



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2006-2007



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

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EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

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Building II - Suite 204 • 13540 East Boundary Road • Midlothian, Virginia 23112
(804) 744 4200 • Fax (804) 744 6789 • www.equaljusticeamerica.org



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.

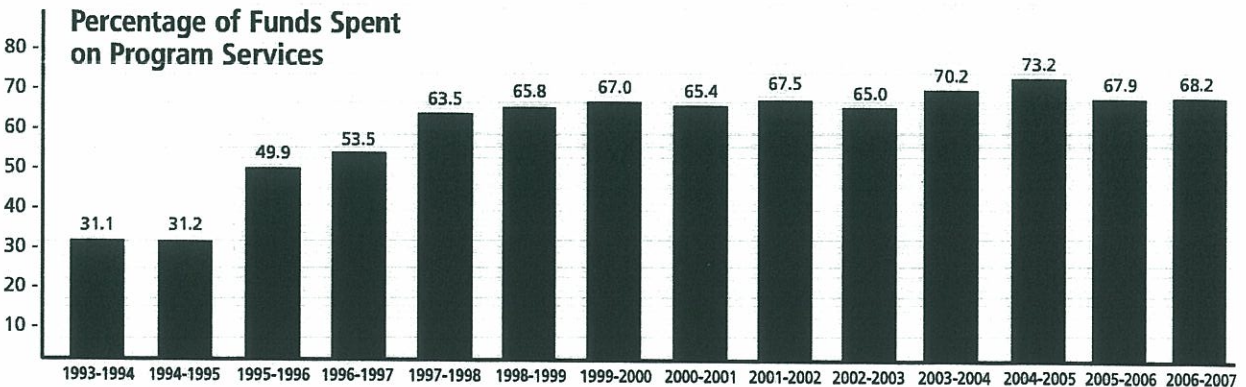
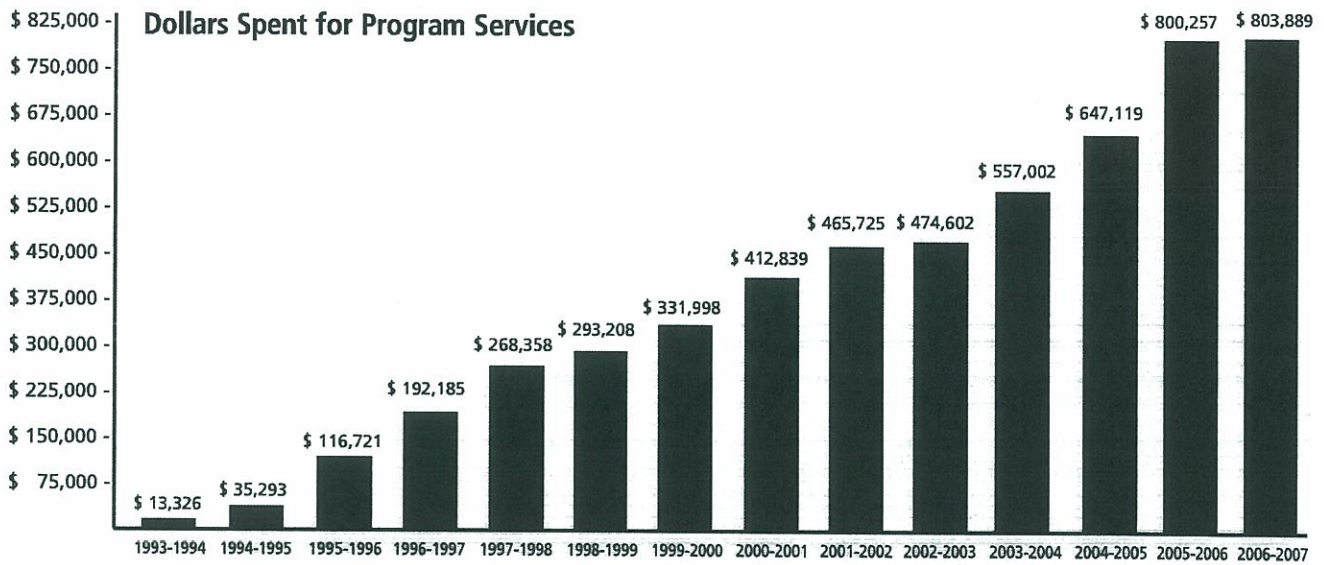
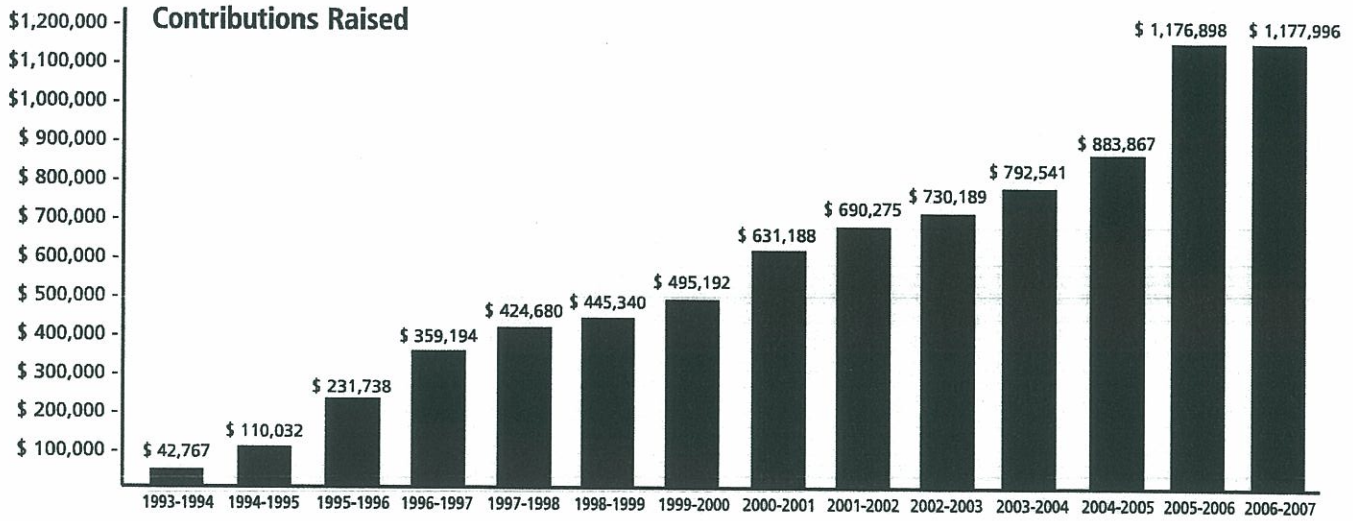
Who We Are

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 more than 60 law schools now have the opportunity to take part in the Equal Justice America Fellowship Program.

What We’ve Done

- **Equal Justice America has sponsored fellowships for more than 1,800 law students to work with more than 250 legal services organizations** across the country. Interning under the supervision of experienced attorneys, our fellowship recipients have provided crucial assistance to low-income clients struggling through the complexities of our civil justice system.
- **EJA has paid out nearly \$5.5 million in grants and has provided approximately 550,000 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 \$800,000 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 nearly \$300,000 to the EJA Clinic, which has become an integral part of the Law School's highly regarded clinical program.

Fourteen Years of Growth



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

"There is always a need for Virginia law students who can help reduce the legal services gap for the poor and disadvantaged. By supporting Equal Justice America, Virginians provide opportunities for future lawyers to be exposed to public interest law and become more aware of their obligation to assist those in need. I congratulate Equal Justice America on their past achievements and offer best wishes for the new initiative to address legal needs in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

– *Tim Kaine*
Governor of Virginia

"EJA supports legal services for those in need by raising funds for fellowships that expose law students to the challenges and rewards of legal services work. Through EJA fellowships, law students learn by example, gaining real world experience by helping actual clients and learning basic public interest lawyering skills. Even small donations can inspire budding lawyers to devote years—and in some cases, careers—to serving the needy and the public interest."

– *Harold Hongju Koh*
Dean
Yale Law School

"I would like to offer Howard Law School's enthusiastic support to Equal Justice America and to its Washington, D.C. for Equal Justice Campaign. The goals of Equal Justice America's programs are consistent with the mission of our law school. With the launching of the Washington, D.C. for Equal Justice Campaign, we look forward to a long successful partnership with Equal Justice America to advance the cause of equal justice and to meet the legal needs of the poor in our city."

– *Kurt L. Schmoke*
Dean
Howard University School of Law

"How about all lawyers, particularly if you aren't doing your share of pro bono work, send a check to...[Equal Justice America.]"

– *Nancy Q. Keefe*
Gannett Newspapers

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. So it is on their behalf, as well as on the 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.”

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

“Equal Justice America provides important financial support to law students who are committed to social justice and serving the civil legal needs of low-income persons and families in the District of Columbia. With more than 110,000—nearly one in five—District residents living below the federal poverty line, it is essential that we expand opportunities to attract students to careers in public interest law.”

– **Jonathan Smith**
Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of D.C.

“Lawyers must assist this program by donating funds so that it can continue and grow. One of the highest goals of our justice system is to insure proper representation of all persons who appear before the courts. Equal Justice America is fighting to achieve this worthy objective. It needs and deserves your support.”

– **Peter H. Meyers**
Professor of Clinical Law
The George Washington School of Law

“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 assistance to the most vulnerable members of the Boston community.”

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

Many Equal Justice America Fellowship recipients have graduated from law school to serve their communities with legal aid careers. These EJA alumni work to protect the rights of domestic violence victims, the elderly, indigent families and children and those with disabilities.

Freelance writer Melissa Sinclair profiles three of our former EJA Fellowship recipients, Melanie Orhant, Naomi Stern and Brooke Heymach, who are all working on the front lines to help those most in need.



Melanie Orhant
Staff attorney, Ayuda, Inc

**EJA Fellowship recipient, Fall 2001
and Summer 2002**

Her experiences as an EJA fellowship recipient continue to help Orhant in her work with trafficked people at Ayuda, Inc.

This very day, across the United States, thousands of foreign workers endure an existence akin to slavery. How can it be that they're kept prisoner in American sweatshops, homes, fields and brothels? Easily, says Melanie Orhant. She's seen it all.

Traffickers bring foreign workers here, usually after lying to them to about the nature of the work they'll be doing. Their passports are taken away and, Orhant says, in the case of people kept in domestic servitude "they're told not to leave the house because—you can fill in the blank." Americans hate Muslims and they'll attack you, the trafficked persons are told. Or, we'll have your daughter killed. Or, you'll be arrested.

"Some don't even know what state they're in. They are told to sleep in unheated, unfurnished basements, and were even, in one case she knows of, fed rice teeming with maggots."

Bewildered and terrified, those kept in domestic servitude are forced to labor 14- to 20-hour days, denied wages, food, house keys and the use of the telephone. "Some don't even know what state they're in," Orhant says. They are told to sleep in unheated, unfurnished basements, and were even, in one case she knows of, fed rice teeming with maggots.

Thus they live until one day they can no longer tolerate it. "Something snaps," she says. A worker may fall ill and go seek medical care, or get a chance to escape, or be freed when authorities find out what's going on.

That's when they come to Orhant. "I help as best I can," she says.

Orhant, the recipient of two Equal Justice America fellowships, works at the Washington, D.C. nonprofit Ayuda, Inc., an agency that provides legal services and human rights advocacy for immigrants. She assists trafficked people, mostly domestic workers. When traffickers are prosecuted, it's a federal crime. "I escort my clients through the criminal process," Orhant says, by explaining what's going on, helping them with paperwork and advising them on their legal options.

Orhant never intended to become a lawyer, she said. For 10 years she worked in national advocacy for victims of human trafficking, and was "one of the little cogs" in creating the recent federal legislation that brought the problem of trafficking into the spotlight.

But after a while, Orhant says, she realized she would need to go to law school to further her career. "I looked at everyone who had cool jobs that I wanted, and they all had law degrees."

She enrolled in the Washington College of Law at American University, and there decided she wanted to shift her focus from large-scale policy to working directly with indigent people in need. For

that, she needed to become familiar with labor, immigration and criminal law—and EJA provided two opportunities for Orhant to do just that.

Her first EJA fellowship, at the D.C. Employment Justice Center in the fall of 2001, assigned her to a weekly employment clinic. As many as 50 people per week would show up who had been fired wrongfully or denied workers' compensation or unemployment benefits. Orhant obtained legal advice for them from staff attorneys and sometimes wrote letters on their behalf to help them get the pay or benefits they'd lost.

In the spring of 2002, EJA sponsored Orhant for a second fellowship at the Capitol Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition, where she worked with immigrants who had been detained by the federal agency that was then called Immigration and Naturalization Services. She worked with individuals who were being held in INS detention facilities. These detainees may have been seeking asylum in the U.S., or have been caught without papers and picked up at worksites, and were waiting to be deported. She would visit them in jail, sometimes traveling as far as five hours from Washington, D.C.

"They work with a group of people who are really forgotten," Orhant says of the CAIR Coalition. Detainees can live imprisoned in legal limbo for years. Orhant investigated detainees' options for repatriation, asylum or legal hearings and kept a database so none would be forgotten.

Her experiences as an EJA fellowship recipient continue to help Orhant in her work with trafficked people at Ayuda, Inc. "Because I did such a good job with my fellowships in law school," she says, people at CAIR and the D.C. Employment Justice Center remember her name and continue to refer clients to her.

Orhant's happy with her work, but admits it can be tough for a recent law school graduate to pay the bills while working in legal aid.

"I just think more people should donate money to EJA," she says, so the organization can provide more fellowships to encourage young attorneys to go into public service. "A call to arms. A call to

checkbooks," she says with a laugh. "So more of us can go into public interest and stay in public interest for a longer time."



Naomi Stern
Domestic Violence Program Director,
National Law Center on
Homelessness And
Poverty, Washington, D.C.

**EJA Fellowship Recipient Summer
2000**

“For an individual who is in a violent relationship and already living in poverty, this harsh reality often means that she must choose between life with her abuser or life on the streets.”

Naomi Stern never wavered from the path she set for herself. Ever since she was a teenager, Stern says, she knew she wanted to work for social justice. “I studied social science in college,” she says, “volunteered a ridiculous number of hours on various causes—often leading the charge—and worked on social policy issues after graduating.”

A law degree seemed the next logical step, so Stern attended Georgetown University Law Center. She wasn't sure, however, what exactly she wanted to do – until the summer of 2000, when Equal Justice America granted her a summer fellowship at the Washington, D.C. organization Ayuda, Inc. Ayuda provides bilingual legal services to the local immigrant community in the areas of immigration law and domestic violence and family law.

“It was amazing to work directly with women who were so brave in coming forward to seek legal help, against tremendous cultural, linguistic, and economic barriers—not to mention the life-threatening dynamics of abuse that trap so many women in these relationships in the first place.”

“I had worked or volunteered previously in the areas of family law, child abuse and neglect, education, social policy, and economic justice,” Stern says. But never before had she worked so specifically on the issue of violence against women. The EJA-funded experience changed her life.

Stern, herself from a family of immigrants and refugees, had recently learned to speak Spanish. That summer, she worked full-time in Ayuda's bilingual domestic violence legal clinic, assisting clients with petitions for civil protection orders and related family law matters.

“It was amazing to work directly with women who were so brave in coming forward to seek legal help, against tremendous cultural, linguistic, and economic barriers—not to mention the life-threatening dynamics of abuse that trap so many women in these relationships in the first place,” Stern says.

Now, she manages the Domestic Violence Program at the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty in Washington, D.C. “As a staff attorney there,” Stern says, “I work at the national level to improve access to housing for domestic violence survivors and their families.”

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness nationally, she points out. Between 22 percent and 57 percent of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness. Often, domestic violence survivors become homeless after being evicted as a result of the violence against them.

To make matters worse, Stern says, there's a severe shortage of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in the U.S. Federal housing assistance programs, including public housing,

subsidy programs and emergency shelters, are all underfunded, under increasing political attack, and insufficient to meet the rapidly growing need. “For an individual who is in a violent relationship and already living in poverty,” Stern says, “this harsh reality often means that she must choose between life with her abuser or life on the streets.”

Despite the lack of funding and support from the federal government for her work, Stern says, she’s glad to have the chance to fight domestic violence. “I love that I am able to work on the cross-cutting issues of women’s rights and economic justice,” she says.



Brooke Heymach
Staff attorney, Legal Aid Society of
San Mateo County

EJA Fellowship recipient, Summer 2002

*“EJA gave me the opportunity to
launch my public interest career.”*

Raising a young child with disabilities is no easy task, especially for parents with limited incomes. Connecting a child with the services he needs is never as simple, or as quick, as it should be. Fortunately for families in San Mateo County, California, Brooke Heymach is there to guide them.

Take one little boy named Jose. Jose was born prematurely and soon began showing signs of developmental delays. His pediatrician referred him to Early Intervention Services. Often called "Early Start," these federally required services are supposed to start within 45 days of a referral. But Jose's mandatory eligibility assessment was delayed 6 critical months.

Because of her work at Legal Aid as an EJA Fellow, Heymach developed the idea for the Children's H.E.R.O. Project, which helps children get access to health care and health services.

At two-and-a-half years old, Jose's mother took him for a check-up and the clinic diagnosed Jose with autism. The clinic recommended that Early Start provide autism-related services. But the county's Early Start provider failed to assess, diagnose or provide services to Jose.

That's when Heymach got involved. Desperate for some kind of help, Jose's mother came to her at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County when she heard about Heymach in a parent group. "As any mother would be in her situation, she was completely overwhelmed," the 2002 EJA fellowship recipient says. "Her little boy, who was almost three, was non-verbal and barely made eye contact with her."

Heymach immediately contacted the county's Early Start provider, advocated and negotiated for Jose and prepared for the possibility of an administrative hearing. In the end, Jose obtained all the recommended services and his mother became a strong advocate for Jose and for herself. "Jose has done so well since then," Heymach says. "Recently, for the first time ever, Jose was able to tell his mother that his favorite snack was a graham cracker."

A delay of four or five months seems like nothing to a large bureaucracy, Heymach points out, but felt like ages to Jose and his family. Each month is developmentally significant for these little ones, she says, and the whole purpose of early intervention is to get an infant or toddler service as soon as possible. Through her work at Legal Aid, Heymach is able to enforce this right.

Heymach didn't originally intend to become an attorney. After receiving her master's degree in social work, she worked for a nonprofit that dealt with health care policy in Missouri. There, Heymach says, she realized how families could be devastated by

illness, and the resulting stress, worry and debilitating debt, when they lacked access to health care.

She then resolved to become a legal aid attorney to fight for health care rights, and entered the University of California – Hastings College of the Law. “I was fortunate enough my second year to apply for the Equal Justice America fellowship and get it,” she says, “and start working in this field at Legal Aid. EJA gave me the opportunity to launch my public interest career.”

Because of her work at Legal Aid as an EJA Fellow, Heymach developed the idea for the Children's H.E.R.O. Project (Health, Education, Representation and Outreach), which helps children get access to health care and health services. The program places special emphasis on assisting infants and children under three who show signs of developmental delays.

Heymach believes firmly that access to health care “is not a privilege, it's a right.” And in San Mateo County, the word has spread that she can help families claim that right. “People in the community talk, and they know what I do now,” Heymach says. “Whenever there's a problem, they call me immediately.”

Heymach, now in the second year of her post-graduate fellowship, hopes to continue her work as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society. She credits Equal Justice America with enabling her to do so much for families and for children like Jose. “Honestly,” she says, “without the fellowship I wouldn't be where I am now.”



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Equal Justice America launched Virginians for Equal Justice this year, a campaign to put more Virginia law students to work across the state on behalf of the poor.



EJA established relationships with all of Virginia's law schools (the University of Virginia, the University of Richmond, Washington & Lee School of Law, William & Mary School of Law George Mason University, Liberty University and Regent University).

The campaign is designed to greatly increase legal services to the poor by creating new summer, school year and post-graduate fellowships for Virginia law students to work in Virginia's civil legal aid offices.

The program was a great success in its first year, funding Summer 2007 Fellowships for 16 law students. EJA Fellowship recipients worked at Northern Virginia Legal Services, Blue Ridge Legal Services in Harrisonburg, Rappahannock Legal Services in Tappahannock and Fredericksburg, the Virginia Legal Aid Society in Lynchburg, the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville, Richmond and Petersburg, the Tahirih Justice Center in Falls Church and the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society in Charlottesville.

The Virginians for Equal Justice campaign also received major support from the Cameron

Foundation, which awarded EJA a \$36,000 grant. The Cameron Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation established to promote and assist programs and activities that benefit the residents of Petersburg, VA and the surrounding area.

A major component of the grant will make it possible for Equal Justice America to fund a full-time post-graduate fellowship for a young attorney to work at the Legal Aid Justice Center in Petersburg. This fellowship will begin in September 2008.

We look forward to continued success for our Virginians for Equal Justice campaign. Equal Justice America has plans to launch a similar effort in Washington, DC in 2007-2008.

"By supporting Equal Justice America, Virginians provide opportunities for future lawyers to be exposed to public interest law and become more aware of their obligation to assist those in need..."

– Tim Kaine
Governor of Virginia



**Equal Justice America
Law Student
Fellowships
2006-2007**

List of Fellowships Sponsored by Equal Justice America During Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Law Student Fellowships

Fall 2006/Spring 2007

- Andrew Allison, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA, Spring
- Nicole Apel, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY Fall/Spring
- Courtney Apgar, Boston College, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Fall
- Alexander Berlin, Yale Law School, Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring
- Jaclyn Bernstein, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Spring
- Rachel Bloomekatz, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA, Fall
- Erin Bradick, Yale Law School, TRO Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring
- Michaela Bradley, Brooklyn Law School, National Center for Law and Economic Justice, New York, NY, Spring
- Jenny Braun-Friedman, Brooklyn Law School, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Spring
- Larisa Bowman, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Maura Caroselli, Seton Hall, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Newark, NJ, Spring
- Giulia Chiti, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY Fall/Spring
- Sophy Cogill, George Washington University, Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE), Washington, DC, Spring
- Hannah Dean, Boston University, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Fall
- Adriana Dominguez, Brooklyn Law School, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Spring
- Maggie Dunsmuir, Brooklyn Law School, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Spring
- Neville Edwards, Brooklyn Law School, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Spring
- Jesse Espinoza, Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Fall
- Paul Figueroa, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY Fall/Spring
- Rebecca Fike, University of Chicago, Chicago Legal Clinic, Fall
- Genevieve Fontan, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA, Spring
- Andrea Forton, University of Chicago, Chicago Legal Clinic, Fall
- Virginia Foulkrod, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY Fall/Spring
- Rachel Garland, Temple University, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, Spring
- Rebecca Gidel, Georgetown University, Catholic Community Services, Washington, DC, Spring
- Craig Gipson, University of Texas, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Fall
- Tracy Green, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Fall
- Angela Higgins, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY Fall/Spring
- Jared Ho, Brooklyn Law School, National Center for Law and Economic Justice, Spring
- Hannah Jacobs, Yale Law School, TRO Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring
- Patrick Jordan, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall
- John Lansing, Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA, Fall

- Keir LoIacono, Pace Law School, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, White Plains, NY Fall/Spring
- Carlos Lopez, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall
- Tracy Luciano, Seton Hall, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Fall
- Amy Morgenstern, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Erin Murphy, WEAVE, Washington, DC, Fall/Spring
- Rachel Ollar, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Fall
- Kirstin Oswald, Brooklyn Law School, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Spring
- Anthony Paris, Wayne State University, Community Legal Resources, Detroit, MI, Spring
- Margaret Peloso, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Jason Peterson, Suffolk University, Massachusetts Justice Project, Fall
- Joseph Roche, Suffolk University, Massachusetts Justice Project, Spring
- Jed Rich, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Molly Rogers, Fordham Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall
- Patrick Runkle, Cardozo Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall
- Kristina Scurry, Yale Law School, TRO Project, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Fall/Spring
- Sarah Sobczak, Wayne State University, Lakeshore Legal Aid, Southfield, MI, Spring
- Heidi Steen, Michigan State, Lakeshore Legal Aid, Spring
- Oluremi Swen, Brooklyn Law School, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Spring
- Lawrence Szmulowicz, Temple University, Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Matthew Teaman, Georgetown University, D.C. Employment Justice Center, Fall
- Barbara Thomas, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Amanda Torres-Dietrich, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Spring
- Alexa Van Brunt, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA, Spring
- Lindsay VanGilder, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Spring
- Karla Vargas, University of Texas, Workers Defense Project, Austin, TX, Fall
- Heather Webb, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall
- Melissa Webber, John Marshall Law School, Chicago legal Clinic, Fall
- Rachel Weiss, Brooklyn Law School, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Spring
- Soo Yun, Southwestern University, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Fall

Law Student Fellowships

Summer 2007

- Asha Allam, George Washington University, Break the Cycle, Washington, DC
- Mohammad Alturk, Boston University, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Erika Anderson, Harvard, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Edward Andrews, UCLA, Housing Rights Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Alison Asarnow, Harvard University, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Woodburn, OR
- Hana Bae, Cornell University, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Toledo, OH
- Kelsey Beckner, University of Washington, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA
- Temi Bennett, Georgetown University, D.C. Law Students in Court Program
- Zahra Billoo, Hastings, Bay Area Legal Aid, San Francisco, CA

- Rebecca Bonagura, Columbia University, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY
- Melissa Bond, Cardozo Law School, New York Legal Assistant Group (NYLAG), New York, NY
- Caroline Boucher, Howard University, Legal Aid Society, Washington, DC
- Stacy Braverman, University of Michigan, Bread for the City, Washington, DC
- Ashley Brott, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Duane Brown, Suffolk University, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Right Under Law, Boston, MA
- Matthew Brown, University of Michigan, Neighborhood Legal Services, Redford, MI
- Eleanor Bryant, Columbia University, Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX
- Jessica Burke, Washington & Lee University, Blue Ridge Legal Services, Harrisonburg, VA
- John Busby, Cornell University, Tompkins/Tioga Neighborhood Legal Services, Ithaca, NY
- Jerilin Buzzetta, Harvard University, Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services (Greater Boston Legal Services)
- Andrew Canter, Stanford University, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Amanda Cao, George Washington University, D.C. Law Students in Court Program
- Clyde Choi, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jennifer Chung, Columbia University, National Center for Law and Economic Justice
- Desiree Claudio, Rutgers University, Essex-Newark Legal Services
- Sueanne Co, Columbia University, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, New York, NY
- Sophy Cogill, George Washington University, Safe Horizon, Brooklyn, NY
- Stephany Collamore, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Chantel Conrad, DePaul University, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Erzulie Coquillon, Boston College, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Matthew Crawford, Boston College, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Tyler Crockett, Brooklyn Law School, Housing Conservation Coordinators, New York, NY
- Isabel Daniels, University of Michigan, The Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
- Monica Davis, Santa Clara University, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Loren Days, University of Virginia, Break the Cycle, Washington, DC
- Lauren Deutsch, Cardozo Law School, Center for Family Representation, New York, NY
- Sybil Devasia, Cornell University, Legal Aid of North West Texas, Dallas, TX
- Rabia El-Hage, George Mason University, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Washington, DC
- Maria Emanuelli, Columbia University, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families
- Jessica Espinosa, Columbia University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Erin Estey, George Washington University, DC Employment Justice Center
- Jessica Farb, American University, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Right of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Kiva Feldman, George Washington University, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, Washington, DC
- Rachel Fightmaster, Boston University, Children's Legal Services, Brookline, MA
- Michael Foladi, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Kathryn Freeman, University of Texas, Texas Appleseed
- Devadatta (Debu) Gandhi, University of Michigan, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Elizabeth Gerber, Harvard University, New York Legal Assistant Group
- Kara Glascoe, University of Richmond, Rappahannock Legal Services, Tappahannock, VA

- Yusra Gomaa, University of Illinois, The Domestic Violence Legal Clinic & the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago, IL
- Shauna-Kay Gooden, Northwestern University, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
- Christina Greenberg, Harvard University, Massachusetts Advocates for Children
- Jaclyn Grodin, Boston College, Great Boston Legal Services
- Arthur Guray, Boston College, Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau
- Amy Haer, George Washington University, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
- Micah Hamstra, Chicago-Kent, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Michael Harris, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Whitney Hill, University of Texas, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Austin, TX
- MacKenzie Hyde, Loyola University Chicago, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Floyd (Tripp) Isenhour, Liberty University, Virginia Legal Aid Society, Lynchburg, VA
- Justin Jamail, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Jason James, University of Virginia, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA
- Brian Jenks, University of Wisconsin, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
- Elliott John, University of Chicago, The Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of The University of Chicago Law School
- David Kagle, Cornell University, Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes, Geneva, NY
- Crystal Kay, Rutgers University, Make the Road by Walking, Brooklyn, NY
- Vanessa Keasler, University of Richmond, Blue Ridge Legal Services, Harrisonburg, VA
- Parag Khandhar, American University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA
- Amy Killelea, Georgetown University, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Chi-Young Kim, Hastings, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Diana Kim, Georgetown University, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Jarrett Knox, DePaul University, Legal Aid Bureau, Chicago, IL
- Yelena Kozlova, Fordham University, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, White Plains, NY
- Daryl Kuo, Columbia University, Boat People SOS, Houston, TX
- Danielle Lacoë, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Emily Lambert, Catholic University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Jason Langberg, Boston College, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, Lynn, MA
- Jillian Laudin, Catholic University, Tahirih Justice Center, Falls Church, VA
- Cheryl Lawrence, John Marshall Law School, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Priscilla Leite, Loyola University of Los Angeles, Public Counsel Law Center
- Ameenah Lloyd, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Emily Long, University of Wisconsin, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- Adriana Luciano, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Daniel MacMillan, University of Michigan, Legal Aid of Nebraska
- Stacy Marquez, Southwestern University, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Rachel Marx, Harvard University, The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Steven McHugh, Cornell University, Hale and Door Legal Services Center, Boston, MA
- Emily Meador, University of Texas, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, San Antonio, TX
- Mary Meixner, DePaul University, Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago, IL
- David Metcalf, Georgetown University, D.C. Law Students in Court Program

- LaVonne Meyer, Chicago-Kent, Public Justice Center, Baltimore, MD
- Allison Miles-Lee, Northwestern University, Legal Aid Society, Washington, DC
- Teddy Moges, University of Chicago, The Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of The University of Chicago Law School
- Patrick Morales-Doyle, Harvard University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Gabrielle Mulnick, American University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Julie Murray, Harvard University, Georgia Legal Services Program, Farmworker Division
- Michelle Nadeau, University of Michigan, Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA
- Harish Nandagopal, Wayne State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Amanda Nordstrom, Rutgers University, Women Against Abuse, Philadelphia, PA
- Jennifer Norris, Cardozo Law School, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Los Angeles, CA
- Nuri Nusrat, American University, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Maggie O'Grady, Harvard University, Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center
- Jennifer Oh, Columbia University, Urban Justice Center, New York, NY
- Lauren O'Malley, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- James Orlando, Harvard University, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Gwendolyn Ostrosky, Northwestern University, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Joy Park, Loyola University Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Christina Parrish, University of Richmond, Rappahannock Legal Services, Fredericksburg, VA
- Michelle Paulson, Hastings, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA
- Elisabeth Pellegrin, Hastings, International Institute of the East Bay (IIEB), Oakland, CA
- Rebecca Peacock, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Nicole Pence, Cornell University, Tompkins/Tioga Neighborhood Legal Services, Ithaca, NY
- Shawn Persaud, Albany Law School, Legal Aid Society of N.E. New York
- Sonia Pflaster, Harvard University, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Sarah Phillips, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Aaron Pierce, Fordham University, Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Law Students in Action Project, Geneva, NY
- Melinda Pilling, Boalt Hall, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Devin Pope, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Justice Center, Richmond, VA
- Kathy Purnell, DePaul University, Legal Aid of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI
- Barbara Purser, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Anna Purinton, New York University, DC Employment Justice Center
- Shilpa Ram, American University, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA
- Kavita Ramakrishnan, UCLA, Break the Cycle, Los Angeles, CA
- Dalton Randall, Harvard University, Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center
- Rahul Reddy, George Washington University, Break the Cycle, Washington, DC
- Colin Reingold, University of Michigan, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Joseph Roche, Suffolk University, Massachusetts Justice Project
- Kara Roseen, Harvard University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Caroline Rothert, Harvard University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Daniel Routh, Harvard University, Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services (Greater Boston Legal Services)
- Jamie Rowen, Boalt Hall, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

- Jennifer Russell, Temple University, Senior LAW Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Naomi Ryan, University of Richmond, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Charlottesville, VA
- Elyse Schneiderman, Harvard University, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Michelle Scott, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Julie Scourfield, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Amy Smith, Georgetown University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Karen Smith, Harvard University, Juvenile Law Center
- Jillian Somers, Hastings, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, Minneapolis, MN
- Choey Sookthis, Wayne State, Elder Law Advocacy Center
- Ian Spechler, University of Texas, Advocacy Inc
- Quinten Steenhuis, Cornell University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Logan Steiner, Harvard University, MFY Legal Services, New York
- Morgan Stewart, University of Michigan, Immigration Counseling Service, Portland, OR
- Jill Streja, Georgetown University, D.C. Law Students in Court Program
- Mitchell Stromberg, Harvard University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Matthew Teaman, Georgetown University, Ohio State Legal Services Association, Columbus, OH
- Oscar Teran, Hastings, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Gabriel Thornton, Suffolk University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, Cambridge, MA
- Emily Throop, University of Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Edward Timlin, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Carla Topdjian, Southwestern University, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Joaquin Torres, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Jonathan Tucker, Georgetown University, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Washington, DC
- Michael Turilli, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Priya Verma, Southwestern University, Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law, Los Angeles, CA
- Bradley Warby, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Whitney Watson, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Justice Center, Richmond, VA
- Sarah Webb, Boalt Hall, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, San Francisco, CA
- Emily Weiss, Columbia University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Kelly Whalen, Loyola University Chicago, Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago, IL
- Andrew Woo, University of Michigan, Public Interest Law Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Lisa Yoon, UCLA, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Michael Zmora, University of Minnesota, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

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

- Advocacy, Inc., Austin, TX
- Advocacy Center of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
- Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Toledo, OH
- 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
- Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, Minneapolis, MN
- Bay Area Legal Aid, Oakland/San Francisco, CA
- Bay Area Legal Services, Tampa, FL
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Blue Ridge Legal Services, Harrisonburg, VA
- Boat People SOS, Houston, TX
- 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
- Center for Family Representation, New York, NY
- 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
- Cook County Public Guardian's Office, Chicago, IL
- 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
- Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- 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
- Family Advocacy Program, Boston Medical Center
- 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 Conservation Coordinators, New York, NY
- Housing Preservation Project, St. Paul, MN
- Housing Rights Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Idaho Legal Aid Services, Boise, ID
- Immigrant Legal Resources Center, San Francisco, CA
- Immigration Counseling Service, Portland, OR
- International Institute of the East Bay, Oakland, CA
- Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, FL
- Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Juvenile Rights Project, Portland, OR
- Kentucky Legal Services
- Knoxville Legal Aid Society, TN
- La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco, CA
- Lakeshore Legal Aid, Southfield, MI
- 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, Boston, MA
- 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/Richmond, VA
- Legal Aid of Marin County, San Rafael, CA
- Legal Aid of Nebraska
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
- Legal Aid of North West Texas
- 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 Mid-New York
- Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
- 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 Society of Western Michigan
- Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts
- Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes, Geneva, NY
- 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 of the Blue Ridge, Boone, NC
- Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA
- Legal Services of Dutchess County, NY
- Legal Services of Greater Miami
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, White Plains, NY
- 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
- 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
- Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, University of Chicago Law School
- 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
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Los Angeles, CA
- 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 Law and Economic Justice, New York, 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 Defender Service of Harlem
- 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 Michigan
- 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 Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA
- Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA
- Northwestern University Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Ohio State Legal Services Association
- 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
- Rappahannock Legal Services, Fredericksburg/Tappahannock, VA
- 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 Appleseed
- 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
- Virginia Legal Aid Society, Lynchburg, VA
- 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
- Workers Defense Project, Austin, TX
- Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA



Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic

Annual Report 2006-2007

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

I. Introduction

Completing its eighth 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 Investor Rights Clinic (formerly the Securities Arbitration Clinic), the Criminal Justice Clinic and the Immigration Justice Clinic. In addition to these client representation clinics, field work in the non-profit legal arena is available to students through the Legal Services/Public Interest/Health Law Externship, the Family Court Externship, the Prosecution Externship, the Environmental Law Externship, and the Honors Prosecution Externship, a joint undertaking with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

The student persuaded the Department of Social Services caseworker that Mr. D. is entitled to Medicaid without a surplus. As a result, Mr. D. has an additional \$300 each month for living expenses.

II. The Seminar Component

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.

For the 2007-2008 academic year, the Clinic was again offered as a two-semester course. Students were offered the option of taking the course for either four or six credits each semester. Two students enrolled for four credits for each semester, for a total of eight credits. Four students enrolled for six credits each semester for a total of twelve credits. Two students were part-time evening students; the rest were full-time day students. All students participated in the seminar which provided two academic

credits each semester and each student's case load for the remaining clinical credits was tailored to his or her interests and time constraints. Students are expected to spend on average five hours per week per clinical credit on case-related work.

III. The Case work Component

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 interviewing, legal research and analysis, and drafting a variety of legal documents and instruments. Most students have the opportunity to appear before a court or administrative tribunal.

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 Mt. Vernon Board of Education, NAMI of Westchester, the Program for Family Support at North Central Bronx Hospital, Taconic Innovations, and Jowonio, case management agencies serving the developmentally disabled. Several clients were referred by other Clinic clients or self-referred. 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.

A total of 46 matters were handled by students during the summer of 2007¹ and the 2007-08 academic year. Of these, 19 were new matters. Seventeen matters were concluded by the end of the academic year and 29 are pending. The cases involved the following substantive areas:

Area	Number of Clients
Lifetime and Estate Planning	4
Special Needs Trusts	2
Estate Administration	4
Benefits Issues	12
Art. 17-A Guardianship	21
Human Rights	3

IV. Case Examples

After our client, Mr. R. died, we were engaged by his disabled adult daughter to handle his estate. Mr. R.'s estate consisted of the home he had inherited from his parents. The town was threatening to foreclose upon the home for unpaid taxes. The students representing Ms. R. completed and filed a petition in Surrogate's Court to have the Public Administrator administer the estate and the Town agreed to remove the home from the foreclosure list. Once probate is completed and the home is sold, we will ask the Court to create a special needs trust for our client so that she can benefit from her inheritance and continue to receive her government benefits. The students assigned to Ms. R. also assisted her in making final arrangements for her father, including burial in a Veterans' cemetery.

A student represented Mr. G., a severely mentally ill woman, when the County Department of Social Services sought to reduce her home care benefits. At the Fair Hearing, the student demonstrated that the client had unscheduled night-time needs and need care during those hours. The Administrative Law Judge remanded the case to the Department of Social Services and the client was recertified for 24 hour care.

A student drafted a special needs trust for a client who had been appointed guardian for her son. The son is due to receive a small personal injury settlement. Once approvals are obtained from the Department of Social Services and the Social Security Administration, the Surrogate's Court will be asked to approve the establishment of the trust.

¹During the summer of 2007, with a grant from the Westchester Women's Bar Foundation, four students were hired to assist with on-going and new matters.

A student successfully advocated on behalf of Mr. D. who is receiving Disabled Adult Child Benefits on his father's Social Security record. The Department of Social Services had erroneously required Mr. D. to pay a surplus each month before he could receive Medicaid coverage. The student persuaded the Department of Social Services caseworker that Mr. D. is entitled to Medicaid without a surplus. As a result, Mr. D. has an additional \$300 each month for living expenses.

We continued to work with families who wish to become guardians of their adult disabled children. Students worked with 21 such clients during the year. All clients have been counseled about the guardianship process and assisted in identifying standby guardians and obtaining necessary certifications from doctors and psychologists. In three cases, obtaining a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities was necessary for the parent to be eligible to become the child's guardian. A Certificate of Relief was issued in one case and the parent's guardianship petition was granted. A second client's application is pending and we are assisting a third client with his application. Letters of guardianship were issued in seven cases. Decisions are pending in four cases. Petitions are being prepared in the remaining cases.

V. Community Outreach

Prof. Flint was again the featured speaker at a meeting of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Westchester. 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.

Prof. Flint also spoke at a meeting of families organized by Taconic Innovations, a case management agency based in Mt. Vernon. The purpose of the meeting was to inform parents and other family members about the guardianship process so that they could begin collecting the information they would need to become guardians once their children turn 18.

In December Prof. Flint spoke at a meeting of the Citywide Council on Special Education. This

meeting of both parents and professionals focused on guardianships and special needs trusts.

VI. Plans for 2008-2009

The Clinic is being offered again next year as a year-long course and is fully subscribed. We anticipate handling a similar mix of litigation and transaction matters. In addition, Prof. Flint will be joined by Prof. Don Doernberg who will supervise four students who will work exclusively on special education cases. We will also strengthen our collaborative relationships with social services and legal services providers, in an effort to fill some of the gaps in service in Westchester and Bronx Counties.

With funding from two Pace Law School graduates, we have hired two students to work over the summer to assist with pending matters until the start of the new academic year.



Letters from Legal Services Organizations

Annual Report 2006-2007

Section 2

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Administrative Office
1361 Elm Street, Suite 307
Manchester, NH 03101-1323

Tel: (603) 644-5393 • Fax: (603) 644-1018

March 8, 2007

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



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.

ABLE

Toledo Office

520 Madison Ave.

Suite 740

Toledo, Ohio 43604

(419) 255-0814

1-800-837-0814

Fax: (419) 259-2880

New Applicants

(419) 724-0460

1-888-534-1432

www.ablelaw.org

August 23, 2007

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

RE: Hana Bae, 2007 Equal Justice Fellow

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to you to update you on the work of the above-referenced Equal Justice Fellow at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio. Hana Bae served as an Equal Justice America fellow in my office during the past summer. She did an excellent job, and I would recommend her highly, as well as recommending the EJA program to other legal services offices.

I am a senior attorney at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) and work in the areas of government benefits, healthcare, and tax. This means that much of my work involves parsing intricate regulatory codes that govern complicated programs and requires dealing with large bureaucracies. It also means that much of my work involves communicating with clients who are not well educated about these difficult programs and agencies. Hana proved to be up to the challenge.

Over the course of the summer, she helped me manage a caseload of more than 50 cases primarily involving low-income taxpayers involved in controversies with the IRS. Hana proved quite adept at interviewing clients, getting their stories, explaining to them what documents were needed to substantiate their positions, and then helping to assemble the documents into packages that could be digested by the IRS. She was always conscientious, careful to dot "i's" and cross "t's" to make sure that files were complete and orderly and that all correspondence and communication with clients was properly logged and noted in the case notes.

Hana also undertook several research projects for me on topics ranging from the proper pre-hearing conduct of Administrative Law Judges in the Social Security system to interpreting census data to determine which languages should be included on a "Babel card" to be used by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to meet its obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. With the latter project, her work was good enough to be used, with only slight modification, by welfare advocates from various parts of the state.

Finally, I want to be sure to mention what a pleasant person Hana was to have in the office. She is quiet, calm, and mature. She takes things in stride and is a good listener. I

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NORTHWEST OHIO

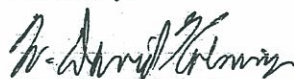


Dan Ruben
August 23, 2007
Page 2

could always count on her to be where she was supposed to be and to be working all the time. She also is very well organized and helped me greatly in tracking and processing a relatively high number of new cases.

In sum, while I am not certain as to what path Hana's career will take, I am excited at the possibility of young lawyers like her entering the public interest field. She was a tremendous help this summer, and it was great to have her here.

Sincerely,



W. David Koeninger

Senior 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

September 25, 2007

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, Ilana B. Gelfman, Erin Elizabeth Phillips and Smita Singh. 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

Enclosures

BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES CORP. "A"

Please Reply to:

WILLIAMSBURG OFFICE

256-260 Broadway
Brooklyn, New York 11211
(718) 478-2300
FAX: (718) 782-6790

EAST BROOKLYN OFFICE

80 Jamaica Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11207
(718) 487-1300
FAX: (718) 342-1780

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD
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@hka.org

February 12, 2007

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II - Suite 204
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

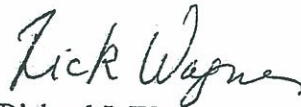
To: Dan Ruben, EJA

Page 2

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.

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 that reads "Rick Wagner".

Richard J. Wagner
Director of Litigation

The
**CHILDREN'S
LAW CENTER**

August 31, 2007

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
123540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, MA 23112

Re: Amy Smith's Fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to update you on the work performed this summer by Amy Smith, an Equal Justice America Fellow with our organization. The Children's Law Center is the largest civil legal service provider in the District of Columbia, and the only organization that provides comprehensive legal representation specifically for children. Amy worked with our *Guardian Ad Litem* Project, which represents children in the District's abuse and neglect system.

I supervised and coordinated Amy's work for me and two other attorneys. Amy successfully juggled the demands of working with three different attorneys. She performed a range of tasks, from interviewing and subpoenaing witnesses to document review and legal research. She also had significant interaction with our clients. In each area, she showed great initiative, judgment and impeccable professionalism.

Amy's written work product was superb. It was universally timely, typo-free, and thorough. Her analysis was detailed, clear, and in-depth. Even on the most complex research topics, Amy began with a clear understanding of the underlying legal issue. My first research project for her required a review of legislative changes to Title IV-E, an impenetrable section of the Social Security Act. Amy's memo reflected a clear grasp of the law, an impressive feat, and a thorough analysis of the new changes.

In another task for me, Amy reviewed seven months of medication administration records for a client held on an inpatient ward. She combed through complex records to document inappropriate medication changes and doses, as well as inappropriate use of physical restraints. She was able to synthesize her findings in a clear summary, and her work has been invaluable in holding the medical providers accountable for sub-standard care provided to my client.

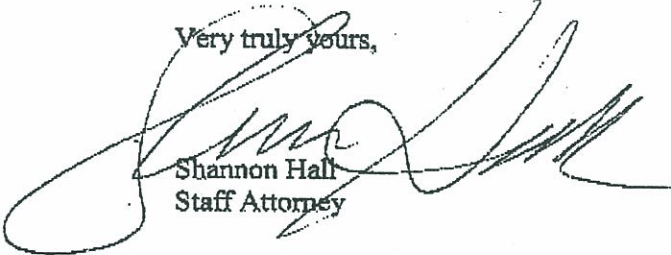


Mr. Dan Ruben
August 31, 2007
Page 2 of 2

In the course of my time at the Children's Law Center, I have worked with many law clerks. Amy Smith is, without a doubt, the most impressive student I have worked with thus far. In addition to the hard work, professionalism and intelligence that she consistently displayed, Amy also demonstrated good judgment. This is an elusive quality that combines street-smarts with a good understanding of what makes people tick. It is an intuition that is essential to successful legal work.

The other two lawyers with whom Amy worked this summer have nothing but positive comments about their experience with her. It was a pleasure to work with Amy this summer. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may reach me at shall@childrenslawcenter.org, or (202) 467-4900 extension 596.

Very truly yours,



Shannon Hall
Staff Attorney

cc: Amy Smith



**Letters from Equal
Justice America
Fellowship Recipients**

Annual Report 2006-2007

Section 3

GABRIELLE A. MULNICK

August 16, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I must begin by thanking you and the members who comprise your organization for enabling me to pursue a law clerkship with a fantastic legal services organization – the Children’s Law Center in Washington, DC – over the summer months. The experience has met and surpassed my expectations for the summer and fueled my desire to quickly finish up this last year of school so I can start my career as a full-fledged direct legal services attorney!

Although I had interned with the Children’s Law Center, Health Access Project during the semester directly preceding this summer, the experiences I had over the past ten weeks of the summer were markedly more diverse and intricately involved in the day-to-day happenings of cases and clients in a more meaningful way. Since I had already proven myself as a capable worker during my semester’s stay, my supervising attorneys gave me greater autonomy and the ability to take on additional tasks, such as independently conducting intakes, researching principle arguments for the special education due process hearings that came before my supervising attorneys, and even having the opportunity to essentially to single-handedly work with a client and case my supervising attorney wouldn’t have been able to take on had it not been for my presence. This particular client, a teenage mother with a young son, did not have any personal identification, benefits, or health insurance for herself or her son. Although her son was nearly two years old, this young and caring mother did not have the resources to take him for a simple doctor’s appointment or ensure that he would receive his necessary immunizations. Through extensive research and telephone calls to other local practitioners, I developed and implemented a case plan to meet this client’s objectives. Thanks to my advocacy, this young mother and child now both have medical insurance, up-to-date medical care, child care during the daytime hours, and receive benefits so that mom can adequately support and care for her personal needs and the needs of her child.

Now that my last year of law school is underway, I constantly find that the research, writing, interviewing, and client-centered experience I gained over the summer months has left me extremely well-equipped to take on my own clients as a student attorney with the law school clinic that I will work in for the remainder of my law school career. My summer’s experiences learning the field of special education law have been truly invaluable. I am in the midst of applying for post-graduate fellowships and hope that I will receive the funding so that I may execute the special education fellowship project that I developed over the summer months.

None of these experiences would have been possible without the generous support of Equal Justice America. I am forever grateful for the doors that the Equal Justice America Fellowship has opened for me and hope that future generations of public interest-minded law students will be able to pursue their heartfelt goals with Equal Justice America’s support.

Best regards,



Gabrielle Mulnick

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

September 7, 2007

Dear Mr. Ruben,

The health care system and its malfunctions currently occupy a position of prominence in American political debates. Between *Sicko* and the impending election, the crisis of the uninsured, the rising costs of healthcare, the inequities in access, and many other serious issues have become dinnertime conversation across the nation. When the legal system is included in the discussion, it is usually as a contributing factor to the problem (we have all heard the rising costs attributed, rightly or wrongly, to greedy tort lawyers and unnecessary litigation). This summer I saw a different side to the interaction between the legal and health care worlds: I saw doctors and attorneys working together to resolve the multifaceted problems facing low-income individuals.

Some of our clients had legal issues because they had medical ones, and some of them had medical issues because they had legal ones. In the first category was a young woman whose development of a spinal disorder meant she could no longer work. Still young, not yet 35, this woman had been working steadily throughout her adult life and had even managed to save a small amount of money. When a devastating and unpredictable illness claimed her body, her self-sufficiency was at an end and she had to come to terms with and learn to navigate the complicated set of government programs that would become her sole economic support in the years ahead. Our office was able to help her plan that transition, manage and discharge her debts and ensure that she received assistance from the programs to which she was entitled, a feat that too often requires the expertise of a poverty lawyer to accomplish successfully.

In the second category were a number of clients whose substandard housing conditions caused asthma and other progressive pulmonary conditions, both in the adults and the children of the household. While these clients fought with their landlords about repairs and exterminations, they and their children became ill. Only with the help of an advocate could these clients get their landlords, as often as not in government-managed buildings, to comply with basic housing law.

In both categories, it was essential and mutually beneficial that the doctors and the lawyers work together. We, the attorneys, would not have been able to win our cases without the collaboration of our clients' doctors, whose letters and medical evidence were necessary proof in many situations. We needed their testimony for determining housing priority, for example, or for building a Social Security case. They, the doctors, needed us to solve the underlying problems preventing their patients from recovering or complying

with their treatment. How can a child recover from asthma when its source, mold or rodent infestations, was a daily presence in her life? How can a person take her medication when she has been improperly denied Medicaid coverage? How can a person suffering from depression be expected to recover whatsoever if she has been denied housing and is bouncing from shelter to shelter?

This summer, meeting with clients and hearing their diverse narratives of how they came to need an advocate, I learned that a poverty law attorney must transcend the neat categorical and doctrinal boxes presented in law school if she is to be of much service to her clients, whose problems intersect with and reinforce each other across disciplines, even warring ones like law and medicine.

I would like to thank you and Equal Justice America for supporting this summer, which has strengthened and invigorated my commitment to the public sector. I carry my clients' stories and faces with me now as reminders of why I came to law school, and I sincerely appreciate EJA's enablement of the immensely rewarding experience that I had with LegalHealth.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Gerber in cursive script.

Elizabeth Gerber
Harvard Law School, 2009

August 25, 2007

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you very much for working to provide summer stipends for law students who are committed to public interest law. This summer, I interned with the HIV/AIDS Project at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. It was an amazing learning experience as I worked alongside some extremely talented attorneys.

At the beginning, I found that it was emotionally difficult to work with low-income clients. Many of my clients had multiples issues, and many of these issues were not related to the law. I was overwhelmed by some of their situations and desperately desired to do whatever I could to help. As the summer progressed, I learned to separate our clients' legal issues. I realized that I could best help our clients by helping them with their legal problems, instead of simply pitying them because of their dire situations. I then began channeling my energy to do whatever I could to aid them with their legal issue.

I was able to use my 711 license, which allowed me to represent clients in court under the supervision of an attorney. I covered many status dates in eviction court and family court. Furthermore, I was able to argue a Motion to Quash Service in eviction court.

One of the highlights of the summer was a negotiation settlement that I asked to handle. The supervising attorney did not have high hopes that a settlement would occur. However, she asked me to do what I could. The tenant in this case had been living in a garden apartment that had flooded on several occasions. The flood waters caused damage to the tenant's furniture and clothes. Furthermore, the tenant suffered from medical problems due to the growth of mold. According to the landlord, she had waived one month of the tenant's rent and had even offered the client a different apartment. The tenant in this case was asking for damages, but the landlord had felt that she had already done enough to compensate for the flood damage. I made many phone calls to both the landlord and tenant, and after two days, I was able to negotiate with both parties, and the tenant received \$800 in compensation.

Towards the end of the summer, the majority of my time was devoted to one particular client. This client had sought our help because his application for housing at a Section 8 Project Based apartment was denied. I spoke with the housing management and was told that our client was denied because of his poor credit. The housing management sent me a copy of the credit report that they had used in making their decision and sought to verify each of the entries on our client's credit report. After further investigation and numerous calls to different companies and credit reporting bureaus, I found that several of the entries were erroneous. There was one entry stating that my client owed almost \$5000, but upon investigation, I found that there was no record of such an account. I then followed up with the credit reporting bureau. They also

investigated the matter and found that the account did not exist. Thus, they immediately erased the entry from my client's credit report. I contacted the housing management once again and explained the situation. We had an informal meeting at the site of the apartment complex, but the building manager explained that he did not have the authority to change the outcome. I then contacted the building manager's supervisor and explained the situation. She asked that I send her documentation of all the inaccuracies. She agreed to rerun the credit report to determine whether my client would be eligible for housing at the Section 8 Project Based apartments.

These may appear to be two simple stories. However, for my two clients, it made a world of difference. Furthermore, for myself, I am thankful that I was able to use my time and energy to help these two individuals. I have known for quite some time that I would like to use my law degree to help the underprivileged, but it was amazing to be able to gain the experience that I did. It solidified my desire to help those who simply need another voice to assist them.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to help others this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joy Park".

Joy Park
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Graduation anticipated, May 2008

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

August 15, 2007

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I'm writing to offer my sincere thanks to Equal Justice America for its generous support of my public interest work this summer. You already know how difficult it is for law students to find financial backing for internships with nonprofits. I am grateful that Equal Justice America is funding this work and supporting law students as we prepare for careers serving the public interest.

Equal Justice America's Fellowship enabled me to help Hurricane Katrina survivors rebuild their lives and communities through an internship at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C. At the Lawyers' Committee I contributed to two areas of post-Katrina advocacy. One used traditional litigation tactics to preserve the current stock of affordable housing, particularly FEMA trailer parks and public housing complexes. The other used community development and transactional tools to encourage construction of new affordable housing units for low-income families.

The most rewarding part of my summer was being able to spend part of my time with our clients in Mississippi. Almost two years after Katrina, the situation has changed very little for low-income communities. Affordable housing is nearly impossible to come by. Insurance and government rebuilding funding goes to homeowners, not renters, while the cost of housing has skyrocketed. Residents of FEMA trailer parks – who live in cramped, unhealthy conditions – remain in near-constant danger of losing their trailers, without other options. And this is to say nothing of the ongoing health, employment, and discrimination challenges that survivors face.

For much of the summer I worked on behalf of FEMA trailer park residents threatened with eviction by the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi. I gathered facts and interviewed clients on the ground, did legal research on potential claims, and assisted the Lawyers' Committee and our local allies with filing a challenge in state court. Back in Washington, D.C., I brought our clients' situation to the attention of media outlets and our national allies.

Later in the summer I researched the FEMA appeals and recoupment processes on behalf of individual clients wishing to challenge adverse FEMA decisions. I also helped our nonprofit clients rebuild affordable housing by researching tax, economic development, and board management issues.

In a time when many organizations are turning away from the challenges facing Gulf Coast residents, Equal Justice America's funding of this work provides a desperately-needed source of optimism and assistance. Thank you so much for continuing to support these clients and other individuals with great need across our nation.

Best Regards,

Andrew Canter
Stanford Law School Class of 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My work at LAF has been an unbelievable experience in the “real world” of law. I have worked on a whole variety of legal issues inflicting our poorest citizens, including eviction, unemployment, consumer fraud and medical benefit cases. My experience at LAF was an eye opener about the problems facing the urban poor on Chicago’s Southside. Tenants improperly evicted for insufficient reasons, employees denied benefits without justification, and disabled individuals subject to a year of continued hearings and lost records are common place occurrences at my office. I had the opportunity to follow these cases from start to finish. From intake, to case acceptance, to complaints and responses, depositions, hearings and settlement, I have had an incredible opportunity to observe law at the basest level. Throughout the summer, I encountered struggling families dealing with losing a home, a job, or an only source of income.

Two cases stand out in my mind. One was a case I worked on very early. The client was denied unemployment benefits, and we were appealing that decision. When I first looked over the case materials, I felt we had a weak case. The lawyer on the case decided to take the case and asked me to write a brief to submit to the court. I was a bit discouraged at this seemingly losing task. I continued to research and write the brief, and along the way I picked out cases and holdings that built a powerful argument for our side. By the time I turned to completed brief into the lawyer on the case, I was certain we had a strong, if not winning argument. The lawyer was extremely pleased at the argument I managed to fashion out of meager case law and a shaky position. That experience taught me that I have to power to influence decisions. Our client was clearly in the right, she should have received unemployment benefits, but the law was not on her side. I learned that by extensive research and careful writing, I can make unfavorable law support my position, and a deserving client can gain much needed assistance.

The second case was an individual I represented at a medical benefits hearing. Public aid offices are notorious for losing records and convincing applicants to drop their case. My hearing was no different. However, because I was their representing our client, the agency bullying went nowhere. We continued the hearing, and directly submitted another records packet to the office supervisor. The case is not yet concluded, but I know that my office will continue to pursue the case and not allow it to be dropped. Once again, I saw the power of being a lawyer. Just my presence in a hearing changed the power balance, and made it possible for a deserving client to keep persevering on her path to gain medical benefits.

My time at LAF made me realize that I can make a difference in the world. Having a legal education gives me the tools to shape the existing law and fight for the positions I believe in. Knowledge of the law, more than anything, is power. It is the power of knowing your rights as an American citizen. As lawyers educated in those rights, it is our duty to inform those less educated in the protection those rights afford, as well as aid them in enforcing those rights. I have learned law is not about winning in the most basic sense. It is about fairness. I am grateful that my Equal Justice America grant helped support me in this experience. My education this summer has been as valuable as anything I learned at law school.

Sincerely,

Emily Throop
Candidate for Juris Doctor 2009
University of Chicago Law School

LINDSAY VANGILDER

May 24, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

First, I would like to thank you for the wonderful opportunity to work as a Spring EJA Fellow. My work at Boulder County Legal Services was an incredibly rewarding experience, and EJA helped make it possible.

I studied abroad to Valparaíso, Chile in the fall of 2004, and ever since, I have been looking for opportunities to utilize my Spanish. When I heard that Boulder County Legal Services was looking for a Spanish-speaker to help conduct client intakes and translate for pro bono attorneys with Spanish-speaking clients, I was thrilled to be able to help. When I found out I could receive funding through EJA, the opportunity became even more appealing.

I worked on a variety of cases throughout the spring, but most of my time was spent conducting intake with Spanish-speaking clients. My work at Boulder Legal Services exposed me to a wide array of legal issues that frequently affect the Latino community: consumer issues, including debt, garnishment, and bankruptcy; family law issues, including divorce, domestic violence, and child custody; employment issues; and immigration and citizenship concerns. My routine tasks included conducting the initial client interview, discussing the case with the managing attorney, and then reporting back to the client about what their options were and if there was anything Boulder Legal Services could do to help. I also translated letters to clients into Spanish to follow up with their initial consultations. My fellowship allowed Boulder Legal Services to help low-income Spanish-speaking clients that they would not otherwise have been able to serve.

For me, the most memorable part of my experience as an EJA Fellow was working with a number of domestic violence victims. While this was probably the most difficult part of the job emotionally, it was also the most rewarding. I was able to help a number of women obtain temporary and permanent protection orders against physically, emotionally, and verbally abusive spouses and boyfriends. I was also able to refer women to the pro se family law clinic at Boulder County Legal Services, so that they could learn how navigate the legal system to obtain a divorce and leave their abusive partners. Although I had always thought I wanted to practice criminal law, my work with domestic violence victims has inspired me to take a Spanish for Family Law course this summer at the University of Colorado Law School. I am hoping that this class will improve my ability to serve Spanish-speaking clients who are seeking divorces, legal protection from abuse, and financial support for themselves and their children.

Along with domestic violence and family issues, I was able to help a number of clients who were in financial trouble. I spent a number of afternoons working with a Spanish-speaking woman filing for bankruptcy. Boulder Legal Services found a pro bono attorney to help with her case, but without my help, she would not have been able to communicate with the attorney. This case was my first exposure to bankruptcy law. While I never would have thought that I would like it, it was nevertheless satisfying to help a woman get rid of tens of thousands of dollars in debt so she could start fresh. I also was able to explain the bankruptcy process to another family. We eventually determined that they were financially ineligible for Legal Aid, but even providing some basic information to help them seek help on their own was rewarding. Garnishment of wages was another common consumer issue. I was able to help one woman stop a garnishment on her paycheck and start making monthly payments to her creditor. And finally, I was able to explain the process of bringing a claim in small claims court to another Spanish-speaking woman. My experience as an EJA Fellow exposed me to a number of Consumer Law issues that I would not have otherwise encountered.

Along with my experiences conducting intake for Spanish-speaking clients, I was also able to help a young woman reduce an overpayment of Section 8 public housing. I helped investigate and explain her complex financial history at an informal Public Housing hearing to reduce her overpayment to a manageable amount.

Overall, my experience as an EJA Fellow has broadened my areas of legal interest. I am still very interested in practicing criminal law, but I have also been exposed to other exciting legal areas that frequently affect low-income populations. Next fall I will be taking classes in Family and Immigration Law. My opportunity to work as an EJA Fellow this spring has also confirmed my interest in continuing to work with Spanish-speaking clients and has highlighted the importance of finding Spanish-speakers to serve this important minority population.

Thank you again for the EJA Fellowship. It was an incredibly valuable experience, and I hope that other law students will have the same opportunity to serve low-income and minority populations seeking access to the legal system. I learned a tremendous amount and I know that Boulder County Legal Services was grateful for my help.

Sincerely,



Lindsay VanGilder

J.D. Candidate, Class of 2009

University of Colorado Law School



Report of Independent Auditors

Annual Report 2006-2007

Section 4

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2007

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
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JUNE 30, 2007

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Report of independent auditors.....	1
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Statement of cash flows.....	4
Statement of functional expenses.....	5-6
Notes to financial statements.....	7-8

MICHAEL W. HULTZAPPLE, CPA

1913 Stuart Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Telephone (804) 677-4343

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Equal Justice America, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Equal Justice America, Inc. (a not-for-profit corporation) as of June 30, 2007, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses 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, 2007, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of American.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Hultzapple, CPA". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael W. Hultzapple, CPA
October 31, 2007

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2007

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 47,977
Contributions receivable	<u>223,276</u>
Total Current Assets	271,253
Property and equipment - at cost (notes 1 and 2)	29,801
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(26,262)</u>
Net property and equipment	3,539
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 274,792</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Grants payable	<u>\$ 273,604</u>
Total Liabilities	273,604
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	1,188
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 274,792</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2007

Public Support and Revenue	
Public support:	
Contributions	\$ 1,177,996
Revenue:	
Interest Income	2,228
 Total Public Support and Revenue	 \$ 1,180,224
 Expenses	
Program services	803,889
Management and general expenses	98,565
Fund raising expenses	277,716
 Total Expenses	 <u>1,180,170</u>
 Expenses in excess of public support and revenue	 \$ 54
 Net Assets at Beginning of Year	 <u>1,134</u>
 Net Assets at End of Year	 <u><u>\$ 1,188</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended June 30, 2007

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Public support and revenue under expenses	\$ 54
Adjustment To Reconcile to Excess Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses	
To net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation of property and equipment	\$ 3,439
Changes In Operating Assets and Liabilities:	
Increase in contributions receivable	(69,914)
Increase in grants payable	<u>62,410</u>
Total adjustments	<u>(4,065)</u>
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(4,011)</u>
Net decrease in cash during the year	(4,011)
Cash at July 1, 2006	<u>51,988</u>
Cash at June 30, 2007	<u><u>\$ 47,977</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended June 30, 2007

Program Expenses:	
Grants	\$ 710,252
Program Administration:	
Consulting	2,474
Employee Benefits	4,234
Executive Director's Salary	28,833
Internet	348
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	2,856
Payroll	43,129
Payroll Service	485
Payroll Taxes	2,856
Postage	1,183
Printing	545
Telephone	1,694
Total	<u>\$ 803,889</u>
Management and General Expenses:	
Accounting	4,840
Bank charges	428
Depreciation	3,439
Employee Benefits	4,032
Executive Director's Salary	28,833
Graphic Design	460
Internet	348
Miscellaneous	461
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	2,856
Payroll	40,625
Payroll Service	462
Payroll Taxes	2,720
Postage	2,367
Telephone	1,694
Total	<u>\$ 98,565</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended June 30, 2007

Fund Raising Expenses:

Consulting	3,711
Credit Card Fees	13,613
Employee Benefits	11,895
Executive Director's Salary	28,833
Graphic Design	1,380
Internet	348
Mailing List	8,089
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	2,856
Payroll	171,355
Payroll Service	1,362
Payroll Taxes	8,025
Postage	8,284
Printing	3,114
State Registration Fees	1,945
Telephone	7,906
	<u>\$ 277,716</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
For The Year Ended June 30, 2007

Note 1: Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies

Equal Justice America, Inc. (the Organization) is a not-for-profit organization that provides grants to legal service organizations that deliver civil legal assistance to the poor. 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.

Support and Expenses. Contributions received and unconditional promises to give are measured at their fair values and are reported as an increase in net assets. The Organization reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, or as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, or if they are designed as support for future periods. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activity as net assets released from restrictions. Donor-restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period are reported as unrestricted support. Currently, the Organization only has unrestricted net assets.

Expenses are recorded when incurred in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting.

Donated Services. A substantial number of unpaid volunteers have made significant contributions of their time to assist in the Organization's programs; however, the donated services are not reflected in the financial statements since the services do not require specialized skills.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents. Cash consists of cash held in a checking account and money market account.

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
For The Year Ended June 30, 2007

Note 1. (continued)

Income Taxes. The organization is a not-for-profit corporation whose revenue is derived from contributions from individuals, corporations, and other non-profit entities and is not subject to federal or state income taxes.

Fixed Assets. Acquisitions of fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets and computed on the straight-line method, generally 5 to 7 years.

Note 2: Property and Equipment

Property and equipment, is comprised of the following:

Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,185	
Machinery and equipment	28,616	
	29,801	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(26,262)	
	\$ 3,539	

Note 3: Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing the various programs, fund-raising, and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Accordingly, certain cost have been allocated among the programs and fund-raising activities benefited.