

15
Years



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2007-2008



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

www.equaljusticeamerica.org



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

Table of Contents

Who We Are...What We've Done.....	1
15 Years of Growth.....	2
What They're Saying about Equal Justice America.....	3
EJA Celebrates 15 Years of Service—An Article from <i>Cornerstone Magazine</i>	5
EJA's Virginians for Equal Justice campaign—An Article from the <i>Richmond Times-Dispatch</i>	9
List of Law Student Fellowships Sponsored by Equal Justice America During Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....	13
Legal Services Organizations Where Equal Justice America has Sponsored Law Student Fellowships.....	21
Annual Report of Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic.....	27
Letters from Legal Services Organizations.....	Section 2
Letters from Equal Justice America Fellowship Recipients.....	Section 3
Report of Independent Auditors.....	Section 4

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



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

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

“With liberty and justice for all,” are the words recited every day by our nation’s schoolchildren.

It is a promise that has not been kept. The American

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

(American Bar Association)

Bar Association estimates that the United States fails to meet 80% of the civil legal needs of the poor. Unlike criminal defendants who are guaranteed an attorney by the U.S. Constitution, most low-income

litigants must face civil adversarial proceedings without the benefit of counsel.

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

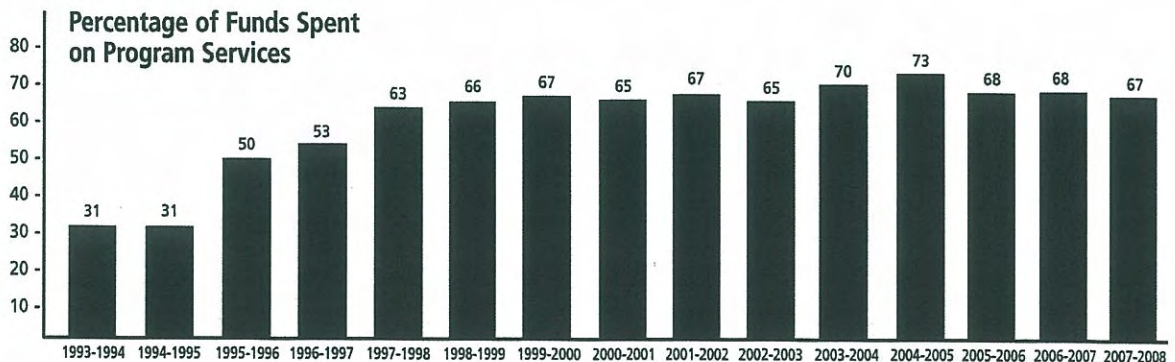
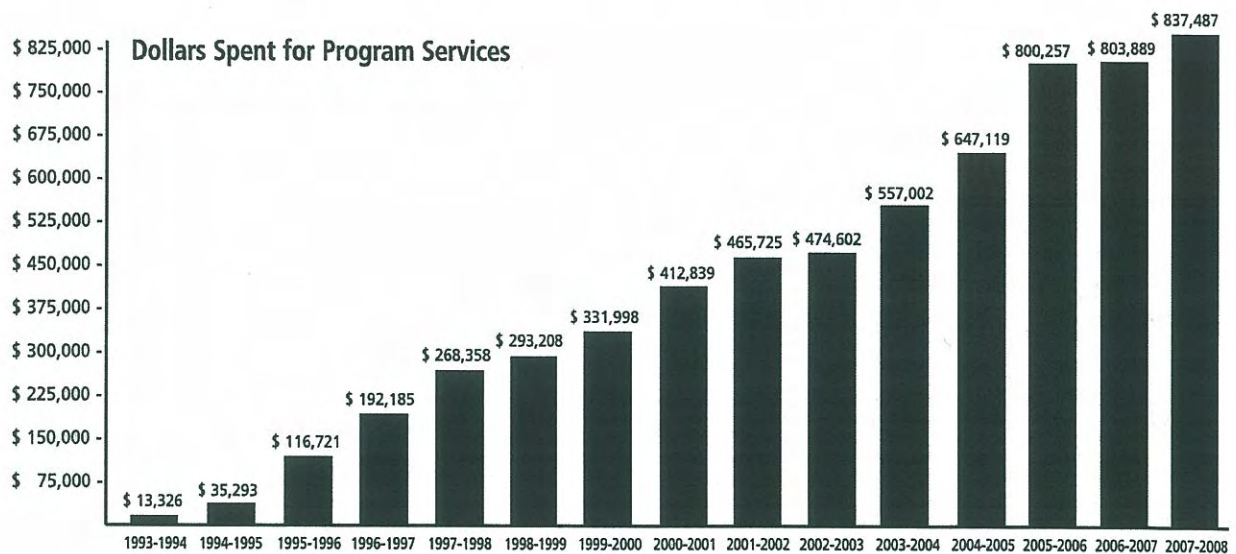
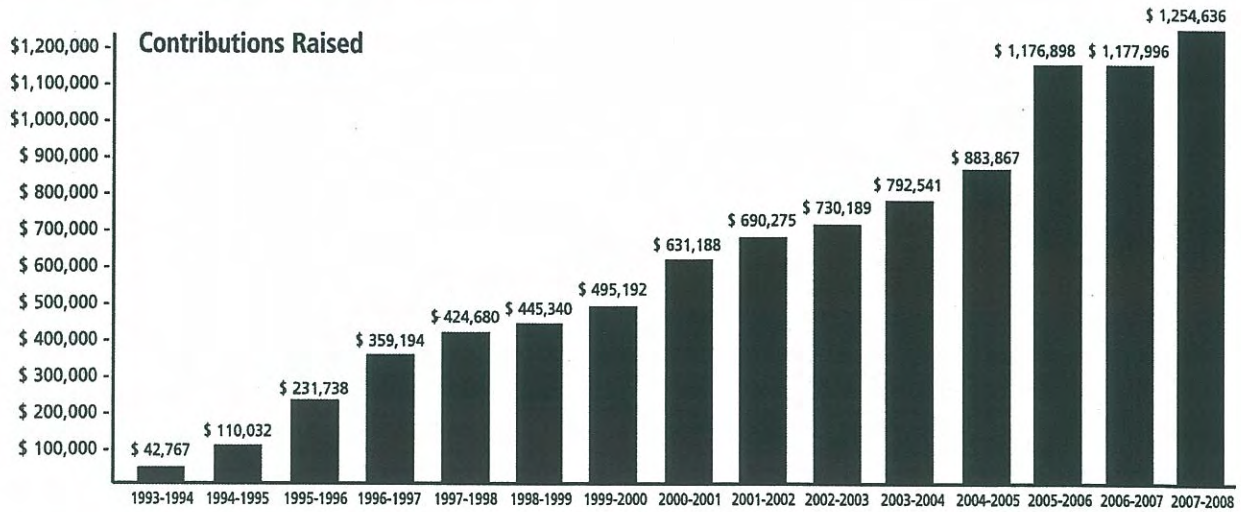
Who We Are

Equal Justice America is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1993. EJA has become a national leader in providing opportunities for law students to work with organizations that deliver civil legal services to those most in need. Our efforts expose a new generation of law students to the urgency for pro bono assistance to our most vulnerable citizens. Students at more than 70 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 2,300 law students to work with over 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 \$6.5 million in grants and has provided approximately 700,000 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. Nearly \$900,000 has been committed to these post-graduate fellowships.
- In September 2000, Pace University Law School established the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic with a major grant and an ongoing commitment from EJA. We have contributed more than \$300,000 to the EJA Clinic, which has become an integral part of the Law School's highly regarded clinical program.

Fifteen Years of Growth



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

"I'd like to congratulate EJA on its 15th Anniversary. We thank you for 15 years of support and look forward to continuing the successful partnership we've established."

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

"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."

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

"Thanks to your steadfast support over these many years, Public Counsel has been extremely fortunate to have worked with 36 amazing law interns from around the country. The incredible talent, creativity and passion of these law interns has moved mountains – from coordinating dozens of law firms to provide advocacy for the homeless at DPSS offices, to assisting battered women in asylum claims, to facilitating hundreds of adoptions out of foster care, to providing legal assistance to countless homeowners facing foreclosure as a result of fraud."

– **Hernan Vera**
President & CEO
Public Counsel Law Center
Los Angeles, CA

"While a 15th anniversary is a significant milestone for any non-profit, I'm especially gratified to see EJA's growth – both because your mission is so aligned with our organizations interests and because of the collaborative, flexible interactions we have always enjoyed with EJA...I still remember our conversations about the program when you were first developing the idea. It is amazing to see the growth of EJA from a concept to a real program providing public interest law placements to over 200 students a year."

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



EJA Celebrates 15 Years of Service

An article from the National Legal Aid
and Defender Association's

Cornerstone Magazine

Fifteen-Year Anniversary for Equal Justice America

By Joel Katz

In 1990, when Dan Ruben was a second year student at Pace University Law School he spotted a small item in the New York Times about a student-run program at NYU Law School. Students were raising money to help their fellow students work during the summer in public interest law. There was no such organization at Pace so Ruben started one, the Public Interest Law Scholarship Organization (PILSO), which continues to thrive at Pace today.

When Ruben began approaching professors for contributions to PILSO, he was pleased and surprised that nearly every single one wrote a check. He realized that the PILSO idea could be built into a national organization, that the issue driving it — the lack of adequate legal representation for so many Americans — was so compelling that such an organization could be successful on a national scale.

What began in 1993 as an organization that sponsored just five law student fellowships in its first year, Equal Justice America (EJA) has awarded more than \$5.25 million in grants and has provided approximately 550,000 hours of free legal services to the poor. In the past year EJA sponsored more than 225 Law Student Fellowships. EJA has grown its annual budget to nearly \$1.2 million by successfully raising mostly modest contributions from attorneys across the country. Students at more than 50 law schools now have the opportunity to participate in Equal Justice America's Fellowship Program.

By putting law students to work under the supervision of experienced attorneys at legal services programs, a growing army of future lawyers receives the training and skills necessary to carry on the crucial work of meeting the legal needs of the poor. More than 1,800 law students have received Equal Justice America fellowships. Many have graduated from law school to continue the work they began in school as EJA Fellows, advocating on behalf of those most in need. In 2008 EJA will celebrate its 15th year of working to protect the rights of children and families in poverty.

"We continue to work hard to make a real difference in people's lives," Ruben said. "Families threatened with eviction and homelessness; women assaulted by violent and abusive husbands and boyfriends; the elderly ripped off by unscrupulous business practices; and the disabled fighting to have needed benefits restored. These are the people we go to bat for every day by supporting legal services programs and legal aid societies throughout the country."

Legal Aid Programs Across Nation Celebrate EJA's Success

Christine Todd, vice president of administration at the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco — "Equal Justice

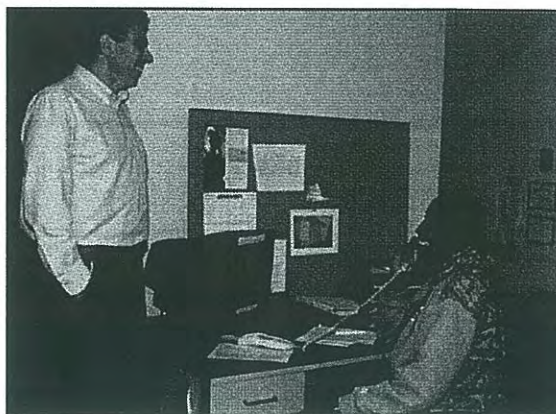


Photo by Angel Morton Photography

EJA Executive Director Dan Ruben with EJA Fundraiser Jeff Ridgeway.

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

Martin Needelman, project director at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation — "Our ability to avoid the most draconian reductions in services can be largely attributable to the contribution made by a corps of highly motivated and dedicated law student interns. The overwhelming majority of these wonderful and indispensable young law students has been financed by EJA. We need EJA more than ever before and the need is nothing less than urgent."

Robert Sable, executive director of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) — "Over the past several years Equal Justice America has provided funding for more student interns at GBLS than any other organization. EJA Fellowship recipients have been a tremendous help to our staff in providing legal assistance to the most vulnerable members of the Boston community."

Catherine Carr, executive director of Community Legal Services in Philadelphia — "Through the years EJA has provided tens of thousands of dollars in support of our summer and school year internship programs. Without EJA, our law student internship program would be far smaller. One of the wonderful things about legal services work is the presence of young idealistic spirited, highly skilled law students. By making it possible for students to work with us, EJA has helped keep our advocacy fresh and impassioned."

Gerald Nordgren, director of legal services at the Chicago Legal Clinic — "Some of the best and brightest of

EJA

the nation's law students have been able to receive substantial funding for fellowships to work as interns in our offices. Some of these students have impressed us so much that they later have become staff attorneys in our organization. Other students have gone on to make substantial contributions to the public interest field through other organizations. We are really grateful for our relationship with Equal Justice America."

Through the years, Equal Justice America has strived to expand its program and its influence. In 1997, EJA began funding the Yale Law student-run Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Project at the New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA). The TRO Project assists domestic violence victims attempting to file orders of protection on their own.

For years the TRO operated strictly with student volunteers.

"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," said Patricia Kaplan, executive director of NHLAA. "The TRO 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."

In September 2000, Pace Law School established the Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic with a major grant and an ongoing commitment from EJA. The EJA Clinic has delivered much needed civil legal services to indigent disabled children and adults, while educating law students who are committed to becoming effective advocates for those in need. Nearly 60 Pace law students have taken part in the EJA Clinic and Equal Justice America has renewed its support of the clinic through

August 2009. The EJA Clinic has become an integral part of the law school's highly regarded clinical program.

In 2002, EJA began awarding post-graduate fellowships to launch the public interest careers of outstanding young attorneys. More than \$800,000 has been committed to these two-year post-graduate EJA Fellowships, allowing legal services organizations to receive new full-time staff to better meet a community's needs. In cooperation with Harvard University, EJA has awarded post-graduate fellowships that began this fall at the New York Legal Assistance Group and New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA). John Tobin, executive director at NHLA wrote that "the fellowship will make an enormous difference in our program's ability to serve vulnerable and troubled children."

In 2006, Equal Justice America hired Joel Katz, a former executive in the performing arts center industry, to expand EJA's fundraising strategies. Katz took the job of director of development and among many other projects, he created Virginians for Equal Justice which funded 16 Virginia law students at seven legal service organizations this past summer. This simple idea, placing Virginia law students at Virginia legal service organizations funded by Virginia attorneys, exceeded expectations for its first year.

A major grant from the Cameron Foundation has recently been awarded to EJA to place a recent law school graduate in a full-time job at the Legal Aid Justice Center in Petersburg, VA. The grant represents EJA's largest contribution in its 15-year history.

For more information, visit EJA's comprehensive website: www.equaljusticeamerica.org ☆

Joel Katz is director of development at Equal Justice America.



Virginians for Equal Justice

An article from the
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Law students' intro to legal needs of poor Midlothian-based group provides fellowships for work in legal aid offices

Monday, Jun 02, 2008 - 12:09 AM Updated: 09:32 AM

By KARIN KAPSIDELIS

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Her first client got a \$3,000 "line of credit" from a car-title lender with an interest rate of 300 percent. In just six months the woman has already had to pay back \$5,000—with just \$16 going to the principal, the rest to interest.

For University of Richmond law student Miriam Sincell, her client's predicament is an example of the sort of case she hopes to devote her career to.

"It's the reason why I went to law school," said Sincell, who has a summer fellowship to help the poor with such civil cases. "It's where my passion lies."

Sincell is one of 18 students from Virginia law schools to receive fellowships to work at state legal aid services through Virginians for Equal Justice. The program was started last year by a nonprofit organization based in Midlothian called Equal Justice America. EJA is providing summer fellowships to 170 law students nationwide. The idea is to introduce law students to the legal needs of the poor.

While the U.S. Constitution guarantees legal representation in criminal cases, there's no such right in civil cases. "These situations in some cases can be life-threatening," said Dan Ruben, the founder and executive director of Equal Justice America. "If you're threatened with eviction from your home, or you're getting beaten up by your spouse and want to find a way out of the relationship, there's no guarantee of representation," he said. He cites American Bar Association studies that show 80 percent of the civil legal needs in this country are not being met.

"It's very expensive to be poor," said Marcellinus Slag, the attorney working with Sincell at the Legal Aid Justice Center in downtown Richmond. "The middle class is rarely in court" for these sorts of civil cases, Slag said. "On the other hand, poor people get sued all the time." They find themselves caught up with predatory lenders, as did the client Sincell is helping. The woman handed over her car title and an extra set of keys in exchange for the loan. Now,

the escalating interest means she could lose the car and still be deep in debt. Sincell said she's optimistic they'll be able to extricate the woman from the contract.

The \$4,000 that Equal Justice America pays for the 10-week summer fellowships "pales in comparison" to what students could receive working for corporate law firms, Ruben said. But he said students selected for the fellowships have demonstrated a commitment to work on behalf of the poor when they graduate. He hopes EJA is creating "a small army of lawyers" committed to public service either directly or through pro bono work. Ruben was a law student at Pace University when he saw a New York Times article about a similar program at New York University. He decided to start one at his school by seeking donations from faculty members, who understood that "the legal needs of the poor are so compelling."

"They all just whipped out their checkbooks," Ruben said. That made him realize the program could be done on a national level by seeking small contributions from lawyers. The 15-year-old organization has raised about \$9.4 million, mostly by contributions that average about \$125 to \$150. Ruben moved EJA to Midlothian in 2000 and last year started Virginians for Equal Justice. That program works with the state's law schools to place students at Virginia legal service offices. Four Virginia law students have also received fellowships to work at legal services outside the state. EJA also sponsors fall and spring fellowships, and is funding two-year fellowships for law graduates.

As a third-year law student, Sincell has a practice certificate that allows her to work with clients, "but Marcel has to be with me the whole time." There's a big need for the help law students offer, said Slag, with Legal Aid since 1989 "and still very motivated."

Sincell, who's from western Maryland, is one of five UR law students with EJA fellowships. In addition

to the car-title case, she's helping clients who face eviction or loss of government housing subsidies. "It's so rewarding to know you helped someone keep their house," she said. "But on the other hand, it's very heart-wrenching."

Contact Karin Kapsidelis at (804) 649-6119 or kkapsidelis@timesdispatch.com.



**Equal Justice America
Law Student
Fellowships
2007-2008**

List of Fellowships Sponsored by Equal Justice America During Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Law Student Fellowships

Fall 2007/Spring 2008

- Nicole Apel, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Demetrio Aspiras, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Spring
- Maria Barlow, John Marshall Law School, Chicago Legal Clinic, Fall
- Matthew Brown, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Spring
- Matthew Brown, University of Michigan, Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan, Redford, MI, Fall
- Linda Chavez, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall
- Giulia Chiti, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Lanalee DeLos Santos, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Spring
- Caitlin Dorsey, University of Chicago, Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, Chicago, IL, Fall
- Kaitlin Dunne, George Washington University, DC Employment Justice Center, Spring
- Katrina Eiland, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Catherine Evan, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA, Spring
- Paul Figueroa, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Kimberly Fogler, Seton Hall, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Newark, NJ, Fall
- Virginia Foulkrod, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Rosalie Freeman, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA, Spring
- Jessie Freer, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Spring
- Aparna Garg, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA, Fall
- Chad Haes, Southwestern University, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA, Spring
- Matthew Haney, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Angela Higgins, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Jane Hill, Boston College, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Boston, MA, Spring
- Darcy Hirsh, Cardozo School of Law, The Legal Aid Society (Prisoners' Rights Project), New York City, Fall
- Alexis Hoag, New York University, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Fall
- Alvaro Huerta, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Rebecca Hutton, Loyola University Los Angeles, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA, Spring
- Dan Kennedy, Wayne State, Lakeshore Legal Aid, Southfield, MI, Spring
- Laura Lacci, Loyola University Chicago, Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago, IL, Fall/Spring
- James Lee, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Keir LoIacono, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Yara Lomeli-Loibl, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Jorge Loweree, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Fall/Spring
- Robert Magee, Albany Law School, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Spring
- Kevin McGinness, Wayne State University, Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan, Redford, MI, Fall
- Chanjoo Moon, Cardozo School of Law, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Spring
- Kristina Moon, Temple University, Women Against Abuse, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Amy Morgenstern, Stanford Law School, Bay Area Legal Aid, Spring
- Rebecca Moskowitz, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA Spring

- Jordana Mosten, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Alex Moulter, New York University, The Legal Aid Society, New York City, Spring
- Alex Moulter, New York University, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Fall
- Michelle Munoz, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Rahul Munshi, Temple University, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Matthew Murphy, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Spring
- Michelle Parris, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring
- Jazmine Peetz, Loyola University Los Angeles, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Fall
- Sarah Phillips, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall
- Kathy Purnell, DePaul University, Legal Aid of Western Michigan, Fall
- Chris Reyes, New York Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall
- Pamela Ronback, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall/Spring
- Joan Rothenberg, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA, Spring
- Jill Russell, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall
- Lauren Schrero, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall/Spring
- Andrea Tawil, Wayne State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall
- Elliott Tucker, Georgetown University, DC Employment Justice Center, Spring
- Michael Turilli, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA, Fall
- Robert Vanderbles, Albany Law School, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Spring
- Lindsay VanGilder, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Fall
- Benjamin Wells, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall/Spring
- Peng Wu, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Service Corporation A, Spring
- Stephanos Zannikos, New York Law School, National Center for Law and Economic Justice, New York City, Fall

Law Student Fellowships Summer 2008

- Anne Abramowitz, Boalt Hall, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Susan Abrams, Northwestern University, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Elisabeth Auwers, Michigan State, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Suneet (Nectu) Bawa, Hastings College of Law, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Stephen Berge, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Jonathan Bialosky, George Washington University, Migrant Legal Action Program, Washington, DC
- Andrew Bingham, University of Pennsylvania, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Christina Black, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA
- Emily Blumberg, Harvard Law School, The Legal Aid Society, New York City
- Jonathan Bobell, University of Illinois, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Spencer Bolander, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, Norfolk, VA
- Benjamin Botts, Boalt Hall, The Legal Aid Society, San Francisco, CA
- Samika Boyd, Boalt Hall, New Orleans Legal Assistance
- Brandon Brazil, Hastings College of Law, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Caroline Bredeson, Harvard Law School, Minnesota Legal Services Coalition
- Evelyn Breithaupt, Harvard Law School, Student Hurricane Network, New Orleans, LA
- Joseph Briggett, Tulane Law School, Advocacy Center of Louisiana
- Richard Brodt, St. John's University, Law Students in Action Project, Legal Assistance of Western New York

- Kathryn Brown, UCLA, Mental Health Advocacy Project, San Jose, CA
- Matthew Brown, University of Michigan, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, St. Paul, MN
- Andres Caballero, University of Texas, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Courtney Campbell, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Mario Cascante, Michigan State, Farmworker Legal Services, Bangor, MI
- Gillian Chadwick, American University, DC Employment Justice Center
- Elizabeth Chase, Loyola University Chicago, Office of the Cook County Public Guardian
- Sean Chen, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Nicole Churchill, Loyola University Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Mariedy Collazo, University of Connecticut, Center for Children's Advocacy, Hartford, CT
- Jeffrey Constantinos, Georgetown University, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Washington, DC
- Ari Craig, Regent University, Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, Norfolk, VA
- Erin Crowgey, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Kyle Dandeleit, University of Pennsylvania, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Melinda Douros, Appalachian School of Law, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
- Alison Downs, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Peter Dupont, New York University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Tracy Ebanks, Harvard Law School, The Door's Legal Services Center, New York City
- Margaret Egan, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Joseph Ferrentino, University of Michigan, Lambda Legal, Chicago, IL
- Noga Firstenberg, Harvard Law School, Bay Area Legal Aid
- Kyle Flanagan, University of Wisconsin, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
- Carl Forbes, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Lea Francisco, Santa Clara University, Neighborhood Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Valerie Gaimon, University of Colorado, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Marisol Gallegos, DePaul University, National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago, IL
- Amy Gjesdahl, Loyola University Chicago, Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, Chicago
- Daniel Gold-Kessler, Michigan State, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- Elysa Goldberg, Fordham University, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Elisa Gomez, Wayne State University, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Martha Gomez, UCLA, Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, Los Angeles, CA
- Jenna Grambort, Boalt Hall, Bay Area Legal Aid, San Mateo, CA
- Troy Green, Regent University, Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, Norfolk, VA
- Daniel Grossman, University of Michigan, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Britanie Hall, Harvard Law School, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Daniel Hall, Boston College, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Jamaica Plain, MA
- Katrice Hall, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Andrew Hanlin, William & Mary, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Angel Harris, Georgetown University, Legal Aid Society of DC
- Ashley Hart, Hastings College of Law, HomeBase, San Francisco, CA
- Brandon Hart, Northwestern University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Megan Hay, William & Mary, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC

- Pepper Hayes, Boston University, Casa Myrna Vazquez, Boston, MA
- Richard Hayes, University of the District of Columbia, UDC's Community Development Clinic
- Jean-Margaret Hernandez, Southwestern University, Disability Rights Legal Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Whitney Hill, University of Texas, Advocacy Inc, Austin, TX
- Karen Ho, UCLA, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Harriet Hoder, Boston College, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Atteeyah Hollie, Santa Clara University, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Samantha Howell, Albany Law School, Empire Justice Center, Albany, NY
- William Hughes, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Kara Hurvitz, Boston College, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Matthew Ilacqua, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jessica Jackson, Appalachian School of Law, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
- Agnetha Jacob, Cornell Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Benjamin Jacobs, Harvard Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Celine Janelle, Northwestern University, Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Florence, AZ
- Anne Jenkins, University of Richmond, Rappahannock Legal Services, Culpeper, VA
- Raegan Joern, Hastings College of Law, The Hawkins Center, Richmond, CA
- Abbie Johnson, University of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, Denver, CO
- Elizabeth Jordan, American University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Lindsey Kaczmarek, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Vanessa Keasler, University of Richmond, Blue Ridge Legal Services, Harrisonburg, VA
- Sakinah Khan, UCLA, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Frances Kim, University of Michigan, Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA
- Kevin Kim, New York University, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Sarah Kirberg, DePaul University, Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic
- Andrew Kleinfeld, University of Pennsylvania, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Rachel Kling, Boston College, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Rebecca Koford, Georgetown University, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Stephanie Kolmar, University of Texas, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, TX
- Anna Krieger, Boalt Hall, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Jan Kubicki-Mensz, University of Michigan, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Amanda Lavin, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Caroline Lee, George Washington University, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs
- Kathryn Legomsky, Harvard Law School, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Benjamin Litchfield, Cornell Law School, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
- Stephanie Little, University of Michigan, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Jordan Long, University of Michigan, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Brooke Longon, University of Texas, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Homero Lopez, Tulane Law School, New Orleans Legal Assistance
- Ruth Lopez, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

- Jorge Loweree, University of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, Westminster, CO
- Maja Lukic, Cornell Law School, Disability Rights Legal Center (Cancer Legal Resource Center), Los Angeles
- Melanie Macey, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Jared Make, New York University, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Jacquelyn Mancini, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Christine Mandell, University of Virginia, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Isley Markman, Harvard Law School, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Trudy Martin, University of Wisconsin, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington DC
- Marissa McKeever, Harvard Law School, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Kiran Mehta, Loyola University Chicago, Office of the Cook County Public Guardian
- Hilda Montes De Oca, UCLA, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Ashley Moore, Harvard Law School, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA
- Shannon Moore-Langston, Brooklyn Law School, Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana
- Anna Moss, University of Illinois, Legal Aid of Western Michigan
- Kimberly Moss, University of Texas, Advocacy Inc, Austin, TX
- Israel Moya, University of Michigan, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Samantha Munro, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Unemployment Project
- Warren Myers, University of Colorado, Immigrant Legal Center, Boulder, CO
- Samira Nazem, University of Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Dena Neunzig, University of Miami, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, Charlotte, NC
- Anna Nguyen, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Steven Nigh, Georgetown University, Archdiocesan Legal Network, Washington, DC
- Dalisai Nisperos, University of Pennsylvania, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA
- Keith Ogden, Hastings College of Law, Bay Area Legal Aid
- Laura Openshaw, Harvard Law School, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Blake Ostrow, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Unemployment Project
- Adam Panopoulos, Cardozo School of Law, Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Rochester, NY
- Michael Pantina, St. John's University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Meryl Phipps, Cornell Law School, Citizens Concerned for Children, Ithaca, NY
- Nicole Poland, George Washington University, University Legal Services, Washington, DC
- Nicole Pszczolkowski, George Mason University, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Washington, DC
- Sarah Purce, American University, Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA
- Claire Radon, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia VIP
- Rose Rivera, DePaul University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Michelle Rose, Howard University, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Alexa Rosenbloom, New York University, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Gina Rozman, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Liam Ryan, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Brandon Saunders, University of Michigan, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI
- Stephanie Schimkowitz, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Lauren Seffel, Harvard Law School, Victim Rights Law Center, Boston, MA

- Crystal Shin, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Julian Treves Sigal, Southwestern University, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Miriam Sincell, University of Richmond, Legal Aid Justice Center, Richmond, VA
- Anna Skiba-Crafts, University of Michigan, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- David Smith, University of Virginia, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA
- Chava Spivak-Birndorf, Columbia University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Shwetha Srinivasan, Temple University, Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Noreen Stackhouse, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Kelley Stieler, Washington and Lee University, Legal Aid Society, Washington, DC
- Jacob Stone, Boston University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Daniel Sullivan, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Jennafer Tallant, Appalachian School of Law, Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, Norfolk, VA
- Anna Testa, Loyola University Chicago, Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago
- Matthew Throop, University of the District of Columbia, UDC's Juvenile and Special Educational Clinic
- Jonathan Tucker, Georgetown University, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Nick Urban, University of Pennsylvania, Affordable Housing Advocates, San Diego, CA
- Rebecca Vallas, University of Virginia, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Julie Verratti, Catholic University, National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA), Washington, DC
- Kristen Wagner, Pace University, Northern Virginia Family Service, Falls Church, VA
- Karen Wallace, Southwestern University, Mental Health Advocacy Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Kyle Wamstad, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Peter Wang, UCLA, Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Deborah Wassel, Fordham University, inMotion, Bronx, NY
- Ailla Wasstrom-Welz, University of Connecticut, Connecticut Legal Services
- Lauren Weiser, University of Texas, Advocacy Inc, Austin, TX
- Christian Williams, Cornell Law School, Youth Advocacy Project, Roxbury, MA
- Amanda Wittenstein, Harvard Law School, Lawyers for Children, New York City
- Sherra Wong, American University, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Washington, DC
- Jeff Woodworth, Harvard Law School, Colorado Legal Services
- Leopoldo Yanez, New York University, DC Employment Justice Center
- Michael Zabelin, Harvard Law School, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago



**Legal Services
Programs Where
EJA has Sponsored
Law Student
Fellowships**

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
- Affordable Housing Advocates, San Diego, CA
- 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
- Archdiocesan Legal Network, Washington, DC
- 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
- Bluhm Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL
- 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
- Casa Myrna Vazquez, Boston, MA
- Catholic Charities Community Services, New York, NY
- Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Washington, DC
- Center for Arkansas Legal Services
- Center for Children's Advocacy, Hartford, CT
- 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
- Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI
- 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
- Citizens Concerned for Children, Ithaca, NY
- 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
- Connecticut Legal Services
- 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

- Empire Justice Center, Albany, NY
- 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, Bangor, MI
- Farmworker Legal Services of New York
- Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Florence, AZ
- 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
- The Hawkins Center, Richmond, CA
- Health Law Advocates, Boston, MA
- HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Los Angeles, CA
- HomeBase, San Francisco, 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 Center, Boulder, CO
- Immigrant Legal Resources Center, San Francisco, CA
- Immigration Counseling Service, Portland, OR
- inMotion, Bronx, NY
- International Institute of the East Bay, Oakland, CA
- Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, FL
- Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana
- 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
- Lambda Legal, Chicago, IL
- 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 Better Housing, Chicago, IL
- 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/Petersburg/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 Michigan
- 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 Eastern Virginia, Norfolk, VA
- 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 of Western New York
- 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
- Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, Charlotte, NC
- Lifespan Legal Services, Chicago, IL
- Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
- Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services
- Lutheran Family and Community Services, New York, NY
- Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
- Make the Road by Walking, Brooklyn, NY
- 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
- Mental Health Advocacy Services, Los Angeles, 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
- Minnesota Legal Services Coalition
- 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
- National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago, IL
- National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA), Washington, DC

- 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
- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- North Carolina Justice Center
- North State Legal Services, Hillsborough, NC
- Northern Virginia Family Service, Falls Church, VA
- 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
- Philadelphia Unemployment Project
- Philadelphia VIP
- 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, Culpeper/Fredericksburg/Tappahannock, VA
- Regional Housing Legal Services, Glenside, PA
- Rhode Island Legal Aid Bureau
- Rocky Mountain Children's Justice Center, Denver, CO
- Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, Westminster, CO
- Rocky Mountain Survivors 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
- South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, TX
- Southeast Texas Legal Clinic
- Southern Migrant Legal Services, Nashville, TN
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
- Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
- STAND! Against Domestic Violence (formerly Batter Women's Alternatives)
- Stanford Community Law Clinic, East Palo Alto, CA
- Student Hurricane Network, New Orleans, LA
- 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
- University of the District of Columbia's Community Development Clinic
- University of the District of Columbia's Juvenile and Special Educational Clinic
- University Legal Services, Washington, DC
- 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 Advocacy Project, Roxbury, MA
- Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA



Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic

Annual Report 2007-2008

*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 2007 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 Ms. 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 2007-2008

Section 2



GREATER BOSTON
LEGAL SERVICES

...and justice for all

October 28, 2008

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

Dear Dan,

On behalf of Greater Boston Legal Services, I congratulate Equal Justice America on 15 years of extraordinary service, and thank you for your reliable support to our clients. Both the staff and clients of GBLS have benefited from the large number of fellowship recipients you have funded over the past several years. In fact, of all student funding organizations, EJA has been the organization to finance the most students at GBLS.

In the last 12 months, GBLS has given assistance to over 15,300 clients. The work of EJA fellows has been critical in being able to serve this number of low-income people, especially as their needs have increased since the recent foreclosure crisis and economic downturn. I wish to express on behalf of all of us how grateful GBLS is for the assistance of these intelligent, skilled law students.

Not only does the support of EJA benefit GBLS, but it also gives students the opportunity to have concrete experience with legal work that makes a real difference in the Boston community. Thanks to EJA, idealistic students who would not otherwise be able to afford to volunteer their time can gain valuable experience in poverty law. These students often go on to pursue a career in public interest law, and continue to make a difference in the lives of the poor.

Thank you again, Dan, for Equal Justice America's support for these students, as well as for 15 years of exceptional service. I look forward to our continued relationship in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Robert Sable
Executive Director

BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES CORP. A
The primary provider of free legal services to low income clients
throughout North and East Brooklyn

Chairman of the Board
Valarie Hing, Esq.

Project Director & Chief Counsel
Martin S. Needelman, Esq.

General Counsel
Paul J. Acinapura, Esq.

From the desk of:

Richard J. Wagner, Esq.
Director of Litigation
80 Jamaica Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207
(718) 487-1300 (ext. 0862)
Fax: (718) 487-0863
Cell: (917) 449-1300
Email: rwagner@bka.org

October 27, 2008

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

Dear Dan:

In EJA's 15th Anniversary year, when the American public is learning such unfamiliar terms as "subprime" mortgage, credit default swap, and debt securitization, the one word that has hit home the hardest is "meltdown". The mortgage and credit market meltdown has not only had catastrophic effects on our client community, which was one of the first and hardest hit by the tidal wave of mortgage foreclosures, but it has also had dramatic effects on our ability to provide legal services to a growing number of low-income homeowners facing foreclosure, while continuing to carry out the daunting task we have of providing legal representation to tenants, seniors, the disabled, victims of abuse, and elderly clients all facing their own legal challenges .

Because City and State support for civil legal services has dwindled to a trickle as the result of budgetary constraints arising from the meltdown, EJA looms even larger in our plans to maintain our services at the highest level possible. As I have had occasion to tell you over the last 15 years, we have discovered that law student interns possess a capability to assist clients far beyond what many traditional law firms would ever have guessed. We discovered this not out of insight, but out of necessity, and ever since we began using EJA funded interns, we have consistently increased the level of responsibility we assign to them. While I have often been surprised by their capacities, I have never been disappointed.

Now more than ever, we are looking to EJA to provide us with the largest number of interns it can possibly afford. We see them as "virtual" lawyers, and involve them, under our supervision, in every aspect of client representation including advocacy in court whenever it is permitted. My hope is that going forward we will be able to have one intern for each case

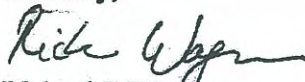
To: Dan Ruben

Page 2

handling attorney in our office. The demand for our services, which is growing exponentially, is dictated by factors outside our control. Our ability to *meet* that demand will be dictated by EJA's ability to support us with a corresponding increase in our allotment of student interns.

The support that EJA has already provided to our office, and to the community of 375,000 income-eligible people which we serve, cannot be easily measured or fully comprehended. Suffice it to say, however, that I can scarcely imagine the scope of human suffering and loss that has been avoided because of the splendid efforts of our EJA-supported interns. Keep 'em coming, Dan.

Sincerely,

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

Richard J. Wagner
Director of Litigation

LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN

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

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

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

October 1, 2008

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

Dear Dan,

I am writing to congratulate Equal Justice America on the occasion of its 15th anniversary. Your outstanding fellowship program has been putting students from a number of law schools to work both during the school year and in the summer at Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM).

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

While a 15th anniversary is a significant milestone for any non-profit, I'm especially gratified to see EJA's growth— both because your mission is so aligned with our organizational interests and because of the collaborative, flexible interactions we've always enjoyed with EJA. As you know, LSSCM was one of EJA's "founding partners"— I still remember our conversations about the program when you were first developing the idea. It's amazing to see the growth of EJA from a concept to a real program providing public interest law placements to over 200 students a year.

I'd like to congratulate EJA on its 15th anniversary. We thank you for 15 years of support and look forward to continuing the successful relationship we've established.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert F. Gillett
Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JONATHAN ANSCHELL
CBS Television
RAND S. APRIL**
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
JAMES R. ASPERGER
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
JAMIE BRODER
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
RICHARD J. BURDGE, JR.
Hourvey LLP
MORGAN CHU*
Irell & Manella LLP
DANIEL CLIVNER*
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
PHILIP E. COOK
James Day
CORY COPELAND
LexisNexis
DYAN A. DECKER
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
MARK H. EPSTEIN*
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
GREGORY EVANS
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP
MICHAEL J. FINNEGAN
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
WILLIAM FLUMENBAUM
The Capital Group Companies, Inc.
BRUCE A. FRIEDMAN
Bingham McCutchen LLP
KARLENE GOLLER**
Los Angeles Times
JAMES GORTON*
Latham & Watkins LLP
CAROLE E. HANGLER
Foley & Lardner LLP
DAN HATCH
Major, Lindsey & Africa
MATTHEW T. HEARTNEY*
Arnold & Porter LLP
MELISSA D. INGALLS
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
DAVID G. JOHNSON**
Investor
SHERRILL JOHNSON
City National Bank
PETER J. KENNEDY
Reed Smith LLP
EDWARD P. LAZARUS
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
JEROME L. LEVINE
Holland & Knight LLP
BJORN L. MALMLUND
FTI Consulting, Inc.
MARC MARMARO**
Jeffer, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro LLP
MARTIN R. MELONE
ROBERT A. MEYER
Loeb & Loeb LLP
THEODORE N. MILLER*
Staley Austin LLP
CHRISTOPHER A. MURPHY*
DIRECTV
RONALD J. NESSIM
Bird, Marella, Baxter, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks & Lincenberg
THOMAS J. NOLAN
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
DAVID E. NOLTE
Fiduram Inquiry
KENNETH W. ODER**
NEIL R. O'HANLON
Hogan & Hartson LLP
WILLIAM W. OXLEY
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
LAURA R. PETROFF
Winston & Strawn LLP
BARRY PORTER
Clarity Partners
ANTHONY L. PRESS
Morrison & Foerster LLP
WILLIAM T. QUICKSILVER
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
IRENA RASKIN
Law Offices of Irena Raskin
PHILIP R. RECHT
Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP
RICK R. ROTHMAN
Bingham McCutchen LLP
JACK H. RUBENS
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
THEODORE A. RUSSELL
Fox Entertainment Group, Inc.
ALLAN L. SCHARE
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
ROBERT L. SCHUCHARD
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
DAVID L. SCHRADER
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
JEFF E. SCOTT
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
ROBERT F. SCOUALAR*
Sommerstein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
ROMAN M. SILBERFELD**
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P.
PATRICIA SINCLAIR
Plym Vesta
DARRYL SNIDER
Heller Ehrman LLP
MICHAEL S. SPINDLER
Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP
MICHAEL H. STEINBERG
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
BRIAN R. STRANGE*
Strange & Carpenter
RANDALL J. SUNSHINE
Liner, Yankelentz, Sunshine & Regenstreif LLP
DAVID A. SWARTZ
Arden Realty, Inc.
PAUL W. SWEENEY, JR.
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP
GAIL MIGDAL TITLE*
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
FELIX A. URENA, JR.
The Citi Private Bank - Law Firm Group
MARK S. WALLACE
Stutman, Treister & Glatt
ROBERT S. WOLFE
Consumer Trusts Fund
TRAVERS D. WOOD
White & Case LLP
KENNETH ZIFFREN
Ziffren, Brittenham, Branca & Fischer et al
DAPHNA EDWARDS ZIMAN
Edwards Entertainment, Intl.
** Executive Committee Member
* Past Chairperson



THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW OFFICE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND BEVERLY HILLS BAR ASSOCIATIONS
The Southern California Affiliate of The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

October 28, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

On behalf of Public Counsel and its clients, I am writing to express our heartfelt congratulations to Equal Justice America on its 15th anniversary.

Thanks to your steadfast support over these many years, Public Counsel has been extremely fortunate to have worked with 36 amazing summer law interns from around the country. The incredible talent, creativity, and passion of these law interns has moved mountains - from coordinating dozens of law firms to provide advocacy for the homeless at DPSS offices, to assisting battered women in asylum claims, to facilitating hundreds of adoptions out of foster care, to providing legal assistance to countless homeowners facing foreclosure as a result of fraud.

It is the great privilege of our work to encounter exceptional students who are not only gifted and talented, but whose character is the bedrock for transforming our profession to be more responsible and responsive to the needs of our community. Because of the vision and leadership of Equal Justice America, Public Counsel's work continues to be reinvigorated by the idealism and energy of tomorrow's civil rights leaders.

Thank you, again, for contributing in such a significant way to the effectiveness and growth of our work. Congratulations on your significant milestone, and we look forward to many more years of continued partnership!

Warmest regards,

Very truly yours,

Hernán Vera
President & CEO

Handwritten note: Dan - Thank you again for your tremendous support!

Very truly yours,

Paul Freese, Jr.
Director of Litigation & Advocacy

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD
WAYNE M. BARSKY*
Chairperson
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
MARTIN S. ZOHN*
Vice Chairperson
Frostkauer Rose LLP
STEPHEN E. PICKETT*
Secretary
Southern California Edison
MARTHA B. JORDAN*
Treasurer
Latham & Watkins LLP
HERNÁN D. VERA
President/CEO



LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION
OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

111 West Jackson Boulevard
Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3528
312.341.1070 Phone
312.341.1041 Fax
(866) 801-0505 TTY
User name: lafmcgo
www.lafchicago.org

Diana C. White
Executive Director

Alan Alop
Jack L. Block
Deputy Directors

General Intake Offices

CENTRAL INTAKE
111 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 341-1070
TDD: (866) 801-0505
FAX: (312) 341-1041

NORTH SUBURBAN OFFICE
828 Davis Street, Rm. 201
Evanston, IL 60201-4489
(847) 475-3703
FAX: (847) 475-3033

NORTHWEST OFFICE
1279 N. Milwaukee Ave., #407
Chicago, IL 60622-2253
(773) 572-3200
FAX: (773) 572-3201

SOUTH SIDE OFFICE
10 West 35th Street
Chicago, IL 60616-3717
(312) 949-5390
FAX: (312) 949-0481

SOUTH SUBURBAN OFFICE
900 East 162nd Street
South Holland, IL 60473-2471
(708) 271-4950

WEST SIDE OFFICE
3333 West Arthington
Chicago, IL 60624-4102
(773) 321-7900
FAX: (773) 638-0036
Residents of West Suburban
Cook County should call
(773) 321-7900

Special Projects

Bankruptcy Project
Chicago Seniors Project
Children's Law
Consumer Law
Crime Victims Assistance
(773) 638-4111
Disability Law
Expungement Project
Family Law/Domestic Violence
(312) 431-2255
Federal District Court Assistance
For Pro Se Litigants
Federal Court Bankruptcy
Health Project
HIV/AIDS Project
(312) 347-8309
Home Ownership Preservation
(312) 431-2204
Housing Project
Illinois Migrant Legal Assistance
(800) 445-9025 (toll-free)
Legal Center for Immigrants
(312) 341-9617
Long Term Care Ombudsman for
Suburban Cook and Lake Counties
(888) 401-8200 (toll-free)
Medical Debt Relief
(312) 431-2118
Private Attorney Involvement
Pro Se Divorce Clinic
(312) 431-2101
Public Benefits Hotline
(888) 893-5327
SSI Advocacy Project
Veterans' Rights

312.347.8365

December 23, 2008

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
13540 E. Boundary Rd., Bldg. II - Ste. 204
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Dan:

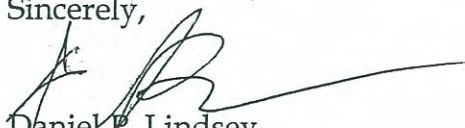
Congratulations to Equal Justice America on 15 great years of work! Please accept my heartfelt thank you for yet another successful year of supporting a crop of outstanding summer interns here at LAF.

As they've done for many years, our EJA-funded interns worked in a number of different LAF offices — this year, in four of our general intake (neighborhood) offices and five of our special (downtown) projects (Children's Law, Veteran's Rights, Disability, Immigration, and Migrant). To an intern, they were excellent. EJA Fellowships offer invaluable hands-on legal services experience for the students and provide us with invaluable legal work. We are always "down" staff in the summer and literally could not maintain our caseload without these great interns, who fill holes in client intake, legal research, discovery, court coverage, and administrative advocacy.

Given the assignments taken on by this year's interns, they collectively defended the rights of our clients to the most basic goods imaginable—their homes, families, wages, benefits, and residency.

Thanks again for EJA's many years of generous support. We look forward to another great summer in 2009!

Sincerely,


Daniel P. Lindsey
Supervisory Attorney



**Letters from Equal
Justice America
Fellowship Recipients**

Annual Report 2007-2008

Section 3

August 31, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

First, thank you so much for awarding me an Equal Justice America Fellowship, which allowed me to work as a summer law clerk in the Homelessness Prevention Law Project (HPLP) at Public Counsel Law Center this past summer. Without such funding, I probably would not have been able to take a public interest internship.

I had an absolutely wonderful summer at Public Counsel. As an HPLP summer law clerk, I assisted impoverished and homeless individuals attain shelter, food, health, transportation, and social services. In particular, I served as a trainer and supervisor for Public Counsel's General Relief Advocacy Program (GRAP), managing and assisting volunteer law students in their advocacy efforts at Los Angeles Department of Social Services offices. Each day brought untold challenges and triumphs to my fellow HPLP interns and I. By the end of the summer, we all had countless stories of individuals we had been able to help through our intense advocacy efforts. Clients would come to us because they were having difficulty navigating the complex rules surrounding the General Relief and Food Stamp programs, and we would work with them to ensure they received all the benefits to which they were entitled. Our successes were both exhilarating as well as frustrating. It was always very rewarding for me to successfully help a client. However, it was always a bit startling to me that many times we were able to achieve results in just one afternoon, while the clients had been trying for days, weeks, or even months.

This is why I strongly believe in the work that organizations do, such as Public Counsel, for the less fortunate members of our communities. We must ensure that information and power inequalities be remedied through strong advocacy and legal representation for those who cannot provide it for themselves, and I am grateful that organizations such as yours allow law students to make a difference and participate in these efforts. I cannot think of a more worthwhile manner in which to have spent my summer than helping poor people attain the benefits and resources necessary in order to ensure their survival. Thank you again for making this experience possible for me.

Sincerely,

Karen Ho
UCLA School of Law
Class of 2010

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

August 20, 2008

Dear Mr. Ruben:

As a legal intern this summer with the Juvenile Rights Practice of the Legal Aid Society of New York, I had the opportunity to assist attorneys with all aspects of representing children in delinquency and child protective proceedings. Through interviewing our clients, conducting visits to their homes, referring them to appropriate services, drafting motions on their behalf, and talking with their family members, I witnessed the significant impact that good legal representation can have on the lives of our young clients. Equal Justice America enabled me to contribute to the positive impact that the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice has on its clients and to discover my passion for providing legal services to young people.

One of the most satisfying and invigorating parts of my internship was interviewing our clients and preparing them for their court appearances. Often, I was the first person to contact them and explain what was going to happen. I listened to their stories and learned about their lives and the choices, both good and bad, that they had made. Many clients asked if I would be in the courtroom with them, and I always reassured them that I would be sitting right behind them. Even when my clients did not ask me, I sat in during their appearances and hearings. Once I met a client, I became invested in him or her and viewed my presence as part of my advocacy. I very much valued the relationships that I was able to build with our clients through interviewing them, calling to check in on their progress, and talking again on subsequent court dates.

During the second week of my internship, I went to visit a twenty-year-old client with severe developmental disabilities who was about to age out of foster care; her foster care agency was behind in planning for her next living arrangement. Being able to visit her in her foster home was crucial to our successful legal advocacy on her behalf. Because she was in an environment where she felt comfortable talking honestly and freely, she told us what she wanted to happen once she turned twenty-one. We were then able to negotiate with her caseworker and her foster care agency to create a plan acceptable to her. I felt honored to make her voice heard and ensure that her future plans accorded with her desires.

Amidst the constant cycling between emotional highs and lows in the courtrooms, I found success in small victories: discovering that a reticent client will talk enthusiastically about dancing, learning that a mother no longer wanted to continue a case against her daughter, connecting a client with a program that provides counseling. These triumphs fueled me

when our clients' circumstances were challenging or when I bore the brunt of people's frustrations with the court system. Together, the successes and challenges of my work this summer fueled my desire to continue working on behalf of children and youth.

I want to thank you and Equal Justice America for making possible my internship this summer with the Juvenile Rights Practice of the Legal Aid Society of New York. My experiences there -- serving clients on a daily basis, supporting children and families, and assisting in the legal representation of some of society's most vulnerable members -- reminded me why I chose to go to law school and confirmed my commitment to practicing public interest law upon graduation. The support I received from Equal Justice America enabled me to spend my summer with the Legal Aid Society, and I will be forever grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Blumberg

Harvard Law School
Class of 2010

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

Mr. Ruben:

I would like to thank Equal Justice America for granting me a fellowship this summer at the Legal Aid Justice Center. I had a wonderful experience with this organization and would recommend it to anyone. As soon as I began working with LAJC, my supervisors gave me real life tasks, such as writing and filing pleadings, which introduced me to Virginia's civil procedure. Most of these duties were in relation to Housing cases, two of which I represented, having my third year practice certificate and authorization from the General District Court of Richmond City. Both clients were in danger of losing their housing, and my supervisors helped me to save both from that fate. It was wonderful to get to know the clients and have the responsibility and reward of securing their rights.

Most other clients with whom I interacted had situations that required only advice, and, under supervision, I worked with them through their issues. I accompanied one of these clients through the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's voucher program, learning much of the process myself while guaranteeing that she was provided with appropriate services. Her case is still continuing, but it seems promising that she'll be able to leave a debilitating apartment and neighborhood and move into a clean townhouse that suits her disability needs.

Otherwise, I helped the JustChildren program at LAJC by researching education issues and attending conferences on new standards for schools and alternative schools. I learned much about the interaction between school discipline and access to education, especially from some clients' situations. I hope to pursue this topic in the future, as I strongly believe in the need for educating all people.

Finally, I attended neighborhood meetings concerning the City's plan to change the layout or particular areas. I was proud to hear some comments by the residents, who are willing to stand and take action to protect their rights. Yet, these meetings also

provided a dose of reality, teaching me the dedication and cooperation one must pursue in order to lead such a group. I plan to research the issues discussed at these meetings, because I have a passion, enhanced by my fellowship experience, to aid people in poverty however possible.

The staff at the Legal Aid Justice Center is made of some of the most amazing and impassioned people I have ever worked with; it was wonderful to be surrounded by others who have similar goals and such a fire to aid underprivileged people. Again, thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Miriam R. Sincell
T.C. Williams School of Law
University of Richmond
Graduation May 2009

September 9, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to thank Equal Justice America for giving me the opportunity to work at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago by awarding me a Law Student Fellowship for the summer of 2008.

At LAF, I was given the opportunity to work on cases at all stages of legal aid process, right from the initial intake interview all the way through discovery and trial. I worked on all sorts of different kinds of cases including divorce, custody, immigration, eviction, credit collection, public aid, foreclosures, car repossessions, and more. I did intake interviews and attended case acceptance meetings to make the initial decisions about whether or not we would take a case. I drafted divorce petitions, discovery responses and requests, and pleadings during the court process. I spoke with clients to let them know how their cases were going and met with them to get the information necessary for petitions and affidavits. I went with attorneys to court to follow the status of client's cases. I saw depositions, wrote abstracts, and did legal research and writing to support motions. It was a great experience which really threw me fully in to the litigation process in a way that law school only barely began to prepare me for.

During the summer I worked on one case in particular that was very inspirational for me. I worked on one divorce case for a client who had suffered severe emotional and physical abuse from her husband. She was an undocumented immigrant who was scared to leave her husband for fear she would be deported. I helped her file for divorce and

apply for legal status in the United States through the Violence Against Women Act. Thanks to our work, she would be able to gain permanent residency. Over the weeks I worked with her, I saw her grow more confident and cheerful as she saw her future open up. Now she is going back to school and seems committed to taking charge of her life.

Other cases also stand out in my mind. I helped two families stay in their apartments and keep their housing subsidies when they were at risk of becoming homeless. I helped a mother file a divorce petition against a husband who had sexually assaulted their young child. I helped a disabled woman fight an SSI termination based on a mistake of identity. Several other cases I worked on will still continue on even after I leave LAF, but I can leave confident that I made a difference and helped do what I could to assist the clients. All too many times unscrupulous landlords, employees, creditors, and other entities try to take advantage of those who are less educated, less well off, and less able to fend for themselves. This is why the work we do at LAF is so important; it allows these individuals to stand up for a change. I found my experiences at LAF challenging at times, but rewarding much more often than not. I leave this summer much more committed to a career in public service than ever before.

Sincerely,

Samira Nazem
University of Chicago

August 30, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to Equal Justice America for funding my summer at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. This was an invaluable experience and will most certainly aid me in my future endeavors. My work at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau has provided me with a better understanding of the practice of law in general, and an in-depth knowledge of what it means to be a public interest lawyer.

This summer, I worked as a student attorney representing indigent clients in the Greater Boston area. Pursuant to Massachusetts SJC Rule 3:30, I was able to appear in civil proceedings under the general supervision of a licensed attorney. Throughout the summer I prepared pleadings, wrote memoranda, took depositions, argued motions, counseled clients and prepared trials.

As I had interest in and experience with both real estate law and landlord-tenant law, I was assigned to the housing division of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. I represented tenants in a wide variety of landlord-tenant disputes, but a majority of my clients were tenants who were being evicted after a bank had acquired title to their apartment building at a post-foreclosure auction.

My work with post-foreclosure evictions was particularly rewarding because Harvard Legal Aid's representation and community outreach has contributed to tangible changes in the banks' practices regarding these post-foreclosure properties. When the "foreclosure crisis" first struck Boston, the banks refused to take responsibility for these properties. They evicted all of the tenants, boarded up the buildings and left them to sit vacant. These vacant buildings rapidly fell into disrepair, attracted squatters and became a haven for criminal activity. Entire neighborhoods were being destroyed and the Boston housing shortage was becoming more pronounced. The tenants who fought the eviction proceedings and remained in the building were forced to endure extreme hardships. The banks often did not assign a manager to the properties, so the tenants had no one to call to facilitate repairs. We had several clients who lived in their apartments for months without heat, water or electricity. Others had to endure severe roach and rodent infestations, sewer back ups and extensive mold problems. After negotiating large settlements for these clients, the banks began to understand that they are entirely responsible for the upkeep of the buildings. The banks have also been reconsidering their belief that evicting the tenants of the foreclosed properties is a necessary business practice. In fact, the banks have recently dismissed their claims for possession in many post-foreclosure cases, thereby allowing the tenants to remain in their homes. Although the "foreclosure crisis" is

far from over, and its after effects are sure to be felt for years to come, progress is being made in Boston. Organizations like Harvard Legal Aid Bureau have had a large role in initiating this progress.

My experiences at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau taught me a great deal about myself, my interests and the practice of law. I have been able to cultivate my talents and develop my skills. Most importantly, I have determined that I am a perfect match for public interest work. Upon graduation, I hope to begin work either as a Sacks Fellow at Harvard Legal Aid Bureau or as a legal services attorney. I am extremely grateful to Equal Justice America for allowing me to pursue my interests this summer, and I thank the organization for assisting me in embarking on my career in public interest law.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Little
The University of Michigan Law School
Juris Doctor expected May 2009



Report of Independent Auditors

Annual Report 2007-2008

Section 4

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2008

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2008

	Page
Report of independent auditors.....	1
Statement of financial position.....	2
Statement of activities.....	3
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, 2008, 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, 2008, 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.



Michael W. Hultzapple, CPA
October 16, 2008

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2008

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 108,708
Contributions receivable	<u>237,200</u>
Total Current Assets	345,908
Property and equipment - at cost (notes 1 and 2)	29,801
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(28,419)</u>
Net property and equipment	1,382
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 347,290</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Grants payable	<u>\$ 345,604</u>
Total Liabilities	345,604
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	1,686
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 347,290</u></u>

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

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2008

Public Support and Revenue		
Public support:		
Contributions	\$ 1,254,636	
Revenue:		
Interest Income	1,875	
Total Public Support and Revenue		\$ 1,256,511
Expenses		
Program services	837,487	
Management and general expenses	175,925	
Fund raising expenses	242,603	
Total Expenses		<u>1,256,015</u>
Expenses in excess of public support and revenue		\$ 496
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		<u>1,190</u>
Net Assets at End of Year		<u><u>\$ 1,686</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, 2008

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Public support and revenue under expenses		\$ 496
Adjustment To Reconcile to Excess Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses		
To net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	\$ 2,157	
Changes In Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
Increase in contributions receivable	(13,922)	
Increase in grants payable	<u>72,000</u>	
Total adjustments		<u>60,235</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>60,731</u>
Net decrease in cash during the year		60,731
Cash at July 1, 2007		<u>47,977</u>
Cash at June 30, 2008		<u><u>\$ 108,708</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, 2008

Program Expenses:	
Grants	\$ 720,947
Program Administration:	
Consulting	1,586
Executive Director's Salary	30,667
Executive Director's Benefits	3,551
Employee Benefits	3,799
Office Rent	5,417
Office Expenses	1,068
Payroll	56,963
Payroll Service	910
Payroll Taxes	8,731
Postage	490
Printing	596
Telephone	2,351
Web Site	411
Total	<u>\$ 837,487</u>
Management and General Expenses:	
Accounting	5,380
Executive Director's Salary	30,667
Executive Director's Benefits	3,551
Bank charges	651
Depreciation	2,157
Employee Benefits	3,799
Employment Ads	1,927
Equipment and Supplies	4,695
Insurance	1,405
Internet	590
Miscellaneous	823
Office Rent	5,417
Office Expenses	3,002
Payroll	94,007
Payroll Service	910
Payroll Taxes	12,422
Postage	981
Printing	1,191
Telephone	2,350
Total	<u>\$ 175,925</u>

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

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended June 30, 2008

Fund Raising Expenses:

Consulting	2,379
Credit Card Fees	15,100
Employee Benefits	3,799
Executive Director's Salary	30,667
Executive Director's Benefits	3,551
Internet	2,882
Mailing List	7,887
Office Rent	5,417
Office Expenses	2,033
Payroll	130,596
Payroll Service	910
Payroll Taxes	16,068
Postage	3,423
Printing	4,169
State Registration Fees	2,743
Telephone	10,979
	<u>\$ 242,603</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, 2008

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, 2008

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	<u>28,616</u>
	29,801
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(28,419)</u>
	<u><u>\$ 1,382</u></u>

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.