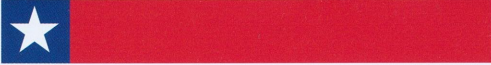


# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2005-2006



**EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA**  
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

[www.equaljusticeamerica.org](http://www.equaljusticeamerica.org)



**EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA**  
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

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(804) 744 4200 • Fax (804) 744 6789 • [www.equaljusticeamerica.org](http://www.equaljusticeamerica.org)*



## EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

# Since 1993—working to protect children and families in need.

“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

**80% of the legal needs of the poor are not being met.**

(American Bar Association)

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 the 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 who must face these struggles without the help of an attorney.

### Who We Are

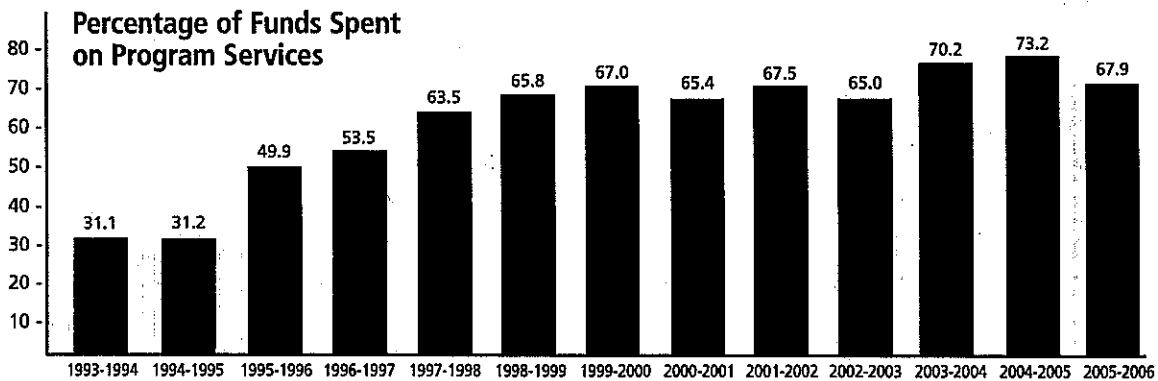
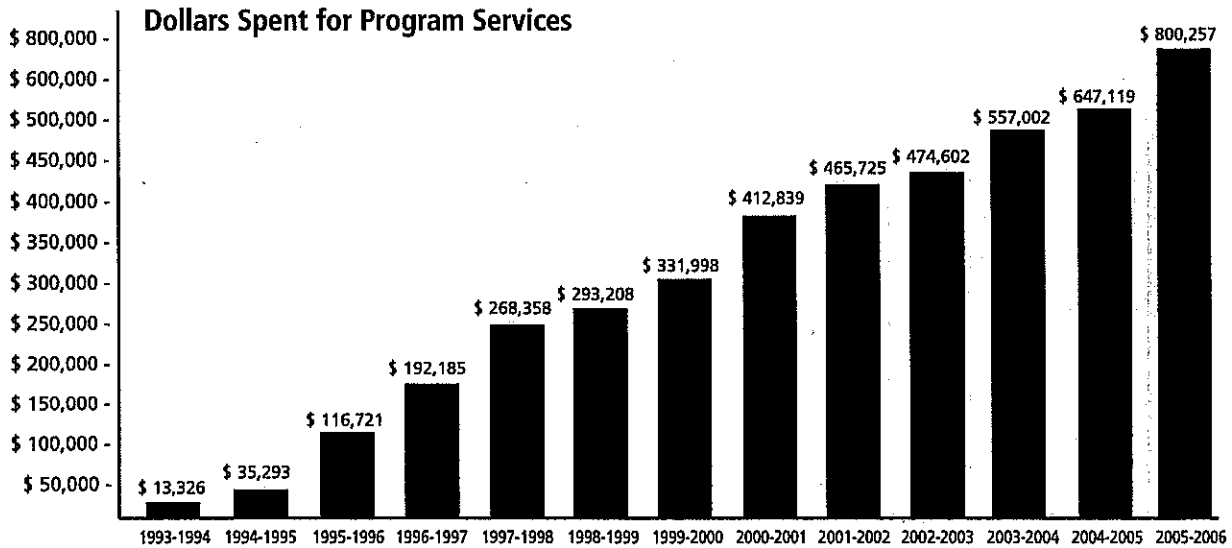
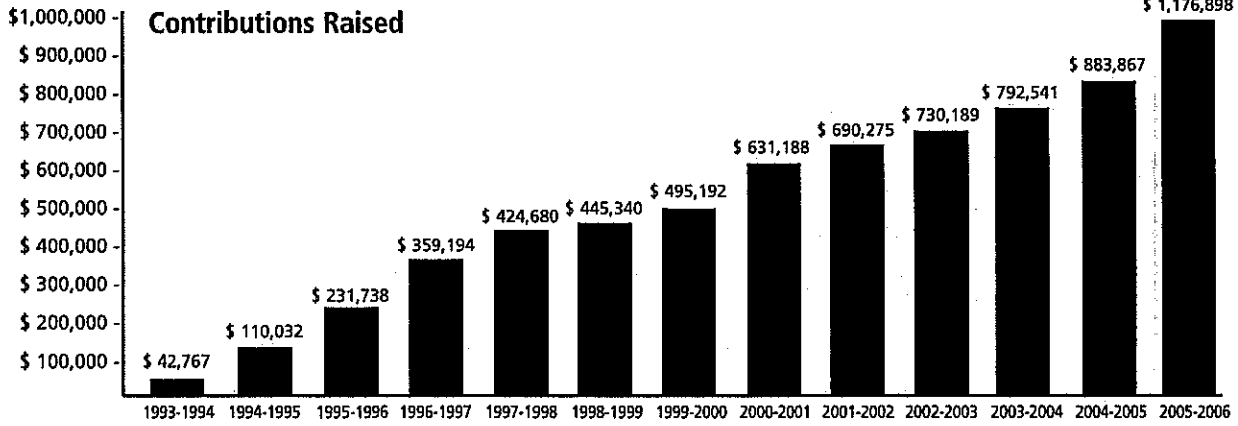
Equal Justice America is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1993. EJA has become a national leader in providing opportunities for law students to work with organizations that deliver civil legal services to those most in need. Our efforts expose a new generation of law students to the urgency for pro bono assistance to our most vulnerable citizens. Students at over 50 law schools now have the opportunity to take part in the Equal Justice America Fellowship Program.

### What We’ve Done

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- Equal Justice America has sponsored fellowships for more than 1,650 law students to work with over 200 legal services organizations across the country. Working 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 \$4.5 million in grants and has provided approximately 500,000 hours of free legal services with programs that work to protect the rights of the poor.
- In September 2002, we began funding two-year post-graduate EJA Fellowships, launching the public interest careers of outstanding young attorneys. More than \$600,000 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 an ongoing commitment from EJA. We have contributed more than \$250,000 to the EJA Clinic, which has become an integral part of the Law School’s highly regarded clinical program.

# Thirteen Years of Growth



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

"It would be impossible to quantify the increase in the number of people who have averted eviction, foreclosure, revocation of food stamp, medical, disability and other benefits, escaped from abusive homes, fought back against discrimination, and accessed programs providing HIV/AIDS assistance and other life saving help, solely because we had the resources provided by our EJA interns."

– **Richard J. Wagner**  
*Director of Litigation*  
*Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"*

"At a time of growing budgetary constraints, your fellowships have allowed us to expand our resources and provide many deserving law students an opportunity to participate in important work on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our community. I would like to express our tremendous gratitude for the help and support you have given us."

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

"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*

"I would like to personally thank your program for the fine work that it does. OILS has had several fellows from your program; they have always been some of the better people we have had the fortune to work with. I think your fellowships enable a great many students to learn that the law should be about helping people; this is a lesson that sometimes gets lost in the legal profession. We look forward to the future fellows that we may be lucky enough to have at our office. Please accept our thanks and gratitude for the hard work of Equal Justice America and its fellows."

– **C. Steven Hager**  
*Director of Litigation*  
*Oklahoma Indian Legal Services*



**Report from Sharon Jones  
on her Two-Year Post-  
Graduate EJA Fellowship  
at Southern Minnesota  
Regional Legal Services**

*“By focusing specifically on cases that involve sexual violence, I can make sure that the special needs of sexually victimized clients are met, and that the civil legal system becomes more receptive to their issues and claims.”*

**Thanks to the generous ongoing support of Equal Justice America, I am currently holding my "dream job" as an Equal Justice America Fellow at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) in St. Paul, Minnesota, providing comprehensive legal services to victim/survivors of sexual violence.**

My fellowship allows me to use my law degree to help victims/survivors, primarily women and children, navigate the complicated civil actions and government services that they need to establish, or maintain, their safety following a sexual assault.

*"My fellowship has three primary components: I provide direct services to victim/survivors of sexual violence, develop collaborative relationships with local social service agencies, and work to improve the institutional response to cases that involve sexual violence..."*

While there are similarities between the legal issues faced by victim/survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence, there are also distinctions, which require new models of service delivery. By focusing specifically on cases that involve sexual violence, I can make sure that the special needs of sexually victimized clients are met, and that the civil legal system becomes more receptive to their issues and claims.

The St. Paul office of SMRLS is the perfect host organization for this project. SMRLS has historically been at the forefront of domestic violence law in Minnesota, which gives me the opportunity to build upon a rich tradition of advocacy to assist a particularly vulnerable set of clients. In addition, as the demographics of the upper-Midwest shift and diversify, I have the opportunity to work with multiple immigrant and refugee populations, and learn the cultural values of each group. Through the support of Equal Justice America, I am able to benefit from the experience and professionalism of SMRLS, and to serve clients I care deeply about.

My fellowship has three primary components: I provide direct services to victim/survivors of sexual violence, develop collaborative relationships with local social service agencies, and work to improve the institutional response to cases that involve sexual violence, both at SMRLS and in the local civil legal system. As a new attorney, I spent much of the first year of my fellowship gaining the skills necessary to be an effective advocate and developing the contacts, both locally and nationally, to address the systemic issues that face my clients. This strategy has allowed me to take increasingly complex cases, and to know where to turn for technical assistance and policy development.

Sexual violence impacts all of the traditional legal services areas: family law, housing, and benefits. I have focused my project in family law, because it gives me the opportunity to build directly upon the

work of domestic violence specialists, and because of the long-term impact of family court proceedings on victim/survivors and their families. However, I regularly consult with advocates from our housing and benefits units, as issues related to sexual violence arise in their cases. Because of my project, other attorneys at SMRLS are becoming more aware of how sexual violence plays a role in their cases, and are more quickly identifying clients and situations where it is a factor.

Even within the context of family law, my cases are quite diverse, and rely on both long-term and short-term strategies. I work with adult and child survivors shortly after an assault or a disclosure of sexual abuse, to secure Orders for Protection. It has been particularly rewarding to work with refugee women, for whom seeking a restraining order is often their first interaction with the American court system, and who each bring a unique set of cultural beliefs and values to the litigation. For example, in working with Faith\*, a recent immigrant, I learned that, in addition to the embarrassment of publicly disclosing her husband's sexual abuse, she was frustrated by male interpreters from her culture who were editing her statements.

Despite this barrier, she got her Order for Protection, in part because of the emotion she displayed on the stand, which needed no translation.

In order to promote long-term safety, I routinely help non-abusive parents protect themselves and their children in custody and parenting time cases, as well as actions for grandparent visitation and juvenile protection cases. It has been particularly challenging to develop strategies for cases where the sexual violence has occurred between the parents, as members of the system, including custody evaluators, sometimes have difficulty crediting such disclosures. For example, when Clara\* was taken to court by the father of her son, who had brutally assaulted her, she was nearly sent to mediation, despite the fact that she had explicitly detailed the sexual abuse in her affidavit. Repeated reminders to decision makers prevented the mediation from occurring, and in the end, Clara believed her safety was preserved by the

separately negotiated settlement.

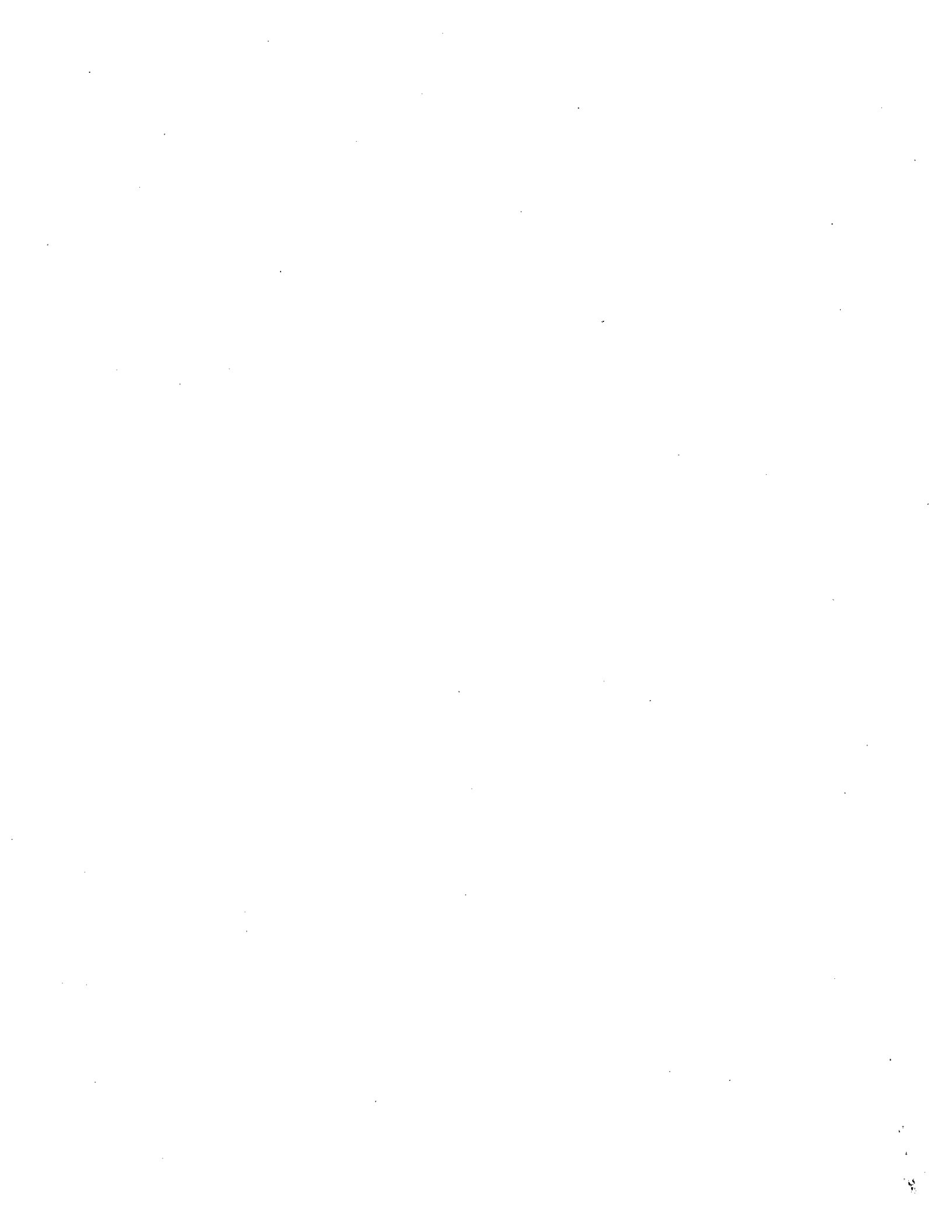
I also work with many clients to end their sexually abusive marriages. While it is not necessary to disclose the sexual violence to the court in each of these cases, knowing that my client has experienced sexual violence allows me to be a more effective advocate and counselor. Often, this means trying to make sure that my client does not have to directly interact with her abuser, or ensuring that she is getting the support she needs to address the past trauma.

I often work with local social service agencies to improve services to victim/survivors. This includes both informational meetings, where I train advocates on the differences between the civil and criminal justice systems, explain the civil legal needs of victim/survivors, and the services available from legal aid, and also collaborative projects for long-term systems change. I recently became a participant in the Safe Harbors for Youth Project, which is bringing interested organizations in Ramsey County together to create a community response protocol for sexually exploited homeless youth. In addition, I have begun to attend the Ramsey County Adult Protocol Team meetings, which focus on a community response to incidents of sexual violence. I am also helping to plan a conference for local judicial officers, court personnel, and social service providers on child sexual abuse and how it can be addressed in the family, domestic abuse, and juvenile courts. These activities, along with my individual casework, are designed to improve the experience of victim/survivors of sexual violence when they seek help from the courts, and to make the system more responsive to issues of sexual violence.

I am very grateful to Equal Justice America for its extremely generous support, and look forward to continuing to do rewarding work on behalf of victim/survivors of sexual violence throughout my fellowship.

Sharon Jones  
Harvard Law Class of 2003







**Report from Amy Carroll  
on her Two-Year  
Post-Graduate EJA  
Fellowship at MFY  
Legal Services**

*“The Workplace Justice Project  
addresses the many problems facing  
the City’s low-wage workers –  
through advocacy, litigation,  
support for community organizing,  
and policy work.”*

## As I end my two-year fellowship, I would like to thank Equal Justice America again for its invaluable support of my work with the Workplace Justice Project ("WPJ") at MFY Legal Services, Inc.

With EJA's help, I have spent a busy and productive two years with MFY – and am happy to say that MFY has raised funds to keep me on after my fellowship ends.

*"In one case, we represent a group of seven clients who worked delivering pizzas for a famous Manhattan restaurant. The plaintiffs routinely worked between 59-80 hours a week, receiving as little as \$2.50 an hour without overtime premiums."*

The WPJ Project addresses the many problems facing the City's low-wage workers – through advocacy, litigation, support for community organizing, and policy work.

During the past two years, I have had the opportunity to work on a number of complex cases in both federal and state court. My first case concerned the practice of locking-in janitors overnight at two grocery stores throughout the City. That suit was filed in collaboration with the Fifth Avenue Committee ("FAC"), a community-based group in Brooklyn. The case recently settled for an undisclosed amount for the three plaintiffs. The attention surrounding the case led to City Council legislation to increase the fines for such practices. I also filed, and settled, a federal case challenging the practice of requiring home health attendants to work 24-hour shifts but be paid for only 12 hours of work.

Currently, I am working on two multiple-plaintiff cases in the restaurant industry in conjunction with two community-based organizations and am developing two additional cases to file. In one case, we represent a group of seven clients who worked delivering pizzas for a famous Manhattan restaurant. The plaintiffs routinely worked between 59-80 hours a week, receiving as little as \$2.50 an hour without overtime premiums. In another case, we allege that a group of investors in a restaurant fraudulently closed the original restaurant and opened a "new" restaurant on the same site to avoid repaying loans made by the employees or the wages due. The women kitchen workers in that case worked twelve hours a day, six or seven days a week. They often went weeks without pay, and when they were paid it was well below the minimum wage with no overtime premium. Such problems are endemic to the restaurant industry.

These complex cases offer the opportunity to strategically challenge illegal practices that are

standard in these industries. By bringing high-visibility cases, in conjunction with community partners, we strive to have an impact beyond the individual clients we represent.

Through our weekly hotline and twice-monthly clinic, I have also advised and provided brief services to countless low-wage workers on issues including minimum wage and overtime rights, disability, discrimination, medical leave, health and safety, and pensions. This allows our project to watch for emerging legal issues while also providing a real service to the working poor.

I recently was a guest on a local radio program discussing workers' rights to the minimum wage and how to go to small claims court to recover unpaid wages. An immigrant worker who heard the program called our hotline for advice. I am currently representing her to recover wages due when she cared for an elderly client in her home – working round-the-clock without break from Monday to Friday. Another clinic client sought our advice after he was fired for asking that his employer continue to pay him on the books, rather than by cash. Our investigation showed that the employer was requiring the client to perform skilled bookkeeping work off the clock for the past six years without any additional compensation. We are now representing that client in federal litigation.

A key component to my work with MFY has been a commitment to intensive collaboration with community-based organizations. For example, I have developed a strong relationship with FAC first through collaboration on the janitor litigation and related legislative advocacy. That relationship is now shifting gears to focus on legal support for the community-based worker organizing they are doing in Sunset Park, a working class, immigrant neighborhood in South Brooklyn. I run workshops for the group, attend the monthly workers' meetings, and represent members in actions for unpaid wages. Because FAC does not have a lawyer on staff, I am an important resource for their organizing. I am replicating this model with a number of other community groups based in different parts of the

City. In this way, I can leverage the impact of my advice and expertise to reach far beyond the individual clients that I can serve.

Finally, I have recently seen the culmination of a two-year effort to push for reform of the New York State Department of Labor, the agency charged with enforcing the state's wage and hour laws. I helped lead a coalition that authored a blueprint for reform which focuses on six key areas in need of attention. Our press conference for the release of the report, at which I spoke, garnered significant press coverage and interest. With the election of a new governor, we are now poised to have a significant impact on the next administration's vision for the Department.

In the past two years, I have learned and accomplished a great deal. Without the support of Equal Justice America, I would not have had this opportunity. And because of the project's success, MFY has raised sufficient funds to keep me on staff at the end of my EJA Fellowship.

Amy Carroll  
Yale Law Class of 2004



**Report from Sabrineh  
Ardalan on her  
Two Year Post-Graduate  
EJA Fellowship at  
The Opportunity Agenda**

*“The Opportunity Agenda looks at disparities and discrimination in health care in the United States through a lens of both domestic civil rights and international human rights law.”*

## **I would like to thank Equal Justice America for its invaluable support of my work as Associate Counsel with the Health Equity Initiative of The Opportunity Agenda.**

Thanks to the sponsorship of Equal Justice America, I have spent the past year advocating for quality health care for low-income communities and communities of color in New York City and New York State.

*“If my work at The Opportunity Agenda is successful, it will stop the closing of hospitals in low-income communities and communities of color and put an end to the loss of health care services that has devastated my clients’ communities.”*

After working at a law firm for two years and completing a clerkship in the Eastern District of New York, I was eager to engage in the type of public interest advocacy I had always hoped to do after law school. I went to law school to be a human rights lawyer, and Equal Justice America’s assistance has made that possible. The Opportunity Agenda looks at disparities and discrimination in health care in the United States through a lens of both domestic civil rights and international human rights law. Because it is a new organization, I have had the opportunity to help forge partnerships in New York City, working with a range of advocates from grassroots organizations to statewide coalitions.

As part of my advocacy work for The Opportunity Agenda, I have provided legal assistance to the Save Our Safety Net Campaign (SOS-C), a coalition of community, labor, and civil rights organizations dedicated to universal access to quality health care services for all residents of New York, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, or income. SOS-C’s advocacy efforts have focused on influencing the hospital closing commission that the Governor’s office established to close and downsize hospitals around the state. SOS-C seeks to make the commission’s deliberations more transparent and to persuade the commission to give greater weight to community health needs and racial equity, instead of purely financial considerations, in determining which hospitals to keep open and which to close. My work has entailed invoking New York’s Open Meetings law, as well as interpreting New York State’s health care and administrative provisions.

Through The Opportunity Agenda’s partnership with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), I have also provided legal assistance to the Committee to Save Our Health Care (CSOH), a grassroots coalition of community-based organizations, faith leaders, and community members in Central Brooklyn. In the wake of the closure and downsizing of

key hospitals in Central Brooklyn, CSOH is fighting for reinvestment in health services in the area. In conjunction with NYLPI, I am assisting CSOH to create partnerships with service providers, funders, developers, and others to brainstorm about ways to bring health services back to the neighborhood. I have also helped Brooklyn Perinatal Network and NYLPI organize a group of participants in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) centers, WIC center directors, and former WIC participants and directors to put pressure on elected officials to keep open WIC centers slated for closure in Brooklyn. I believe that my assistance has made a difference in helping these communities and groups navigate the complex web of civil rights, health care, and administrative laws that govern this area.

Another key aspect of my work has been to investigate, develop, and write a report on health care equity that highlights the dismal state of health care in low-income communities and communities of color in New York City, identifies violations of domestic and international law, and provides suggestions for affirmative policy solutions. The report will document the ways in which the current distribution of health services and resources in New York City violates the rights of immigrants, people of color, low-income people, women, children, and people with disabilities, under city, state, federal and international human rights law. The report will highlight stories of people most affected by the shortage of health services in New York: from elderly women with chronic diseases such as diabetes who are forced to travel long distances to obtain necessary care to mothers with infant children who have been shuttled from doctor to doctor, as hospitals have cut maternity wards, OB-GYN clinics, and other services. It will serve as a tool for drawing media attention to the dire state of health care in New York and for influencing the hospital closing commission; it may also serve as a basis for filing an administrative complaint or a lawsuit.

Working at The Opportunity Agenda has shown me how media and communications can enhance the effectiveness of legal advocacy, by reaching and persuading new and unconventional audiences. In conjunction with our research team, Creative Counsel,

and Web Editor, I have had the chance to work on a range of multimedia tools that enhance the impact of my legal advocacy work. The health care equity report will link to our blog and to a Google map of hospitals in New York City, showing the change in the distribution of health care services over time in relation to race and poverty. Embedded in the online version of the report will be a short video that spotlights a family's problems accessing health care in New York and adds the perspective of a health care advocate to show the structural problems in the health care system. A podcast with a racial justice advocate talking about health care equity will provide an additional perspective on the issue.

Through my work on health care equity in New York City, I have learned the importance of developing innovative legal approaches to challenge structural discrimination and violation of rights, given current barriers in federal courts to civil rights litigation. I have also seen the persuasive power of interesting multimedia tools, such as videos, podcasts, maps, and blogs, which can help shape public discourse and reach new audiences who may not be swayed by legal reports or policy briefs.

If my work at The Opportunity Agenda is successful, it will stop the closing of hospitals in low income communities and communities of color and put an end to the loss of health care services that has devastated my clients' communities. It will reform the health care planning system in New York State in ways that would improve the health and lives of thousands of New Yorkers. And it will introduce a health care planning process that is transparent, participatory, and truly democratic.

I am very grateful to Equal Justice America for its extremely generous support, and am eager to continue doing rewarding work on behalf of poor people and people of color who have been denied access to critical health care services. I look forward to the second year of my fellowship and thank Equal Justice America for the opportunity to engage in this exciting legal advocacy.

Sabrineh Ardalan  
Harvard Law School, Class of 2003

## List of Fellowships Sponsored by Equal Justice America During Fiscal Year 2005-2006

### Law Student Fellowships

#### Fall 2005/Spring 2006

- Rachael Andersen-Watts, Wayne State University, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Spring
- Brian Barish, University of Miami, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Spring
- Erin Bradrick, Yale Law School, Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring
- Andrew Bruck, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Emily Buck, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Melissa Byroade, Georgetown University, Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE), Washington, DC, Spring
- Nicholas Caggia, George Washington University, DC Employment Justice Center, Fall
- Trevor Colas, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A", Spring
- Meredith Coleman, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Roxane Crowley, Temple University, SeniorLAW Center, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Lauren Elfant, Temple University, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Michael Gilberg, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Kerry Gillich, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A", Fall
- Amanda Golob, St. John's University, Queens Legal Services, Spring
- Rebecca Green, University of California, Hastings, Public Advocates, San Francisco, CA, Fall
- Carly Grey, George Washington University, DC Employment Justice Center, Fall
- Michael Hoffman, University of Miami, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Fall
- Raquiba Huq, Yale Law School, TRO Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring
- Cristina Huynh, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Spring
- Megan Karsh, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Brian Kennedy, Boston College, South Middlesex Legal Services, Framingham, MA, Spring
- Minji Kim, Columbia University, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), New York, NY, Spring
- Morgan Kunz, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A", Spring
- Joshua Levin, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Owen Li, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services, Spring
- Camille Mackler, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. "A", Fall
- Roger Mok, Fordham University, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), New York, NY, Spring
- S. Kerene Moore, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Spring
- LaTina Norman, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago Legal Clinic, Fall
- Lori O'Brien, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A", Fall
- Antonette Payne, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A", Fall
- Achyut Phadke, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Robin Preussel, Yale Law School, TRO Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring



- Diana Reddy, New York University, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), New York, NY, Spring
- Matthew Rubin, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Sarah Schalman-Bergen, Harvard University, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center, Spring
- Stephanie Shapiro, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Todd Spodek, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Christina Taneyhill, Temple University, Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Jason Holland Tarricone, Stanford Law School, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco, CA Spring
- Amy Trotter, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Stephanie Tyree, New York University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A", Spring
- Lindsay Vaughan, Temple University, Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Victoria Vinarsky, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Kim Vu, University of Michigan, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), New York, NY, Spring
- Samuel Wiseman, Yale Law School, TRO Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring
- Margo Worms, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring
- Samantha Yellin, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY, Fall/Spring

## **Law Student Fellowships Summer 2006**

- Nelly Aguilar, DePaul University, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Zoya Ahmadi, University of California, Los Angeles, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Maria Albright, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Brian Appel, Northwestern University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Hristiyaniya Atanasova, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Sabrina Balgamwalla, American University, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Jessa Barnard, Stanford Law School, Bay Area Legal Aid, San Jose, CA
- John Bartholomew, Harvard University, Appalachian Legal Research and Defense Fund, Somerset, KY
- Aaron Belcher, New York University, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Dorian Berger, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- Candace Bertha, University of Illinois, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Kari Beyer, John Marshall Law School, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Christine Billy, Harvard University, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Neil Bjorkman, University of Wisconsin, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Vivian Bodey, Southwestern University, National Health Law Program, Los Angeles, CA
- Elizabeth Bohnett, Harvard University, Bread for the City, Washington, DC
- Lori Boozer, Boston College, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Allison Boscarine, Harvard University, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- Katherine Brandes, Columbia University, Catholic Charities Community Services, New York, NY

- Rosalie Braunstein, Harvard University, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Ruth Bray, Harvard University, Harvard Law School Tenant Advocacy Project, Cambridge, MA
- K. Cary Brege, University of Virginia, North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program
- Timothy Brennan, Loyola University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- J.P. Broche, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Samuel Brooks, Temple University, Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), Philadelphia, PA
- Nathan Carle, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- Lina Chagoya, University of Texas, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Jennifer Cheng, Harvard University, The Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
- Xinying Chi, New York University, Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Sheila Chithran, Cornell University, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Evan Chyun, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Diana Claybon, University of Michigan, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- Kelley Coleman, Harvard University, Health Law Advocates, Boston, MA
- Owen Conroy, Columbia University, New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
- Monica Costello, University of Michigan, Protection & Advocacy, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
- Bridget Crawford, George Washington University, Migrant Legal Action Program, Washington, DC
- Justin Cronin, Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, Disability Rights Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Reese Dameron University of Texas, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Ifetayo Davidson-Cade, Howard University, The Equal Rights Center, Washington, DC
- C. Eric Davis, University of Michigan, Oklahoma Indian Legal Services
- Nubia Diaz, University of California, Los Angeles, California Rural Legal Assistance
- Jill DiGiovanni, Boston College, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- Samuel Digrino, John Marshall Law School, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Nicole Dooley, Harvard University, Dakota Plains Legal Services, Mission, SD
- Michal Duer, Wayne State University, Wayne State Free Legal Clinic, Detroit, MI
- Carl Duffield, New York University, New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation
- Cynthia Dyar, University of Michigan, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Matthew Edwards, New York University, Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- Malinda Ellwood, University of Michigan, Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Chelsea Epps, Georgetown University, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, Washington, DC
- Jessica Farb, American University, Ayuda Legal Aid, Washington, DC
- Erin Fay, University of Wisconsin, Community Justice Incorporated, Madison, WI
- Patricia Feghali, University of Minnesota, The Housing Preservation Project, St. Paul, MN
- Jennifer Felten, Southwestern University, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Ashley Fluhrer, University of Washington, Picture The Homeless, New York, NY
- Lindsay Foye, Northwestern University, Whitman-Walker Clinic's Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- Alanna Frisby, Columbia University, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Alida Garcia, Columbia University, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Marie Gardere, Columbia University, Dwa Fanm ("Women's Rights in Haitian Creole"), Brooklyn, NY

- Rachel Garland, Temple University, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Chelsea Gaughan, New York University, Homeless Action Center, Berkeley, CA
- Renuka George, Cornell University, Stanford Community Law Clinic, East Palo Alto, CA
- Beth Gobeille, Boston University, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- Rahel Goharchin, University of California, Los Angeles, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Lauren Goldman, Suffolk University, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Boston, MA
- Anne Gordon, University of Michigan, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Dominic Gouker, Boston University, Disability Law Center, Boston, MA
- Kathryn Graham, Rutgers University, The Door's Legal Services Center, New York, NY
- Jessica Groppe, Catholic University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Jennifer Hamamoto, Loyola University, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Justin Hansford, Georgetown University, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, New York, NY
- David Harris, Northwestern University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Meghan Hely, Boston College, Community Action Program Legal Services, Boston, MA
- Michael Hollander, University of Virginia, Virginia Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Angela Hollowell-Fuentes, University of California, Boalt Hall, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Ethan Horowitz, Harvard University, Farmworker Legal Services, Rochester, NY
- Andrew Houston, University of California, Hastings, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- John Infranca, New York University, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Katherine Kasameyer, University of California, Boalt Hall, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Jocelyn Kaufman, George Washington University, Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project, Brooklyn, NY
- Emily Kernan, Harvard University, The Door's Legal Services Center, New York, NY
- Jennifer Keys, DePaul University, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Minji Kim, Albany Law School, Legal Services for New York City
- Ryan Knutson, Boston College, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- April Kuehnhoff, Harvard University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Alexis Kuznick, Harvard University, Bay Area Legal Aid, San Jose, CA
- Julie Lanyon, Michigan State University, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Nelida Lara, Cornell University, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Bethany Li, Georgetown University, Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA
- William Lim, Fordham University, Welfare Law Center, New York, NY
- Thomas Lloyd, III, George Washington University, Idaho Legal Aid Services
- Jennifer Luczkowiak, University of California, Hastings, Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Suliana Lutin, University of California, Hastings, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Alison MacManus, Harvard University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Michael Maier, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- Shakhi Majumdar, Harvard University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Jacob Mancha, University of Texas, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Angel Marshall, St. John's University, Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- Kathryn Masters, George Washington University, Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE), Washington, DC
- Gray Mateo, University of Illinois, DC Employment Justice Center
- Kathleen McCabe, Temple University, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Ian McDonald, New York University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- Heather McGhee, University of California, Boalt Hall, Brennan Center for Justice, New York, NY
- Allison Miles, Northwestern University, Life Span Center for Legal Services, Chicago, IL
- Spring Miller, Harvard University, Southern Migrant Legal Services, Nashville, TN
- Abigail Moyer, Temple University, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Ryan Mrazik, Georgetown University, DC Law Students in Court Program
- Erin Murphy, George Washington University, Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE), Washington, DC
- Zoraida Najarro, Rutgers University, Essex-Newark Legal Services
- Alexander Najemy, Fordham University, Massachusetts Justice Project
- Mayra Navarro, University of California, Los Angeles, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Liane Ong, Harvard University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Sabrina Ong, Michigan State University, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Sheri Osher, Wayne State University, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Kyle Palazzolo, University of Michigan, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Washington, DC
- Margaret Pastuszak, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Alejandra Perez, George Washington University, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Washington, DC
- Kristina Peterson, New York University, Tenderlion Housing Clinic, San Francisco, CA
- Maripat Pileggi, University of Pennsylvania, Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- Sandra Pullman, Harvard University, Victim Rights Law Center, Boston, MA
- Shilpa Ram, American University, Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Boston Medical Center
- Jose Ramirez, Columbia University, Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX
- Meagan Rasch-Chabot, Harvard University, Volunteer Lawyer's Project, Boston, MA
- Cynthia Reasner, University of California, Los Angeles, Children's Law Center
- Mina Remy, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jerika Richardson, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Nell Richmond, Boston College, Neighborhood Legal Services, Lawrence, MA
- Jill Roberts, Chicago-Kent College of the Law, Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Alice Rosenthal, Rutgers University, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Caroline Rotherth, Harvard University, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Molly Rowles, Cornell University, Tompkins Tioga Neighborhood Legal Services, Ithaca, NY
- Stacey Russell, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Amanda Ryan, New York University, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Chaim Dov Sacks, George Washington University, Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- Nicole Schleben, Wayne State University, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Denise Schulman, New York University, Urban Justice Center, New York, NY
- Jonathan Scarsic, Cornell University, New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation
- Christina Seif, Harvard University, Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
- Zachary Sharpe, Columbia University, Project Renewal, Services for New York City's Homeless

- Kathryn Shelton, Northwestern University, Bread for the City, Washington, DC
- Lynette Stetler, University of California, Hastings, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Stephanie Swanson, Harvard University, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Lawrence Szmulowicz, Temple University, Women Against Abuse Legal Center Philadelphia, PA
- Amilia Tadewaldt, Harvard University, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- Monee Takla, Harvard University, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Barbara Texidor, University of California, Hastings, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Brandon Thompson, Boston College, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Amanda Traphagan, University of Texas, Advocacy Inc., Austin, TX
- David Tufts, Howard University, Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- Cicely Vaughn, Wayne State University, Community Legal Resources, Detroit, MI
- David Vega, Harvard University, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center
- Stephen Walls, George Washington University, People's Law Resource Center, Washington, DC
- Samantha Walsh, New York University, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Carolyn Walther, New York University, Lawyers For Children, New York, NY
- Su-Lynn Walton, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Renee Williams, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- Lauren Wood, University of Minnesota, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Amy Woolard, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Gregory Yankee, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan

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

- Advocacy, Inc., Austin, TX
- Advocates for Children of New York
- Advocates for Justice and Education, Washington, DC
- AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
- Alaska Legal Services
- The Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
- Appalachian Legal Services
- Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- AYUDA Legal Aid, Washington, DC
- Bay Area Legal Aid, Oakland, 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
- Bread for the City, Washington, DC
- Break the Cycle, Los Angeles, CA
- Brennan Center for Justice, New York, NY
- Bronx Legal Services
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago, IL
- California Rural Legal Assistance
- Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services, MA
- Catholic Charities Community Services, New York, NY
- Catholic Charities Immigration Services, Washington, DC
- Center for Arkansas Legal Services
- Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
- Charlottesville-Abermarle Legal Aid Society, VA
- Chemung Legal Services, Elmira, NY
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, SD
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Chicago Legal Clinic
- The Child Care Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Children's Legal Services, Boston, MA
- Colorado Legal Services
- Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA
- Community Action Program Legal Services, Boston, MA
- Community Justice Inc., Madison, WI
- Community Legal Resources, Detroit, MI
- Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA
- Cornell Legal Aid Clinic, Ithaca, NY
- Covenant House, Washington, DC
- Covenant House of New Jersey, Youth Advocacy Center
- Dakota Plains Legal Services
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- DC Employment Justice Center
- DC Law Students in Court
- Disability Law Center, Boston, MA
- Disability Law Center, Seattle, WA
- Disability Rights Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA
- The Door's Legal Services Center, New York, NY
- Dwa Fanm ("Women's Rights in Haitian Creole"), Brooklyn, NY
- East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY
- Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX
- Equal Rights Advocates, San Francisco, CA
- The Equal Rights Center, Washington, DC
- Essex-Newark Legal Services, NJ
- Fair Housing Law Project, San Jose, CA
- Fairfax Bar Pro Bono Program, Fairfax, VA
- Farmers' Legal Action Group, St. Paul, MI
- Farmworker Legal Services of New York.
- Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center
- 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
- Haitian Refugee Center, Miami, FL
- Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, Los Angeles, CA
- Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic
- Harvard Law School Legal Services Center, Jamaica Plain, MA
- Harvard Law School Tenant Advocacy Project
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Health Law Advocates, Boston, MA
- HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Los Angeles, CA
- Homeless Action Center, Berkeley, CA
- Homeless Advocacy Project, Philadelphia, PA
- Housing Preservation Project, St. Paul, MN
- Idaho Legal Aid Services, Boise, ID
- Immigrant Legal Resources Center, San Francisco, CA
- Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, FL
- Juvenile Rights Project, Portland, OR
- Kentucky Legal Services
- Knoxville Legal Aid Society, TN
- La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco, CA
- Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Champaign, IL
- Latino Workers Center, New York, NY
- Lawyers for Children, New York, NY
- Lawyers for Children America, Washington, DC
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco, CA
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Washington, DC
- Legal Action of Wisconsin
- Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, San Jose, CA
- Legal Aid Association, Detroit, MI
- Legal Aid Bureau, Chicago, IL
- Legal Aid of Central Texas
- Legal Aid Clinic, St. Louis University Law School
- Legal Aid & Defender Service, Pontiac, MI
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Legal Aid of Marin County, San Rafael, CA
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- Legal Aid Society, Employment Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque, NM
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, OH
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, MN
- Legal Aid Society of New York City
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- Legal Aid Society of Orange County, CA
- Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY
- Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake, UT
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, CA
- Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, NY
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts
- Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Legal Assistance for Seniors, Oakland, CA
- Legal Corps of Los Angeles
- Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Washington, DC
- Legal Information for Families Today, New York, NY
- Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Services of Dutchess County, NY
- Legal Services of Greater Miami
- Legal Services of New Jersey
- Legal Services for New York City
- Legal Services of North Florida
- Legal Services of Northern California
- Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Legal Services of the Blue Ridge, Boone, NC
- Lifespan Legal services, Chicago, IL
- Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
- Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services

- Lutheran Family and Community Services, New York, NY
- Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
- Make the Road by Walking, Brooklyn, NY
- Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Boston, MA
- Massachusetts Justice Project
- Maurice and Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice, Detroit, MI
- Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Boston Medical Center
- Medicare Rights Center, New York, NY
- Mental Health Advocacy Project, San Jose, CA
- Merrimack Valley Legal Services, Lowell, MA
- MFY Legal Services, New York, NY
- Michigan Poverty Law Program
- Migrant Legal Action Program, Washington, DC
- Minnesota AIDS Project
- Montana Legal Services Association
- My Sister's Place, Washington, DC
- Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NY
- Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, NY
- National Center for Youth Law, San Francisco, CA
- National Employment Law Project, New York, NY
- National Health Law Program, Los Angeles, CA
- Native Lands Institute, Albuquerque, NM
- Neighborhood Law Project, Madison, WI
- Neighborhood Legal Services, Lawrence, MA
- Neighborhood Legal Services, Lynn, MA
- Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- New Haven Legal Assistance Association
- New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation
- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- North Carolina Justice Center
- North State Legal Services, Hillsborough, NC
- Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA
- Northwestern University Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Oklahoma Indian Legal Services
- Oregon Legal Services
- Palm Beach County Legal Aid Bureau
- Pennsylvania Health Law Project
- People's Law Resource Center, Washington, DC
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Picture the Homeless, New York, NY
- Piedmont Legal Services, Charlottesville, VA
- Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Maine
- Political Asylum Project of Austin, TX
- Positive Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Pro Bono Advocates, Chicago, IL
- Pro Bono Institute at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC
- Pro Bono Partnership, Newark, NJ & White Plains, NY
- Project Renewal, New York, NY
- Protection & Advocacy Inc., Los Angeles, CA
- Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- Public Justice Center, Baltimore, MD
- Queens Legal Services, NY
- Regional Housing Legal Services, Glenside, PA
- Rhode Island Legal Aid Bureau
- Rocky Mountain Children's Justice Center, Denver, CO
- Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Law Project, New York, NY
- San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation
- Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, New York, NY
- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL
- SeniorLAW Center, Philadelphia, PA
- South Brooklyn Legal Services
- South Middlesex Legal Services, Framingham, MA
- Southeast Texas Legal Clinic
- Southern Migrant Legal Services, Nashville, TN
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services



- STAND! Against Domestic Violence (formerly Batter Women's Alternatives)
- Stanford Community Law Clinic, East Palo Alto, CA
- Tahirih Justice Center, Falls Church, VA
- Tenderloin Housing Clinic San Francisco, CA
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Tompkins Tioga Neighborhood Legal Services, Ithaca, NY
- Uptown People's Law Center, Chicago, IL
- Urban Justice Center, New York, NY
- Vermont Legal Aid
- Victim Rights Law Center, Boston, MA
- Virginia Justice Center
- Volunteer Lawyer's Project, Boston, MA
- Welfare Law Center, New York, NY
- West Tennessee Legal Services
- Westchester-Putnam Legal Services, NY
- Western Wisconsin Legal Services
- Whitman-Walker Clinic, Washington, DC
- Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Women Empowered Against Violence, Washington, DC
- Women's Justice Center (formerly Battered Women's Justice Center), White Plains, NY
- Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA



**Equal Justice America  
Disability Rights Clinic**

Annual Report 2005-2006

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

## I. Introduction

Completing its sixth 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 and their families

Pace Law School's clinical offerings, under the umbrella of John Jay Legal Services, 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, John Jay Legal Services also provides representation to individuals by student attorneys enrolled in the Securities Arbitration Clinic, the Criminal Justice Clinic and the Immigration Justice Clinic. In addition to these "live client" clinics, field work in the non-profit legal arena is available to students through the Legal Services/Public Interest/Health Law Externship.

*Ten students have enrolled in the Clinic for the 2006-2007 academic year. We will continue to offer high quality representation to disabled persons and their families in Westchester and neighboring counties.*

## 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 focused on learning lawyering skills are supplemented with readings directly relevant to disability law.

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 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 interview-

ing, 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 2005-2006 academic year, the Clinic was again offered as a two-semester course. Students have the option of taking the Clinic for between four and six credits each semester. The four 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 which provides two academic credits and each student's case load for the remaining two to four credits 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 spend on average five hours per week per clinical credit on case-related work. Students enrolled in the Clinic for a total of four credits spend on average 10 hours per week on case-related work; students enrolled for a total of six credits spend on average 20 hours per week on case-related work.

During the 2005-2006 academic year, ten students were enrolled in the Clinic. All were full-time day students.

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, including the Veterans Administration, Montefiore Long Term Home Care Program, Westchester Human Rights Commission, SKIP of New York, Mt. Vernon Board of Education, the Program for Family Support at North Central Bronx Hospital, and Jowonio, a case management agency serving the developmentally disabled. Several clients were referred by other Clinic clients. 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. Several cases completed during the year were begun during the previous year.

### *Lifetime and Estate Planning*

Mr. and Mrs. A. came to the Clinic asking for "simple wills." In a thorough interview, the student attorney assigned to help this elderly couple discovered that their sole asset was their home which they wished to leave to their adult disabled daughter. The couple was counseled extensively about their options and the need to do other planning, including powers of attorney and health care proxies. Wills have been prepared for the clients' review.

Mr. and Mrs. G., a young couple with minor children signed wills, health care proxies and powers of attorney that were drafted by their student attorney. Although they are low income, the G.'s wanted to make sure that their children were provided for in the event of their deaths and were counseled concerning the need to appoint guardians and trustees if they die before all of their children reach the age of 18.

A student counseled A.W., the mother of a young disabled child about making provisions for the child's care in the event of her death. The client decided not to proceed until she had resolved her marital situation with the child's father.

We are also working with Mr. R. who inherited his house from his mother several years ago. Mr. R., who has an adult disabled child, is now in a nursing home. The students assigned to Mr. R.'s case researched the options available to Mr. R. to provide for his daughter without jeopardizing his or her public benefits. Mr. R. has been counseled. We are working with his social worker to identify appropriate fiduciaries so that a will and trust can be drafted.

### *Guardianships*

Last June, the Faculty Supervisor participated in a workshop for parents of mentally retarded and developmentally disabled children in the Mt. Vernon School System. As we reported last year, the purpose of the workshop was to help these parents obtain the services they need as their children leave the school system. Planning for the future and the need for

guardianship was covered in two workshops. After the workshops, parents were given the opportunity to request assistance from the Clinic. In the fall, we contacted the parents who expressed an interest in guardianship.

Students worked with nine families who had attended the Mt. Vernon program. Guardianship petitions were or will be filed for eight clients. One of these clients will need to set up a special needs trust for her son who received a small personal injury settlement, once she is appointed her son's guardian. One family was referred to private counsel because the child had received a large malpractice settlement. In addition to the Mt. Vernon clients, we worked with six other clients seeking guardianship, three from Westchester and three from the Bronx.

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. Parents were encouraged to name standby and alternate guardians so that a guardian of their choosing will have authority to make decisions for their children when they die or become disabled. Clients were also counseled about other planning such as designating guardians for minor children and preparing wills and health care proxies.

### *Social Security Cases*

A student attorney represented Mr. E. at an administrative hearing before a Social Security Administrative Law Judge. Mr. E., who is profoundly deaf, had been charged with an overpayment of disability benefits. Mr. E. had appeared at his first hearing without counsel and then, again on his own, appealed the adverse decision to Federal Court. After the case was returned to the ALJ for a second hearing, Mr. E. sought help from the Clinic. Because Mr. E. had amassed some savings the ALJ determined after the second hearing that Mr. E. can afford to pay back the overpayment, even though he was not at fault in causing the overpayment. Objections have been filed with the Appeals Council, the next level of appeal.

A student attorney also assisted L.A., a homebound client with several chronic illnesses. After Ms. A. spend two months in a nursing home recovering from a fall, she was told that she would have to repay her SSI benefits for the months she spent in the nursing home. The student attorney representing Ms. A. researched the issue and determined that Ms. A's doctor should have asked that her benefits be continued since she needed to be in the nursing home for only a short time. The student has appealed the determination and asked that any conferences be held in Ms. A.'s home.

### *Discrimination Cases*

The Clinic was asked by the Westchester Human Rights Commission to represent an elderly woman who had made a complaint alleging discrimination based on age and disability. The Commission had found "probable cause," but the complainant needed representation at the administrative hearing. Unlike the State Division on Human Rights and the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the Westchester Human Rights Commission does not have the authority to prosecute cases itself beyond the probable cause stage. Complainants must either represent themselves or obtain counsel.

Ms. R. is an active 88 year old who is a member of the Travel Club sponsored by her condominium association. She occasionally uses a walker. After the Travel Club enacted a rule that persons dependent on walkers, oxygen and scooters could not travel without a companion, Ms. R. filed her complaint with the Commission. Because the hearing was scheduled to take place shortly, all the Clinic students worked on Ms. R.'s case, doing legal research, and interviewing and preparing witnesses. The day before the hearing was scheduled, the respondents went to Supreme Court and obtained a stay of the proceedings, claiming that the Commission did not have jurisdiction. The case was returned to the Commission for a hearing on jurisdiction which took place on May 18. The hearing was entirely handled by two students who made opening and closing statements and examined and cross examined witnesses. A post-hearing brief

has just been filed. If the ALJ finds that the Commission has jurisdiction, a full hearing on the merits will be scheduled for the fall.

The Clinic also assisted Ms. G., a young disabled woman who has a service dog. Ms. G.'s landlord threatened to evict her because of the dog. The students assigned to Ms. G. discovered that under Westchester law, the landlord could not evict Ms. G. because he had known about the dog for more than three months before taking action.

### ***Community Outreach***

Last fall, the Westchester chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) asked for assistance concerning the Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) that was beginning on January 1, 2006. The entire Clinic collaborated on learning about the new law and preparing a presentation for family members and beneficiaries. In addition to the presentation, which included power point slides, the students prepared a comprehensive handout. The presentation was given twice, once at the NAMI chapter meeting and a second time at the Law School for students, faculty, staff and community members. For the meeting at the Law School, the students did outreach to community groups and prepared publicity packets. Copies of the handout and flyer are attached.

Prof. Flint also was the featured speaker at a meeting of a support group for family members of high functioning persons with autism and Asperger's Syndrome. This talk focused on benefits available to disabled persons such as Social Security and SSI, Medicare and Medicaid and how parents can assist their adult disabled children without jeopardizing their government benefits.

### **III. Plans for the Future**

Ten students have enrolled in the Clinic for the 2006-2007 academic year. We will continue to offer high quality representation to disabled persons and their families in Westchester and neighboring counties. We expect additional referrals of discrimination cases based on age and disability from the Westchester Human Rights Commission. Because these cases provide students with a full range of litigation experience in relatively short time frame, they are ideal cases for the Clinic.



# **Letters from Legal Services Organizations**

Annual Report 2005-2006

*Section 2*

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
Administrative Office  
1361 Elm Street, Suite 307  
Manchester, NH 03101-1323

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March 8, 2007

Dan Ruben, Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan,


I am writing to express our profound appreciation for Equal Justice America's commitment to fund a fellowship for Leah Plunkett at New Hampshire Legal Assistance for two years.

This fellowship will make an enormous difference in our program's ability to serve vulnerable and troubled children and adolescents in the cities of Nashua and Manchester. Working closely with Leah, we have designed a multi-disciplinary project under which she will provide legal services to at-risk youth, helping them to gain the education and health care they need to avoid a downward lifetime spiral into the criminal justice system.

Beyond the specifics of this important project, Leah Plunkett's presence at New Hampshire Legal Assistance, made possible by the fellowship from Equal Justice America, will add her talents and energy to our program at a crucial moment in our history, when we are trying to build the next generation of advocates and potential leaders. The EJA fellowship will give us two years to help Leah develop her skills and deepen her commitment to our work. Our clients and our program will benefit greatly, as will Leah.

Again, please accept our deep thanks for the vital role that your organization is playing in meeting immediate client needs in our state and, at the same time, helping us build a stronger legal aid program over the long-term.

Sincerely,

  
John E. Tobin, Jr.  
Executive Director



## **BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES CORP. "A"**

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(718) 478-2300  
FAX: (718) 782-6790

**EAST BROOKLYN OFFICE**

80 Jamaica Avenue  
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**VALERIE HING, ESQ.**

PROJECT DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
**MARTIN S. NEEDELMAN, ESQ.**

FROM THE DESK OF:  
**RICHARD J. WAGNER, ESQ.**  
Director of Litigation

Direct Line: (718) 487-0862  
Direct Fax: (718) 487-0863  
E-mail: [Rwagner@bka.org](mailto:Rwagner@bka.org)

February 12, 2007

Dan Ruben  
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13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan:

I was organizing my old files this past weekend, including my thick folder of EJA material. If my records are correct, I believe that as of the Spring, 2007 semester, EJA has funded more than 100 student internships for Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. "A" over the past 11 years. This extraordinary financial contribution to our organization would, in itself, be worthy of our undying gratitude. But viewing the true value of your commitment in purely financial terms would be a grave injustice.

Because of EJA alone, the law students that we have chosen for summer and school year internships have been able to dedicate literally thousands of hours of *legal* work to our enormous number of clients. I emphasize the word "legal" to make a point; we do *not* use EJA's law student interns as clerks or errand runners. As you know, Brooklyn "A" discovered long ago the untapped potential that these students had to function as "virtual" lawyers and, accordingly, we have entrusted them with a variety of responsibilities that would ordinarily fall to staff attorneys.

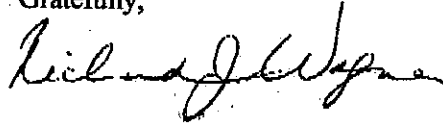
We have come to think of EJA funded student interns as more of a rotating staff of case handlers who, under the supervision of Brooklyn "A" lawyers, perform literally every legal task that an admitted attorney would perform, including legal and factual research, drafting of motions, pleadings and memoranda of law, fact gathering, interviewing and preparation of witnesses, and from time to time, going to Court to argue the motions on which they have worked. I can scarcely imagine how we would function without the support of EJA's gifted and dedicated corps of law student interns. Certainly, given the loss of government support for civil legal services over the last 12 years, our ability to service our client community of more than 350,000 income eligible residents, diminished as it may be, would have been devastated without these remarkable young people. They quite literally have meant the difference between having to turn away hundreds of families in desperate need of legal assistance or, instead, being in a position to render that assistance.

To: Dan Ruben, EJA

Page 2

It would be impossible to quantify the increase in the number of people who have averted eviction, foreclosure, revocation of food stamp, medical, disability and other benefits, escaped from abusive homes, fought back against discrimination, and accessed programs providing HIV/Aids assistance and other life saving help, solely because we had the resources provided by our EJA interns. So it is on their behalf, as well as on behalf of Brooklyn "A", that I express our enduring gratitude for your past and present support, and thank you in advance for EJA's future support.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard J. Wagner".

Richard J. Wagner  
Director of Litigation



PUBLIC INTEREST LAW  
CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA  
AFFILIATED WITH THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW

STAFF

Jennifer R. Clarke  
*Executive Director*

Michael Churchill  
Thomas K. Gilhool  
*Chief Counsels*

James Eiseman, Jr.  
Judith Gran  
Barbara Ransom  
*Attorneys*

Edwin D. Wolf  
*Executive Director*  
1974-1976

August 2, 2006

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

Re: Maripat Pileggi, 2006 Equal Justice America fellow

Dear Dan:

I am writing to thank Equal Justice America for making possible the terrific summer we've just concluded with Maripat Pileggi, a University of Pennsylvania law student who received an Equal Justice America Fellowship.

Maripat had a variety of experiences with us. She drafted five complaints against a school district which has ignored the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and has segregated children with disabilities. She prepared the evidence for a hearing on the first of those complaints, she attended settlement negotiations and she attended meetings of the parents of those children. On a different subject, Maripat analyzed challenges to laws which deny to former prisoners certain public benefits, including housing, loans, and jobs. With me, she wrote an article that was published in the Philadelphia legal newspaper assessing the holdings of a recently-deceased member of our Court of Appeals. She also assisted another lawyer in preparing a class action complaint that will be filed in the state of New Jersey.

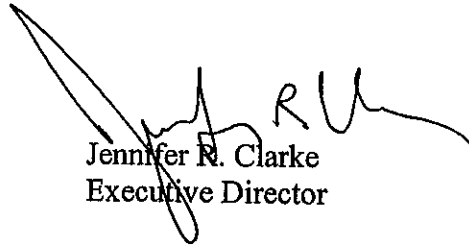
Everyone has been impressed with the clarity and precision of Maripat's work; including her writing, analysis as well as her oral expression. In addition to her excellent legal skills, Maripat is reliable and mature; a quiet and steady presence here in the office.

As you can well appreciate, the support that you gave us for Maripat's summer is highly leveraged. Because we are a small organization with only six

lawyers, there are significant constraints on the number of matters we can take on. Maripat's fellowship allowed us to do more work, help more people and work more effectively for systematic change.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer R. Clarke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jennifer R. Clarke  
Executive Director

JRC/jaw

cc: Maripat Pileggi



GREATER BOSTON  
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Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services Office

August 28, 2006

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II- Suite 2004  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

RE: April Kuehnhoff  
Summer 2006 Fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to thank you for awarding funds to April Kuehnhoff to enable her to work at Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services (CASLS). As explained below, I was extremely pleased with the quality of her work at CASLS this summer.

April primarily handled her own case load in the housing unit at CASLS. This included conducting initial interviews of potential clients, providing advice to clients, conducting factual investigation (e.g. interviewing witnesses, taking photographs, obtaining and analyzing housing authority and court records, and gathering documentary evidence), drafting advocacy letters to agencies, and preparing for and representing clients at two housing authority administrative hearings. In addition, she conducted legal and factual research in connection with other advocates' existing cases.

In all her work, April was thorough, dependable, well-organized, honest, and efficient. She was dedicated to her clients, developing great rapport with them. Her written work was clear and accurate. She was well-prepared and highly effective in her oral presentation at the two housing authority hearings. April learned quickly and was able to work independently with minimal supervision, thereby, increasing the capacity of our office to meet the legal needs of low income tenants.

April was a pleasure to work with, and both CASLS staff and her clients will miss her. Again, thank you for providing the funds for April's summer internship here.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Hegel

**Equal  
Justice  
Center**

510 S. Congress Ave.  
Suite 206  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Tel. (512) 474-0007  
Fax (512) 474-0008  
www.equaljusticecenter.org

July 26, 2006

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

Re: José Ramirez, IV

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Working with José Ramirez, IV this summer has been a joy. José advocates on behalf of his clients with a great passion, sense of justice, and often a sense of humor- all qualities necessary in the rocky pursuit of justice. The focus of José's summer fellowship was to represent low-wage immigrant workers who are not paid for their hard work. Scofflaw employers who do not pay their employees' wages are shockingly prevalent among the most vulnerable employees in our society. The Equal Justice Center is the only organization in Texas representing low-wage immigrant workers' wage and employment matters, and José's contribution this summer enriched our unique program work.

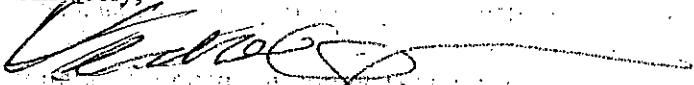
Jóse successfully negotiated a settlement for two domestic workers originally from Mexico. Sisters, Amalia and Clementina, worked as nannies caring for a family with twins for just under a year. During the course of their employment, their employers failed to pay them overtime, and on occasion, did not pay them anything at all. Jóse was a fierce advocate on the sisters' behalf and recovered nearly \$2000.00 of their unpaid wages.

Jóse also cultivated several new clients. He carefully navigated the unique fears of immigrant workers and supported a group of 12 construction workers with a combined wage claim of approximately \$10,000.00. Jóse is still in the process of negotiating with this cheating employer.

Jóse also worked with Agustin, a restaurant worker, whose employer has failed to pay the minimum wage and overtime for several years. Jóse and Agustin are collaborating to find fellow restaurant workers to join in the claim, which could result in a lawsuit brought in federal court under the Fair Labor Standards Act, claiming over \$50,000.00 in unpaid wages.

Again, the contributions of Jóse and Equal Justice America served to enrich the unique and vital program work of the Equal Justice Center. And more importantly, enriched the lives of many low-wage immigrant workers building and becoming a part of our community. ¡Mil Gracias!

Sincerely,



Victoria Gavito-Martin, Attorney at Law  
Employment Rights Counsel  
Equal Justice Center



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE  
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS & URBAN AFFAIRS

June 30, 2006

Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 204  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

RE: Fellowship of Chelsea Epps

Dear Equal Justice America:

I write to express our deep appreciation for the fellowship that enabled Chelsea Epps to work this summer with our program. Chelsea was extremely valuable to us at a critical time, and worked to develop several important cases that will have a huge impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

In two matters involving access to national chain restaurants, Chelsea drafted legal assessments of novel legal issues presented, reviewed architectural surveys and developed summaries and analyses of these surveys, and participated in settlement discussions. Her work will certainly help us in the drafting of a complaint in one matter, and in the development of a settlement in the other. As the architectural barriers presented in these two chains are significant, her work will be extremely meaningful in improving access to these popular eateries for people with disabilities throughout the country.

In a very different matter, Chelsea performed intake and assessment of a serious case involving the failure of a governmental agency to provide a sign language interpreter to a deaf prospective parent during an adoption proceeding. In this case, due to the fact that Chelsea is fluent in sign language and familiar with Deaf culture, she was able to perform the intake extremely efficiently and effectively. Based in large part on her intake and assessment, the Project plans to take legal action to ensure that prospective parents receive effective communication, and that children are not placed in adoptive homes before such effective communication takes place.

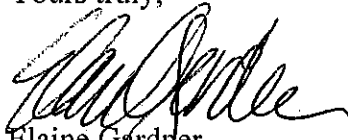
Finally, Chelsea has been instrumental in the development of a critically important case involving architectural access to over four hundred lottery sites in our region. The logistics of surveying and compiling data on these hundreds of sites has been

Equal Justice America  
June 30, 2006  
Page Two

monumental, but in addition to performing hundreds of surveys herself Chelsea developed a spreadsheet to enable us to keep track of data in this case and quickly access it. Her energy and enthusiasm for this project has been contagious.

In sum, Chelsea has been of enormous assistance this summer. She is so intelligent, enthusiastic, and deeply committed to the rights of people with disabilities that we will miss her sorely. Thank you again for making this fellowship possible.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine Gardner", written in a cursive style.

Elaine Gardner  
Director, Disability Rights Project





August 28, 2006

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

**MAIN FACILITY**  
1407 S STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20009  
202-797-3500  
TDD 202-797-3547  
FAX 202-797-3504

**ELIZABETH TAYLOR  
MEDICAL CENTER**  
1701 14TH STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20009  
202-745-7000  
FAX 202-745-0238

**MAX ROBINSON CENTER  
OF WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC**  
2301 M L KING, JR. AVENUE, SE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20020  
202-678-8877  
FAX 202-678-8099

**WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC OF  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**  
5232 LEE HIGHWAY  
ARLINGTON, VA 22207-1621  
703-237-4900  
TTY 703-237-9340  
FAX 703-237-5757

Re: Summer 2006 Intern Lindsay Foye

Dear Equal Justice Foundation:

I am writing to thank you for providing a financial stipend for our summer 2006 intern, Ms. Lindsay Foye. Ms. Foye spent six weeks working as a law student intern at the Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Over the summer, Ms. Foye worked on several substantive legal projects to assist clients and strengthen our program on several levels. She helped our clients with legal problems related to their HIV status in areas such as discrimination, immigration, and public benefits. She also performed useful research projects, helped us update our public benefits training and practice manual, and served as an “attorney on call” under staff attorney supervision by performing client intake over the telephone and answering clients’ legal questions. Lindsay’s fluency in Spanish and French was a particularly useful asset for us this summer, and she communicated regularly with our clients from all over the world in their native languages.

We are very grateful for Equal Justice America’s assistance in bringing Ms. Foye to Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services. We look forward to a continued relationship with you in the future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 939-7622.

Sincerely,

Todd Pilcher  
Senior Managing Attorney  
Whitman-Walker Clinic  
1701 14<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20009

The Medical  Legal Partnership for Children  
RAISING THE BAR FOR CHILD HEALTH

Medical-Legal Partnership for Children  
Boston Medical Center  
91 East Concord Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02118-2393

September 15, 2006

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

Re: Shilpa Ram fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

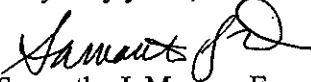
It was my pleasure to serve as Shilpa Ram's supervisor during her 10-week fellowship with the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) at Boston Medical Center this past summer.

Ms. Ram assisted MLPC attorneys with approximately 15 cases and legal research projects over the course of her fellowship; these projects related to immigration, housing, income supports, education, and family law. She helped to staff a weekly legal clinic (conducting intake interviews and follow-up advocacy) at Upham's Corner Health Center in Dorchester, Massachusetts, a community health center affiliated of Boston Medical Center. Ms. Ram also participated in a weekly Case Review session with MLPC legal staff and student interns.

From the beginning of her fellowship, it was apparent that Ms. Ram possessed many skills that would enhance her work with MLPC patient-families, such as multilingualism and legal acuity. Over the course of the summer, I and my MLPC colleagues were delighted to observe in Ms. Ram several other traits that made her an indispensable team member, including but not limited to her diligence, attention to detail, and appropriate professional demeanor when interacting with patient-families in crisis. Indeed, should she be interested, MLPC has invited Ms. Ram to return for an internship during the summer of 2007.

If you have any questions about my experience supervising Ms. Ram, please feel free to contact me at 617-414-6769 or [samantha.morton@bmc.org](mailto:samantha.morton@bmc.org).

Very truly yours,

  
Samantha J. Morton, Esq.  
Deputy Director



## BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION A

The primary provider of free legal services to low income individuals  
and groups throughout North and East Brooklyn

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FAX-718-782-6780

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80 JAMAICA AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11207  
(718) 487-1300  
FAX-718-342-1780

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD  
REV. PETER A. MAHONEY

PROJECT DIRECTOR & CHIEF COUNSEL  
MARTIN S. NEEDELMAN, ESQ.

GENERAL COUNSEL  
PAUL J. ACINAPURA, ESQ.

August 17, 2006

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

Re: Dorian Berger

Dear Dan:

I had the extreme pleasure of supervising Dorian Berger this summer. His research was incredibly thorough and his writing skills were excellent, especially for a first year student. Dorian prepared a memo of law for an Order to Show Cause to vacate a stipulation of settlement a tenant entered into pro se. The motion itself was enough for opposing counsel to consent to our argument. Dorian was not put out by the reality that sometimes lawyers have to do work that is never seen or used in order for their client to obtain what they want.

Even as a first year student he exhibited excellent analytic abilities. Unfortunately for Dorian he was asked to work on an extremely difficult case regarding an adult sibling attempting to obtain Foster Care benefits and services for her sister after the death of their mother. The case required a tremendous amount of statutory and regulatory research. Synthesizing the cases and making arguments for our client required passion, perseverance, and tremendous research and analytical skills. Dorian possessed all of the above.

His work habits were exemplary. He worked diligently, had a wonderful sense of humor, and made the clients he worked with feel that they could trust and depend on him.

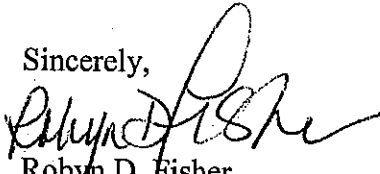


This was most important as the unit he worked with represents clients that are HIV infected or the caregivers of AIDS orphans. Many times the clients feel judged or degraded by the systems they come in contact with. Moreover, he went beyond what was expected of him. On his next to last day of work he went with clients to night court. I had given them a letter requesting an adjournment as night court is solely for pro se litigants and they had obtained counsel. Dorian was concerned that the landlord/petitioner would try and harass the clients. He felt that he needed to be there—if just for moral support.

Finally, Dorian designed a Power Point presentation for an AIDS organization on New York State HIV Confidentiality Laws. In working together on the presentation Dorian was able to finally teach me how to make a Power Point presentation. It has enabled me to enhance the community legal education work I do.

Again, it was a delight working with him. It is clear that both his skills and passion to fight injustice will only continue to grow.

Sincerely,



Robyn D. Fisher  
Senior Staff Attorney

NEW HAVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

426 STATE STREET  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510-2018  
TELEPHONE (203) 946-4811  
FAX (203) 498-9271  
Email: [pkaplan@nhlegal.org](mailto:pkaplan@nhlegal.org)

September 29, 2006

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

Dear Dan:

Thanks to Equal Justice America, we have four new student fellows who are this semester's student directors of the Yale Law School Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) project: Alexander Howe Berlin, Kristina Scurry, Hannah Jacobs and Erin Bradrick. I am attaching their resumes to this letter.

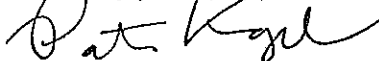
The TRO project is one of the most successful student projects to come out of the law school and is a demonstration project for law schools and legal services' programs throughout the country. It provides critical services to victims of domestic violence who come in to the courthouse and attempt to file for orders of protection on their own. The project is now considered to be a permanent part of the law school programming.

The project has been in existence for many years at the law school. It was started by Amy Eppler-Epstein, a Yale Law School student who was hired by us upon her graduation and is still with us as our most senior housing attorney. The funding from Equal Justice America that now pays the student directors has enabled it to become a much more established and professionally run project. The student directors are able to commit much more time to the actual supervision of the students; development of the manual and procedures; and management of the day to day details.

I would like to add again, even though I said it last year, how grateful we are to you for sponsoring the two-year post-graduate EJA fellowship for Yale alumna Sheila Hayre. Sheila combined her bilingual ability and interest in immigration law to provide training, outreach and representation to the Hispanic community. She developed an expertise in providing assistance to immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence, a population that was incredibly hard to reach prior to Sheila's work with us. She helps them with all aspects of their legal problems, from protection from the abuser to help with the legal papers necessary for immigration, called VAWA self-petitions. It has been a tremendous addition to our resources and for our clients. By the end of her first year with us as a staff attorney, she was able to quickly become, because of the prior two year fellowship, an incredibly strong, articulate and passionate champion for our clients.

Again, I cannot thank you and the Yale Law School alumni enough for supporting the work that we do at legal services and helping us to expand our limited resources in such a constructive and positive way. On behalf of the low-income community that we serve, we offer you our thanks.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia Kaplan  
Executive Director

# OKLAHOMA « INDIAN « LEGAL « SERVICES, INC.

C. STEVEN HAGER

DIRECTOR OF LITIGATION

August 28, 2006

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

IN RE: C. Eric Davis

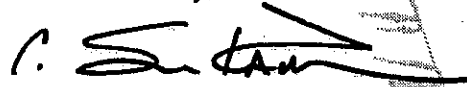
Dear Mr. Ruben:

Eric Davis has completed his internship with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services at this time. Eric was a fine intern with a great work ethic. I cannot thank you enough for your fellowship; Eric was a great addition to the staff at OILS and was one of the better law students we have had over the past five years.

I would like to personally thank your program for the fine work that it does. OILS has had several fellows from your program (and its predecessors); they have always been some of the better people we have had the fortune to work with. I think your fellowships enable a great many law students to learn that the law should be about helping people rather than just making money; this is a lesson that sometimes gets lost in the legal profession. Your fellowship helped OILS' clients through Eric's hard work and superior legal skills, and I believe helped Eric understand the true importance of the profession that he is entering.

We look forward to the future fellows that we may be lucky enough to have at our office. Please accept our thanks and gratitude for the hard work of Equal Justice America and its fellows.

Yours Truly,



C. Steven Hager

HAGER/QUANAH/OILS/INTERNS/CORRESPONDENCE/L RUBEN EJA 082806  
CC: ERIC DAVIS



4200 Perimeter Center Drive  
(405) 943-OILS (800) 658-1497

Suite 222 Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
Fax: (405) 917-7060 Email: oils@oilsonline.org





**Letters from Equal  
Justice America  
Fellowship Recipients**

Annual Report 2005-2006

*Section 3*

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

August 31, 2006

Dear Mr. Ruben,

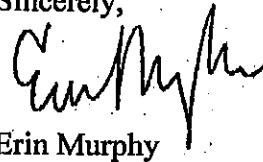
I am so grateful to you and Equal Justice America for enabling me to have the amazing experience that I had at WEAVE this summer. I enjoyed my time at WEAVE so much that I will continue to work there during the upcoming academic year.

My experience this summer helped me to develop a great deal of the professional skills I will need in the future. I assisted the attorneys with trial preparation in a variety of cases, including custody disputes, Civil Protection Order cases, and criminal contempt cases. I learned how to write opening statements, craft questions for direct and cross-examinations, interview witnesses, and properly draft a variety of motions. On my frequent trips to court, I observed the attorneys as they adapted to the varying styles of different clients, judges and opposing counsel. All of these experiences helped build my confidence in my skills as a future lawyer.

My most rewarding experiences were those I had working on cases involving WEAVE's teen clients, most of whom live in or near poverty and have young children of their own. It was heartening to see these women who, because of their young age and socioeconomic disadvantages are so vulnerable, become empowered with the help of WEAVE's attorneys to remove themselves and their children from violent situations.

Working at WEAVE this summer reinforced my ambitions to work in public interest law, specifically in the field of domestic violence. I met so many attorneys at WEAVE and affiliated organizations who are doing outstanding, meaningful work and happily living on modest incomes. They showed me that it is possible to do work that you care about for people who need it and still survive on a public interest salary. I can't thank Equal Justice America enough for helping me to have such a wonderful experience.

Sincerely,



Erin Murphy  
George Washington University



August 30, 2006

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Founder and Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II-Suite 204  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Re: Summer EJA Fellowship with Idaho Legal Aid Services

Dear Mr. Ruben:

First, let me thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the EJA Summer Fellowship Program. With the help of EJA, I was able to have a very successful and rewarding summer. I know from my own experience that the work EJA does, and the help that it offers students, impacts thousands of people's lives in a highly positive manner.

At the Idaho Legal Aid Services in Boise, Idaho, I worked for low-income victims of domestic violence and other family affairs. Additionally, I spent some time on helping elderly people resolve legal issues regarding Medicaid, Social Security, and like programs. From child custody cases, in which I helped ensure that the children of abusive relationships would have the best possible opportunities in their lives, to simple divorce cases, in which the principle goal was to help a victim relieve herself of a seriously dangerous situation, I felt like I was contributing to the most noble goals that the legal profession holds.

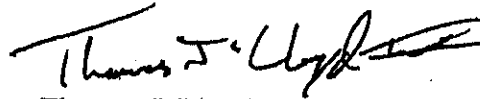
Working in Idaho offered me the unique experience of actually practicing law as a law student. Idaho Bar Rule #221 enables law students who have completed two-thirds of their legal education to obtain a limited license to practice law. With this license, I was able to freely give legal advice, negotiate settlements, and even present cases in court. The experience that I received was invaluable and, I feel, has set me on a path towards success in my career.

As a Licensed Legal Intern, Idaho Legal Aid essentially treated me like a full-time attorney. I had my own caseload with my own clients and was able to work with opposing parties and attorneys to reach outcomes most beneficial to my clients and, often, their children. I presented several cases in court and had a 100% success rate in the courtroom. Additionally, I had the great opportunity of one particularly down-to-the-wire, last minute negotiation that turned out favorably for my client literally in the minutes before trial. These are skills that cannot be learned in any other way but hands-on, and I am thankful to Idaho Legal Aid and Equal Justice America for making it possible for me to do so.

Through the EJA Fellowship, I was able to give back to the community in which I was raised. As I attend a very expensive law school, it is important to me to get in as much public service as possible before I have to start paying back my loans. Without the EJA Fellowship, I

would not have been able to dedicate as much time to accomplishing that goal. Thank you very much for the opportunities that you have given to my fellow law students and me. Most importantly, though, thank you for the opportunities that you have given to the people that we are able to serve.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Lloyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas J. Lloyd

J.D. Candidate 2007

The George Washington University Law School

August 11, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

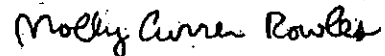
I'm just finishing up my internship with Tompkins/Tioga Neighborhood Legal Services (TTNLS) in Ithaca, N.Y. and it has been a wonderful summer. My experience has reconfirmed and rejuvenated my commitment to public interest law, and I am so grateful to Equal Justice America for making it financially possible. Having graduated from college in 2001, I was a slightly older first-year law student with four years of full-time human rights and direct-service work under my belt. Prior to law school, I spent a lot of time researching and discussing career options before finally making the leap, and I expected that as a public-interest student, first year might be particularly challenging. But despite my preparation, by the end of March my resolve was flagging. The academic questions posed in my classes remained intellectually stimulating, but so much of the culture of law school seemed antithetical to my values and goals, and I was concerned that I had made a mistake in choosing this path. My summer with TTNLS has reminded me why I wanted to be a lawyer in the first place, and the collective expertise and dedication of the attorneys in this office has been an incredible inspiration.

This summer I worked directly with clients on issues ranging from SSI appeals and public assistance claims to eviction proceedings and consumer debt problems. I gained skills in client services, negotiation, legal research and writing, and learned a massive amount of law. This experience provided the perfect counterpoint to my first-year, as so much of what I had learned in the classroom was clarified and refined through

working with actual legal questions. I participated in preparing for several administrative hearings, helped a client recoup SSI funds that had been seized by her bank, helped a number of clients avoid eviction, enabled a client to get back benefits, and worked closely with several elderly clients struggling with consumer debt.

This summer felt as though it flew by, and it was sometimes frustrating to recognize that just as I became knowledgeable and comfortable with my work, I'd have to leave. I am heartened to know that his coming year I'll bring my newfound appreciation of the potential power of the law to bear in my courses and journal work, and I'm also taking a clinic this fall, which I hope will allow me to continue working on the kinds of cases that excited me this summer. This has been an invaluable part of my law school experience, and I cannot thank Equal Justice America enough.

Sincerely,



Molly Curren Rowles  
Cornell Law School, 2008

Mayra Navarro  
13381 Oscar St.  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
(818) 515-1281

August 21, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Because of the efforts of Equal Justice America I was able to do the kind of work I was born to do without having to worry about basic things like whether I would have a roof over my head or food on the table. Were it not for your generous funding, I could not have worked with Public Counsel Legal Services and Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) for fifteen weeks this past summer.

While working at Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project, I helped victims of domestic violence, victims of political persecution, and abused or neglected children gain legal status in this country. Words cannot describe just how rewarding it was to see the transformation my clients underwent: from a state of utter fear and desperation to one of great optimism. As a former undocumented immigrant, I understand the trials and tribulations my clients experienced and I thank you for granting me the opportunity to work with them.

Working at Neighborhood Legal Services in Pacoima was particularly rewarding because it afforded me the opportunity to work in *my* community. I was raised in the North East San Fernando Valley and I decided to pursue a law degree so as to serve that very community. I worked in the family law division of NLS and spent most of my time at the San Fernando Courthouse helping victims of violence obtain restraining orders. I took my work there very seriously because, after having worked with victims of domestic violence within the VAWA and U-Visa context, I understood the value of obtaining a restraining order. Seeking a restraining order is often the first step a victim of violence takes in leaving an abusive relationship.

My desire to work with low-income communities has never been greater after having spent my summer at Public Counsel and Neighborhood Legal Services. Again, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Mayra Navarro  
JD Candidate | Class of 2007  
UCLA School of Law  
Program in Public Interest Law and Policy

October 30, 2006

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II, Suite 2004  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan,

I am writing to thank you for making possible my incredible summer experience. I spent this past summer working at Brooklyn Legal Services assisting people who are HIV+ with their legal problems. Many of our clients, because of their failing health, face not only the problems typically associated with poverty but also the added burden of discrimination because of their illness and the emotional weight of end of life planning.

A number of the clients I worked with this summer made an indelible impression on me. One of my clients was an elderly man facing eviction. The manager of his building had taken a dislike to him because he was HIV+ and was disabled. The client came to Brooklyn Legal Services as a last resort. There was nobody else who could help him. He had written letters and lodged complaints but without an advocate on his side he didn't know what else he could do. It turned out our client was protected by the rent regulations and the building manager's plan for eviction was against the law. Within a week we were able to reach a settlement with our client that ensured he could remain in his apartment. Our client was so grateful to finally have an advocate on his side.

Another client came to Brooklyn Legal Services because her landlord was refusing to take care of the building she lived in. Going to Columbia Law School and living in university provided housing I had never before known what it was like to live in a building owned by a slumlord. When I went to our client's apartment there were insect infestations, vermin, and no hot water. Because our client was HIV+ the disrepair of the building produced unique problems for her and was making her sicker. She had been hospitalized twice in the past month. Our office was able to get a settlement from her landlord that enabled her to move into an apartment that would help her stay healthy.

My Equal Justice America Fellowship allowed me to use my summer to make a real impact helping people who have no other avenues for redress. I would not have been able to take this job without the funding provided by Equal Justice America.

Sincerely,



Dorian Berger  
Columbia University Law School – Class of 2008

August 8, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I want to thank you and others at Equal Justice America for making my wonderful summer possible. I have been working at Life Span in Chicago since the end of May, and I am so sad that my time here will come to an end in just a few days. Life Span is an organization dedicated to helping survivors of domestic violence with all their legal needs: from orders of protection and divorce to child support issues and immigration. I came to Life Span with some knowledge of domestic relations law (from a college internship many years ago at a similar organization in D.C.) and with some immigration knowledge from a law school course. Being able to put my limited, academics-based understanding into practice with living, breathing clients was the great benefit of this experience! I learned that it's one thing to learn the steps of immigration procedure in a classroom, and quite another to work closely with a client in drafting an affidavit for a VAWA petition, or to attend an immigration interview with a client that is successfully granted residency in the U.S.

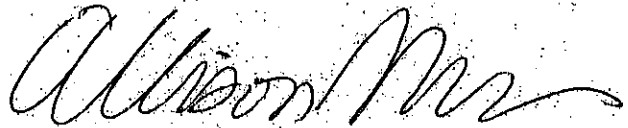
From the beginning, everyone at Life Span was incredibly supportive. All of the attorneys that I worked with have always dropped everything to explain something technical to me, listen to my concerns about a client or provide advice. Even if the "assigning attorney" was not available, any other person in the office would readily help me as I struggled to draft a new kind of legal document or communicate with a client. Since I speak Spanish, I was able to get involved in many different types of legal issues this summer as an interpreter, in addition to the other work that I was assigned as an intern. I've interpreted in divorce prove-ups, immigration interviews, in-person meetings with the attorneys and many telephone conversations with attorneys. Some of the legal issues surrounding divorce have stretched my Spanish vocabulary, especially property-division and bankruptcy problems.

In addition to observing-interpreting, I also got a chance to do phone intakes to screen potential new clients, present those potential clients to the attorneys and staff at Life Span's weekly meetings, and work on a variety of legal documents. After I drafted documents, such as divorce petitions, marital settlement agreements and orders of protection, I always got feedback from the attorneys about what needed to be changed, or what gaps in information had to be filled in by the client. Finally, I got to learn the ins and outs of the Daley center and other government buildings, as I went to file documents.

The best part of the summer was simply being around such passionate and dedicated women (although Life Span has employed men in the past, the staff and attorneys are currently all female). Away from the competitive, often cold environment of law school I found warmth and teamwork here. The attorneys and other staff use each other as a support network as they deal with difficult and often very sad issues. I've said that all the staff would stop whatever they were doing to enthusiastically answer any questions that I or the other interns had over the summer, and they do the same for each other, too. Rather than closing themselves away in their offices to battle through their assignments alone, the attorneys share issues of their clients with one another, and help each other come up with legal strategies or just personal solutions to help their clients. And while some clients were difficult, or presented hard-to-remedy problems, the majority of the clients that I worked with were proactive, grateful, and happy to be moving away from an abuser and on with their lives.

I am now more enthusiastic than ever about public interest legal work, and can't wait to graduate from law school so I can throw myself into it full time! I thank you again for the opportunity to take part in this summer experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Miles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Allison Miles  
Northwestern University School of Law  
Class of 2008



August 18, 2006

Mr. Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II-Suite 204  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I was a Summer Fellowship holder in the Equal Justice America program for ten weeks during this past summer. I worked as a legal intern for New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation (NOLAC), a non-profit organization that provides civil legal assistance to low income residents of the greater New Orleans metropolitan area. I was assigned for the summer to the Housing unit of NOLAC.

The Housing unit was an exciting and extremely active unit this summer. The effects of Hurricane Katrina, nearly a year after the storm, persist in profoundly disrupting the lives of New Orleanians. Perhaps nowhere have these effects been more pronounced than in the day-to-day decisions residents must make about how and where they live. For the lowest income residents, these decisions are invariably the most difficult. Low income residents who before the storm already faced a constrained set of housing choices are today further restricted by the decimated housing stock (flooding following the storm hit some of the poorest areas of New Orleans the hardest) and the subsequent, enormous increases in the area's market rents.

The Housing unit's work since the storm has been centered largely at the intersection of housing and disaster law. As a result, my work this summer has focused on helping low income residents resolve their legal issues while they simultaneously navigate various bureaucratic hurdles imposed by local, state and federal agencies in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. To perform this work, I have conducted client intake interviews and conducted related legal research, drafted legal documents and actively advocated for my clients as they dealt with FEMA and HUD.

In one example of my work this summer, I successfully appealed HUD's decision to revoke our client's Section 8 Voucher for failing to notify the local housing authority prior to her relocation back to New Orleans, a minor violation of the regulations. Our client, a mentally disabled resident of New Orleans, had temporarily evacuated the city following Hurricane Katrina. In the appeal, I successfully argued that due to our client's disability she did not understand the technical nature of HUD's notice requirement and that the local Housing Authority should have made a reasonable accommodation of her disability, in this case, reinstatement of her Section 8 Voucher after her return to New Orleans.

Throughout the summer I have been inspired by the courage of our clients' as they struggle to overcome the hardships brought about by such a large-scale disaster. I have also gained a new appreciation for the tenacity required of those who live at society's margins. Of all my experiences this summer, it is the overwhelmingly powerful, positive feeling of being able to help those who can least help themselves that will remain with me the longest. As I continue my legal education and move into legal practice, it is that ability and desire to help others that will be the legacy of my summer in New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Carl Duffield  
New York University School of Law, 2008

August 25, 2006

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

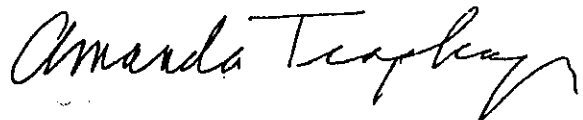
Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to tell you about my wonderful summer fellowship experience with Equal Justice America. I was employed as a law clerk with the Central Texas office of Advocacy, Inc., an organization that provides legal services to those with disabilities. During this time, I was privileged to work under Lucy Wood, the Regional Managing Attorney for the office. Ms. Wood proved to be an excellent mentor and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn so much from her. The other people with whom I worked were also wonderful. It was refreshing to work in a place where everyone seemed committed and happy to be doing what they were doing. That sort of positivity is one of the things that has drawn me to public interest work.

The little victories I had during the summer helped cement my desire to pursue public interest work. In one of the first cases I worked on during my fellowship, we helped a girl with Asperger's Syndrome who had been excluded from attending a summer camp for children with disabilities. We succeeded in getting her admitted to the camp, and afterwards received a heartfelt thank you note from her mother. In this and other cases, I appreciated working on a human level on real issues that make a difference in the lives of everyday people.

This summer, I also saw how disability law touches on so many different areas of the law. I learned a great deal and through the research I did and the hands-on experience I had, I have become far more capable. I feel like this internship taught me so much more than my first year of law school did, and I am so grateful to Equal Justice America that I had this opportunity.

Sincerely yours,



Amanda Traphagan  
The University of Texas School of Law  
Class of 2008

Samuel Wiseman  
297 George St., Apt. 4C  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 623-8934  
[samuel.wiseman@yale.edu](mailto:samuel.wiseman@yale.edu)

January 24, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I very much appreciate the generous support I received from Equal Justice America through the Fall Fellowship. Along with my fellow directors Erin Bradrick, Robin Preussel, and Raquiba Hug, I help run the Temporary Restraining Order Project at Yale here in New Haven, with help, support, guidance, and supervision from the New Haven Legal Assistance Association. We train law student volunteers to staff an office at the local courthouse in which we assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining TROs. I am pleased to report that this has so far been one of the most successful years in the history of the Project, with approximately 80 new volunteers, including roughly one-third of the first year class.

As we head into the spring, I am confident that our well-trained and experienced group of volunteers will continue to assist victims of domestic violence in the New Haven area five days a week, seven hours a day. Looking further ahead, the other directors and I will select the TRO student leaders for next year and work with them and NHLAA to ensure a smooth transition. Being able to help the community (in some small way) as a TRO director has been one of the highlights of my law school career, and I'd like to thank you for helping make it possible.

Very best wishes,

Sam Wiseman  
Yale Law School, Class of 2007

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

May 21, 2006

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I have had a truly rewarding experience this past year working with the Temporary Restraining Order Project at Yale. The Project runs an office at the local courthouse where student volunteers assist domestic violence victims in obtaining TROs. Under the guidance of the New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA), the three other student directors and I managed the various aspects of the Project, which included: training and supervising new volunteers; ensuring that the office was staffed during the court's operating hours every day of the week; and working several shifts ourselves.

Over the course of the year, we were lucky to have almost half the 1L class join our organization as volunteers. I have heard from many of our volunteers that being involved in the TRO Project was one of their most cherished and memorable law school experiences thus far. Several volunteers have expressed appreciation for the chance to help people and act like a lawyer in their very first semester of law school.

Personally, my involvement in the TRO Project has served as an important reminder for me: that *this* is why I chose to go to law school – to learn the law, however small a part (even if it is just knowing which forms to fill out!) in order to help others. Working face-to-face with an applicant is certainly challenging, intense, and emotional. However, giving someone an opportunity to just tell their story in a safe environment and to have someone listen and say, “Yes, what was done to you was wrong and you can get help,” is such an important, yet often underemphasized, facet of our legal system of justice.

I am so glad that I have had the opportunity to work with an organization that allows us volunteers to provide assistance for people not only from a legal perspective, but also from a broader human perspective. I am very grateful to you and Equal Justice America for your generous support and for making our work with the TRO Project possible.

All the best,

Raquiba Huq  
Yale Law School, Class of 2007



# **Report of Independent Auditors**

Annual Report 2005-2006

*Section 4*

**EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**JUNE 30, 2006**

**EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.**

**INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**JUNE 30, 2006**

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Statement of activities	3
Statement of cash flows	4
Notes to financial statements	5
Accountants' report on supplementary information:	
Schedule of expenses	6 - 7



**MICHAEL W. HULTZAPPLE, CPA**

1913 Stuart Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Telephone (804) 677-4343

Board of Directors  
Equal Justice America, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Equal Justice America, Inc. as of June 30, 2006, and the related statement of activities and statement of cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements. 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, 2006, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of American.



Michael W. Hultzapple, CPA  
October 27, 2006

**EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**June 30, 2006**

**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash	\$ 51,988
Contributions receivable	<u>153,363</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>205,351</u>
Property and equipment - at cost (notes 1 and 3)	29,801
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(22,824)</u>
Net property and equipment	6,977
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 212,328</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Grants payable	<u>\$ 211,194</u>
Total Liabilities	211,194
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	1,134
Total Liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$ 212,328</u></u>

*The accompanying notes are in integral part of these financial statements.*

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.  
Statement of Activities  
Year Ended June 30, 2006

Public Support and Revenue		
Public support:		
Contributions	\$ 1,176,898	
Revenue:		
Interest Income	13,231	
Total Public Support and Revenue		\$ 1,190,129
Expenses		
Program services	800,257	
Management and general expenses	196,867	
Fund raising expenses	192,919	
Total Expenses		<u>1,190,043</u>
Expenses in excess of public support and revenue		\$ 86
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		<u>1,048</u>
Net Assets at End of Year		<u>\$ 1,134</u>

*The accompanying notes are in integral part of these financial statements.*

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.  
Statement of Cash Flows  
Year Ended June 30, 2006

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Public support and revenue under expenses	\$	86
Adjustment To Reconcile to Excess Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses		
To net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	\$	3,616
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of Equipment	\$	
Changes In Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
Increase in contributions receivable		(15,258)
Increase in grants payable		26,648
		<u>15,006</u>
Total adjustments		<u>15,006</u>
Net cash used by operating activities		<u>15,092</u>
Net decrease in cash during the year		15,092
Cash at July 1, 2005		<u>36,896</u>
Cash at June 30, 2006	\$	<u><u>51,988</u></u>

*The accompanying notes are in integral part of these financial statements.*

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JUNE 30, 2006

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 510(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	28,616
	<u>29,801</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(22,328)
	<u>\$ 6,977</u>

**MICHAEL W. HULTZAPPLE, CPA**

1913 Stuart Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Telephone (804) 677-4343

**ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Board of Directors  
Equal Justice America, Inc.

The audited financial statements of Equal Justice American, Inc. and our report thereon are presented in the preceding section of this report. The following financial information is presented for purposed 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.



Michael W. Hultzapple, CPA  
October 27, 2006

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.  
Statement of Expenses  
Year Ended June 30, 2006

## Program Expenses:

Grants	\$ 730,979
Program Administration:	
Accounting	2,233
Computer Expense	465
Employee Benefits	1,791
Executive Director's Salary	26,500
Health Insur.	3,519
Legal Fees	3,833
Office Expense	786
Payroll	18,352
Payroll Taxes	3,660
Postage	512
Registration Fees	2,070
Rent	3,061
Supplies & Equipment	906
Taxes	1,038
Telephone	551
Total	<u>\$ 800,257</u>

## Management and General Expenses:

Accounting	2,233
Advertisements	668
Bank Fees	682
Computer Expense	3,723
Depreciation	3,619
Employee Benefits	678
Executive Directors Salary	26,500
Health Insur.	8,212
Office Expense	976
Payroll	120,771
Payroll Service	2,062
Payroll Taxes	14,700
Postage	2,560
Rent	3,061
Supplies & Equipment	2,899
Taxes	2,421
Telephone	1,103
Total	<u>\$ 196,867</u>

*See Accountants' Report on Supplementary Information*

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.  
Statement of Expenses  
Year Ended June 30, 2006

## Fund Raising Expenses:

Advertisements	954
Computer Expense	465
Credit Card Fees	18,507
Employee Benefits	968
Executive Directors Salary	26,500
Health Insur.	11,731
Mailing List	9,981
Office Expense	1,540
Payroll	78,409
Payroll Taxes	8,018
Postage	7,167
Printing	3,563
Rent	6,123
Supplies & Equipment	6,159
Taxes	3,462
Telephone	9,372
	<u>\$ 192,919</u>

*See Accountants' Report On Supplementary Information*