expense of obtaining a divorce that they might have returned to their abusive relationships rather than brave the complicated probate court system on their own.

While I considered a number of options for this summer, from working at a firm to working with a think-tank, in the end I can think of nothing more rewarding, or challenging than working in the trenches, using the law to help individual clients improve their lives. Over the course of this summer, I was excited to watch two cases close, both with highly favorable outcomes for my clients, and new ones begin. While obtaining a divorce will always be a difficult and time-consuming process, it is gratifying to know that these clients will have the dedicated individuals and legal expertise of the Legal Services Center on their side.

Thank you again for awarding me an EJA Fellowship this summer.

Sincerely,



Christina Olson
Harvard Law School 2006

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
3010 Fox Chase Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112

July 12, 2004

Dear Mr. Ruben,

This letter is to express my gratitude for a fellowship from Equal Justice America. Because of the support of your organization, I was able to accept a job at the National Health Law Program (NheLP), a public interest law firm dedicated to promoting equal access to health care for minorities and the working and unemployed poor. As a result of my internship at NheLP, I have become deeply aware of the problems that plague health care in the United States and the very real effects that a system of consistent marginalization has on families across the country.

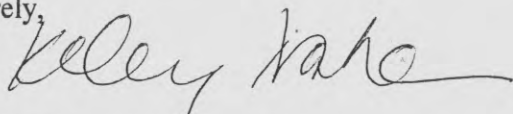
The largest task I completed as an NheLP intern was to research and write a comprehensive treatise exploring the possibilities for individuals to establish a cause of action under Title VI in the wake of *Alexander v. Sandoval*, a landmark Supreme Court case stripping them of that right. By analogizing Title VI to Title VII and Constitutional standards, I feel I contributed to a hugely important effort by NheLP to reestablish a check on the ability of legislators to deny minorities and the poor equal access to health care and other basic civil rights,

I also participated in a report to be published by the Commonwealth Fund exploring ways to provide interpretation, translation, and cultural mediation practices in small clinics. I interviewed providers throughout the country to determine how they address the language needs of their patients and the methods by which they fund these efforts. By making this information available to other providers struggling to meet the language needs of their patients, I know I am contributing to a major factor in improving health care for patients with limited English proficiency.

Moreover, as part of a large study addressing Medicaid in California, I read many case notes from families whose Medicaid had been terminated. My job was to evaluate each case for evidence of improper state action thereby addressing the needs of that family and identifying the problems that plague the California Medicaid system and leave thousands of Californians without health coverage.

More than anything, I am grateful for the chance to have spent a summer amidst such knowledgeable, effective, and committed activists. By participating in coalitions, attending Hill briefings, and advocacy group meetings on several topics pertaining to health care for minorities and the poor, I have learned so much about how health care works in this country and have been inspired to work for change. Thank you again for this opportunity. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Kelly Trahan
University of Michigan
Expected Graduation: December 2005



Report of Independent Auditors

Annual Report 2003-2004

Section 4

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2004

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2004

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Balance sheet	2
Statement of activity and changes in fund balance	3
Statement of cash flows	4
Notes to financial statements	5
Accountants' report on supplementary information:	
Schedule of expenses	6-7

BERMAN & SOSMAN, LLC.
Certified Public Accountants

450 7th Avenue
Suite 949
New York, NY 10123

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
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Fax (516) 826-4343

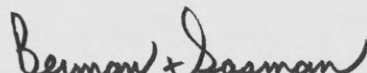
2079 East 65th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Board of Trustees
Equal Justice America, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Equal Justice America, Inc. as of June 30, 2004 and the related statements of activity and changes in fund balance and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Equal Justice America, Inc. as of June 30, 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.


Berman & Sosman, LLC
November 1, 2004

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2004

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 11,828
Contributions receivable	<u>133,659</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>145,487</u>
Property and equipment - at cost (notes 1 and 3)	25,201
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(15,592)</u>
Net property and equipment	<u>9,609</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$155,096</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Grants payable	\$153,677
Accrued expenses	<u>857</u>
Total Liabilities	154,534

FUND BALANCE

Fund balance	<u>562</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$155,096</u>

See Notes To Financial Statements

BERMAN & SOSMAN, LLC.
Certified Public Accountants

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Public Support and Revenue		
Public support:		
Contributions	\$792,541	
Revenue:		
Interest income	773	
Other income (note 4)	<u>13,074</u>	
Total Public Support and Revenue		\$806,388
Expenses		
Program services	557,002	
Management and general expenses	113,743	
Fund raising expenses	<u>136,366</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>807,111</u>
Expenses in excess of public support and revenue		(723)
Fund balance - July 1, 2003		<u>1,285</u>
Fund balance - June 30, 2004		<u>\$ 562</u>

See Notes To Financial Statements

BERMAN & SOSMAN, LLC.
Certified Public Accountants

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Public support and revenue under expenses		\$ (723)
Adjustment To Reconcile To Excess Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses:		
To net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	\$ 3,599	
Changes In Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
Increase in contributions receivable	(10,388)	
Decrease in accrued expenses	(714)	
Increase in grants payable	<u>3,181</u>	
Total adjustments		<u>(4,322)</u>
Net cash used by operating activities		<u>(5,045)</u>
Net decrease in cash during the year		(5,045)
Cash at July 1, 2003		<u>16,873</u>
Cash at June 30, 2004		<u><u>\$11,828</u></u>

See Notes To Financial Statements

BERMAN & SOSMAN, LLC.
Certified Public Accountants

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2004

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Fund Accounting:

All funds over which the Board of Trustees has discretionary control have been included in the current unrestricted fund.

Depreciation:

Property and equipment is stated at cost and is depreciated on the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, generally five to seven years.

NOTE 2: NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Equal Justice America, Inc. is a not-for-profit, charity that provides grants to legal service organizations that deliver civil legal assistance to the poor. It is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Board of Trustees and management employees of the Organization acknowledge that, to the best of their ability, all assets received have been used for the purpose for which they were contributed, or have been accumulated to allow management to conduct the operations of the Organization as effectively and efficiently as possible.

NOTE 3: PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - AT COST

Property and equipment, is comprised of the following:

Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,185
Machinery and equipment	<u>24,016</u>
	25,201
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(15,592)</u>
	<u>\$ 9,609</u>

NOTE 4: OTHER INCOME

The organization was a recipient of a \$13,074 payment, as a result of a non-recurring event.

BERMAN & SOSMAN, LLC.

Certified Public Accountants

450 7th Avenue
Suite 949
New York, NY 10123

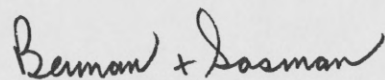
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2079 East 65th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Board of Directors
Equal Justice America, Inc.

The audited financial statements of Equal Justice America, Inc. and our report thereon are presented in the preceding section of this report. The following financial information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the Organization. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.



Berman & Sosman, LLC
November 1, 2004

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Program Expenses:	
Grants	\$519,417
Program Administration:	
Executive Director's salary	24,334
Office salaries	4,572
Payroll taxes	3,107
Employee benefits	4,910
Telephone	468
Office	17
Postage	157
Stationary & printing	<u>20</u>
Total	<u>\$557,002</u>
Management and General Expenses:	
Executive Director's salary	\$ 24,333
Office salaries	40,290
Payroll taxes	6,946
Professional fees	7,225
Bank charges	127
Depreciation	3,599
Employee benefits	10,978
Insurance	1,540
Office	17
Postage	157
Stationary & printing	20
Rent	7,800
Repairs & maintenance	1,136
Registration fees	1,970
Payroll service fees	1,375
Telephone	935
Computer expense	3,883
Equipment lease	<u>1,412</u>
Total	<u>\$113,743</u>

See Accountants' Report On Supplementary Information

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Fund Raising Expenses:	
Executive Director's salary	\$ 24,333
Other salaries	61,147
Payroll taxes	9,188
Employee benefits	14,521
Credit card fees	10,866
Office	1,629
Postage	2,823
Stationary & printing	358
Telephone	7,952
Mailing lists	3,198
Training	<u>351</u>
Total	<u>\$136,366</u>

See Accountants' Report On Supplementary Information

BERMAN & SOSMAN, LLC.
Certified Public Accountants