



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2008-2009



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA
LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

www.equaljusticeamerica.org

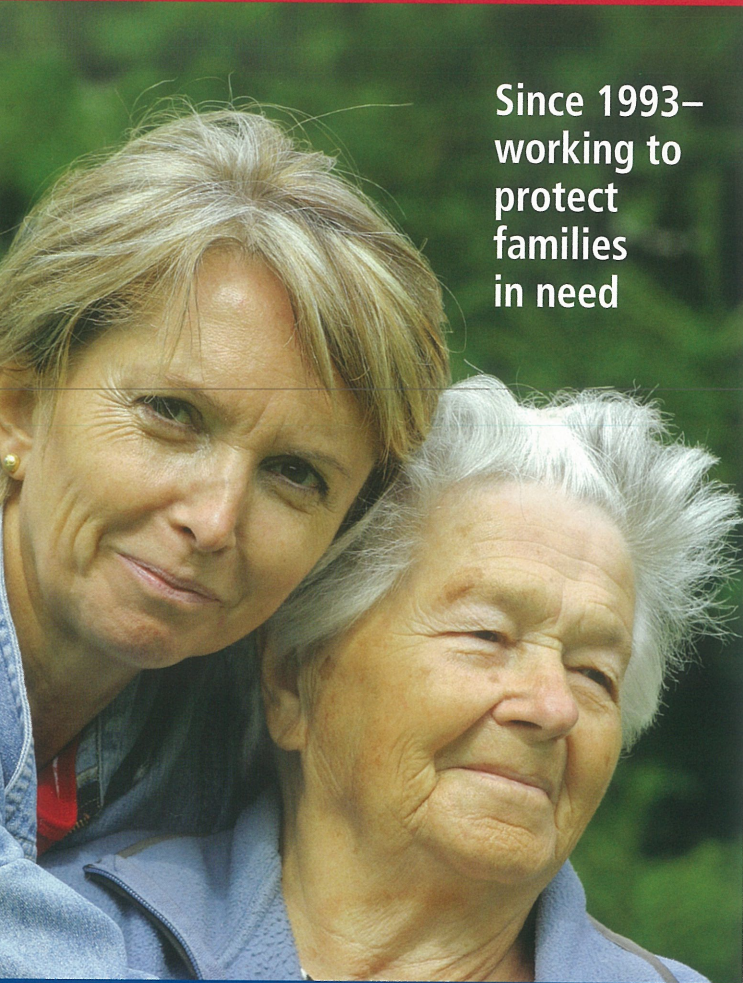


EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT—FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

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Since 1993—
working to
protect
families
in need

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 more than \$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 \$1 million 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.

The promise of equal justice is the promise of America. "With liberty and justice for all," are the words recited every day by our nation's school children. It is a promise that has not been kept.

The American Bar Association estimates that the United States fails to meet 80% of the civil legal needs of the poor. Unlike criminal defendants who are guaranteed an attorney under the U.S. Constitution, most low-income litigants must face adversarial proceedings without the benefit of counsel.

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

—American Bar Association

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

Who We Are

Equal Justice America is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1993. EJA has become a national leader in providing opportunities for law students to work with organizations that deliver civil legal services to the poor. Our efforts expose a new generation of future lawyers to the urgency of pro bono assistance to those in need. Students at more than 70 law schools now have the opportunity to take part in the Equal Justice America Fellowship Program.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

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

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

— Harold Hongju Koh
Dean, Yale Law School

"I can scarcely imagine how we would function without the support of EJA's gifted and dedicated corps of law student interns. It would be impossible to quantify the number of people who have averted eviction, foreclosure, revocation of food stamp, medical or other benefits, escaped from abusive homes, fought back against discrimination and accessed programs providing HIV/AIDS assistance and other life saving help, solely because we had the resources provided by our EJA interns."

— Richard J. Wagner
Director of Litigation
Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. "A"

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

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

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

— Peter H. Meyers
Professor of Clinical Law
The George Washington University Law School

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

— Nancy Keefe
Editor and Columnist
Gannett Newspapers



Virginians for Equal Justice

An article from the
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Lawyer seeks public benefits for Tri-Cities citizens

Published: October 30, 2009

By LUZ LAZO

When citizens are denied public benefits like food stamps or unemployment insurance, they rarely seek legal council, said Geraldine M. Doetzer, the only public-benefits attorney at the Legal Aid Justice Center in Petersburg.

"If they apply and are turned down, they feel that it is something they didn't deserve, so they don't pursue a legal avenue even though they have a right to those benefits," she said. "An attorney could be crucial for them to get the benefits."

Doetzer, a 2008 graduate of the College of William and Mary Law School, started the center's public-benefits law practice in October 2008, as part of a two-year postgraduate fellowship with Equal Justice America.

Since then, the 25-year-old has been helping low-income residents from the Tri-Cities. Cases have included appeals of Medicaid denials, representing people at unemployment hearings and representing a state employee who believes he was wrongfully terminated.

Doetzer said she has found that many people are unaware about the help an attorney can give them to obtain benefits. The Legal Aid Justice Center offers free counsel to individuals, especially those in need because of income, age and disabilities.

Midlothian-based Equal Justice America has in the past three years put 55 law students, mostly from Virginia, to work throughout the state on behalf of the poor, Executive Director Dan Ruben said.

Doetzer's work alone has generated more than \$50,000 in benefits ranging from retroactive food stamps to thousands of dollars in unemployment insurance, he said. She is currently handling about 50 cases, but she said the need in the area is greater.

"Our practice area is home to some of the state's poorest residents, but since at least 2005, there has not been a legal-aid attorney in the area dedicated to providing advice and representation in cases involving public-benefits programs," Doetzer said. "There are a lot of families who could really benefit from additional services."

Contact Luz Lazo at (804) 649-6058 or llazo@timesdispatch.com.



**Equal Justice America
Law Student
Fellowships**

Fellowships Sponsored by Equal Justice America Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Law Student Fellowships Fall 2008/Spring 2009

- Kaitlin Ainsworth, Yale, New Haven Legal Assistance Association TRO Project, Fall
- Zak Aljaludi, Seton Hall, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Fall
- Sameera Ansari, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Suzanne Baidon-Ciobanu, Rutgers University, American Friends Service Committee, Newark, NJ, Fall
- Piotr Banasiak, Seton Hall, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Fall
- Abby Biberman, Temple University, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA, Fall
- Sherrie Block, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Christina Black, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fall
- Christina Black, George Mason University, Potomac Legal Aid Society, Spring
- Deborah Bookwalter, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Zachary Burroughs, George Mason University, Potomac Legal Aid Society, Spring
- Lesley Campbell, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Jonathan Cochran, Yale, New Haven Legal Assistance Association TRO Project, Fall
- Terrance DeRosa, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Renee Erline, Georgetown University, Legal Aid Society of DC, Spring
- Philip Garin, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fall
- Philip Garin, George Mason University, Potomac Legal Aid Society, Spring
- Ilana Gelfman, Yale, New Haven Legal Assistance Association TRO Project, Fall
- Amy Gjesdahl, Loyola University Chicago, Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, Chicago, IL, Fall
- Rosemary Gleason, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Caroline Gross, Yale, New Haven Legal Assistance Association TRO Project, Fall
- Yin Xuan (Lina) Guo, Chicago-Kent, Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, Fall
- Brenda Hernandez, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Evelyn Inya-Agha, Rutgers University, Association for Children of New Jersey, Newark, NJ, Fall
- Frederick Johnson, University of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services, Spring
- Amy Lai, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services, Spring
- Jiang Joseph Lan, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Fall

- Rebecca Lobenherz, Harvard Law School, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Fall
- Anna Lusero, Chicago-Kent, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Fall
- Kathryn MacGregor, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall
- Amanda Marshall, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Rebecca Moskowitz, UCLA, The Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA, Fall
- Edgar Ndjatou, American University, DC Employment Justice Center, Spring
- Nicole Ochi, Loyola University Los Angeles, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Fall
- Sarah O'Farrell, Stanford Law School, Bay Area Legal Aid, Spring
- Anya Pavlov-Shapiro, University of Michigan, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall/Spring
- Julie Pizzey, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Avani Pothiwala, Seton Hall University, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Fall
- Kent Qian, University of Chicago, Sargent Shriver National Center of Poverty Law, Fall/Spring
- Bethany Rasheed, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fall
- Rafael Rosario, Rutgers University, American Friends Service Committee, Newark, NJ, Spring
- Michelle Rose, Howard University, Women Empowered Against Violence, Washington, DC, Spring
- Edmundo Saballos, American University, DC Employment Justice Center, Spring
- Emily Sala, American University, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC, Spring
- Kathryn Scarbrough, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Jacqueline Silva Sanchez, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Fall
- Holly Snow, University of Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Spring
- Emily Stachowicz, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Fall
- Stanley Steele, Pace University, Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic, Fall/Spring
- Erik Stone, Boston University, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Fall/Spring
- Agatha Tan, Georgetown University, DC Employment Justice Center, Fall
- Douglas Wilber, University of Chicago, Chicago Legal Clinic, Spring
- Albert Yang, Stanford Law School, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Spring

**Law Student Fellowships
Summer 2009**

- Meghan Abigail, University of Texas, Catholic Charities Legal Services Division, Dallas, TX
- Heather Abraham, University of Minnesota, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Rocio Alcantar, DePaul University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Alan Alexander, University of Michigan, Michigan Poverty Law Program, Ann Arbor, MI
- Jasmyn Aponte, St. John's University, Manhattan Legal Services, New York City
- Negin Avaregan, UC Hastings College of Law, Bay Area Legal Aid
- Sydney Avery, University of Richmond, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Petersburg, VA
- Joseph Bailey, University of Virginia, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Elizabeth Balassone, UC Hastings College of Law, Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA
- Daniel Baltuch, University of Pennsylvania, AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania
- Crystal Becerra, Santa Clara University, Bay Area Legal Aid
- Christopher Bettis, William and Mary, Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia
- Abby Biberman, Temple University, Legal Services New York City
- Jennifer Black, University of Richmond, The Community Tax Law Project, Richmond, VA
- Andrew Blancato, New York Law School, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Emily Blumberg, Harvard Law School, Advancement Project, Washington, DC
- Bethany Brown, American University, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Washington, DC
- Elliot Buckman, Fordham University, Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT), New York City
- Kelsey Bundy, Boston College, Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project, Boston, MA
- Elizabeth Carlson, New York University, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, New York City
- Marina Castillo, University of Connecticut, Center for Children's Advocacy, Hartford, CT
- Andres Cerritos, University of Wisconsin, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Kristina Cerrone, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- Alexis Chmell, DePaul University, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Julie Choi, UC Hastings College of Law, Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA

- Jessica Chiu, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Andrea Clisura, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Evelyn Cobos, Northwestern University, South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice, Miami, FL
- Jennifer Coco, DePaul University, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Jessica Cohen, University of Texas, Texas Advocacy Project, Austin, TX
- Everett (Rocky) Collis, George Washington University, Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC
- F. Mara Come, American University, Legal Aid Society, Washington, DC
- Aaron Cook, Washington and Lee University, Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke, VA
- Daimeon Cotton, Wayne State University, Michigan Poverty Law Program
- Erin Cox, Boston College, Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project
- Sophie Coy, George Mason University, Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Gregory Crespo, George Washington University, Farmworker Legal Services, Bangor, MI
- Gail Deady, Washington and Lee University, Rappahannock Legal Services, Culpeper, VA
- Judith del Cuadro-Zimmerman, American University, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Drew Curle, University of Illinois, Chicago Legal Clinic
- Kadija Deen, Temple University, Michigan Poverty Law Program
- Dania Douglas, American University, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Washington, DC
- Tyler Douglas, Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans Legal Assistance
- Alison Downs, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Gabriel Ellenberger, University of Michigan, East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA
- Timothy Feehan, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Sadie Feeley, Harvard Law School, Potomac Legal Aid Society
- Dustin Feigerle, University of Michigan, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI
- Kathryn Fernandez, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, East Bay Community Law Center
- Kinara Flagg, Columbia University, National Women's Law Center, Washington, DC
- Jenna Fliszar, Rutgers University, SeniorLAW Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Christina Gambino, Villanova University, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Michael Gembitsky, Appalachian School of Law, Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, Norfolk, VA
- William Goldberg, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Thaddeus Goodchild, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Chicago, IL
- Allison Green, Georgetown University, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC

- Christine Hammer, DePaul University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Ashley Harrington, University of Colorado, Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County, Boulder, CO
- Kate Hicks, Harvard Law School, Beford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services, Brooklyn, NY
- Kinshasa Hillery, Howard University, Women Empowered Against Violence, Washington, DC
- Joseph Hinojosa, University of Texas, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR)
- Eileen Horgan, Rutgers University, Community Legal Services
- Samantha Howell, Albany Law School, Empire Justice Center, Albany, NY
- Maureen Hussain, Harvard Law School, Medical-Legal Community Partnership of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- Rebecca Imholt, University of Richmond, Blue Ridge Legal Services, Harrisonburg, VA
- Ema Iruobe, Villanova University, Community Legal Services
- Monica Iyer, New York University, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, New York City
- Jessica Jackson, Appalachian School of Law, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, Castlewood, VA
- Melanie Jarboe, Boston College, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Megan Jeans, Harvard Law School, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Yuri Jimenez, University of Texas, Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX
- Abbie Johnson, University of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, Westminster, CO
- Elinor Jordan, Michigan State, Farmworker Legal Services, Bangor, MI
- Jill Kahn, New York University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Rita Kapadia, University of Miami, Urban Justice Center, New York City
- Mia Kern, Loyola University Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- J. Taylor Kirklin, Columbia University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
- Anna Kirsch, UC Hastings College of Law, East Bay Community Law Center
- Laura Kleinman, Harvard Law School, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, New York City
- Guyon Knight, Fordham University, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation "A"
- James Kong, Columbia University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Robert Lampley, University of Wisconsin, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Jamie Larmond, University of Texas, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Austin, TX
- Peter Lawrence, Fordham University, Legal Services New York City
- Cheremma Lee, Texas Wesleyan University, Texas Appleseed, Austin, TX
- Jennifer Lee, Harvard Law School, Advocacy Inc, Austin, TX
- Kate Lee, Cornell Law School, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, New Orleans

- Melissa Lee, Suffolk University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Homero Lopez Jr., Tulane University, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Ryan Lovell, University of Texas, American Gateways, Austin, TX
- Monique Luse, Georgetown University, Community Legal Services
- Olivia Lynch, Georgetown University, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, El Paso, TX
- Rachel Mack, Washington and Lee University, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, Christiansburg, VA
- Peni MacMeekin, Rutgers University, Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, Newark, NJ
- Jared Make, New York University, Legal Services New York City
- Tami Martin, American University, DC Law Students in Court Program, Washington, DC
- Suzanne Martindale, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- Jose Martinez, University of Texas, Texas Appleseed
- Grainne Mc Ananey, Washington and Lee University, Rappahannock Legal Services, Fredericksburg, VA
- Myron McClees William and Mary, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Sarah McDermott, University of Pittsburgh, Neighborhood Legal Services Association, Pittsburgh, PA
- Peter McGraw, University of Michigan, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Caitrin McKiernan, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center, San Francisco
- Jose Medina, New York University, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- David Menninger, New York University, Make the Road New York
- Jonathan Miller, Harvard Law School, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, St. Louis, MO
- Melissa Mitchell, Suffolk University, Medical Legal Partnership, Boston, MA
- Jennifer Moisa, Loyola University Chicago, The Alliance for Children’s Rights, Los Angeles
- Ilana Morady, Northwestern University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- John Moore, University of Pennsylvania, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR)
- Mary Murphy, University of Texas, Advocacy Inc
- Laura Openshaw, Harvard Law School, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Ted Oswald, Drexel University, Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Lucy Panza, Georgetown University, Ayuda Inc., Washington, DC
- Julia Parish, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, East Bay Community Law Center
- Courtney Patterson, New York Law School, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, New York City

- Shareese Pryor, University of Chicago, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Matthew Rich, Georgetown University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Jennifer Richardson, UC Hastings College of Law, Volunteer Legal Services Program, San Francisco, CA
- Jessica Rivera, Rutgers University, Essex-Newark Legal Services
- Jennifer Rodrigue, George Washington University, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Washington, DC
- David Roiter, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Nell Schaffer, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, East Bay Community Law Center
- Amy Schellekens, Loyola University Chicago, Cook County Public Guardian's Office, Chicago, IL
- Edward Schexnayder, University of Michigan, Michigan Clinical Law Program
- Andrew Schrag, Harvard Law School, Legal Services New York City
- Misha Seay, UC Hastings College of Law, East Bay Community Law Center
- Andrew Selbst, University of Michigan, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC
- Emily Seymore, Northwestern University, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Natali Shabani, Loyola Law School Los Angeles, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA
- Maulik Shah, Georgetown University, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- Urooj "Ghazal" Shaikh, University of Richmond, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, VA
- Tori Shepherd, New York University, South Brooklyn Legal Services
- Jeffrey Shneidman, Boston University, Neighborhood Legal Services, Lawrence, MA
- Brock Smith, William and Mary, Legal Aid Justice Center, Petersburg, VA
- Nicholas Smith, St. John's University, The Legal Aid Society, New York City
- Francis Sohn, Cornell Law School, Lone Star Legal Aid, Galveston, TX
- William Sprouse, Suffolk University, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Pellerree Steadman, Tulane University, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Joanna Stein, Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Zacharie Stephen, Michigan State, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Kathleen Sullivan, Loyola University Chicago, Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Saroj Tharisayi, Cornell Law School, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Tracy Tripp, Drexel University, Community Legal Services
- Genevieve Uzamere, University of Pennsylvania, Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Philadelphia, PA
- Brenda Valle, UC Hastings College of Law, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles
- Jorge Vela, University of Texas, American Gateways
- Crystal Ventura, New York University, Public Counsel Law Center

- Joanne Villaneuva, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall, Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center
- Aisa Villarosa, Wayne State University, Michigan Poverty Law Program
- Annie Vine, University of Michigan, Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition, Washington, DC
- Jacob Vredenburg, Cornell Law School, Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc
- Keneshia Washington, University of Texas, American Gateways
- Caroline Watral, Penn State University, Community Justice Project, Pittsburgh, PA
- A. Michael Wargon, Fordham University, Manhattan Legal Services
- Kristin Webster, Boston College, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Matthew Webster, University of Minnesota, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, St. Paul, MN
- Elizabeth Westbrook, George Washington University, First Star - Putting Children First, Washington, DC
- Laura Whipple, Temple University, SeniorLAW Center
- Seshah Wolde-Tsadik, Santa Clara University, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Matthew Wolfe, University of Chicago, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL
- Alex Kara Worgaftik, UC Hastings College of Law, Disability Rights California, Oakland, CA
- Brian Wright, University of Virginia, North Penn Legal Services, Williamsport, PA
- Teresa Yeh, Cornell Law School, Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Erica Zacharie, Tulane University, Center for Children's Law and Policy, Washington, DC
- Tuozhi Zhen, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Paul Zoltowski, Boston University, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Beth Zweig, University of Virginia, Greater Boston Legal Services



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



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student
Fellowships at the Following Legal
Assistance Organizations

- Advancement Project, Washington, DC
- 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 Law Project of Pennsylvania
- AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
- Alaska Legal Services
- The Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
- American Friends Service Committee, Newark, NJ
- American Gateways, Austin, TX
- Appalachian Legal Services
- Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky
- Archdiocesan Legal Network, Washington, DC
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, DC
- Association for Children of New Jersey, Newark, NJ
- 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
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Washington, DC
- Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services, Brooklyn, NY
- 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
- Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition, Washington, DC
- Casa Myrna Vazquez, Boston, MA
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Catholic Charities Community Services, New York, NY
- Catholic Charities Immigration and Legal Services, Dallas, TX
- Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Washington, DC
- Center for Arkansas Legal Services
- Center for Children's Advocacy, Hartford, CT
- Center for Children's Law and Policy, Washington, DC
- 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



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student
Fellowships at the Following Legal
Assistance Organizations

- 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 Justice Project, Pittsburgh, PA
- Community Legal Resources, Detroit, MI
- Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA
- The Community Tax Law Project, Richmond, VA
- 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 California, Oakland, CA
- 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
- First Star - Putting Children First, Washington, DC
- 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



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student
Fellowships at the Following Legal
Assistance Organizations

- 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
- Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, El Paso, TX
- 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 Roanoke Valley, Roanoke, VA
- 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



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student
Fellowships at the Following Legal
Assistance Organizations

- Legal Assistance for Seniors, Oakland, CA
- Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Philadelphia, PA
- 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 Eastern Missouri, St. Louis, MO
- 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
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, New York, NY
- Lifespan Legal Services, Chicago, IL
- Lone Star Legal Aid, Galveston, TX
- 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
- Manhattan Legal Services, New York, NY
- Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Boston, MA
- Massachusetts Justice Project
- Maurice and Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice, Detroit, MI
- Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Boston Medical Center
- Medicare Rights Center, New York, NY
- Mental Health Advocacy Project, San Jose, CA
- 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 Clinical Law Program, Ann Arbor, MI
- 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 Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Washington, DC
- National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA), Washington, DC
- National Women's Law Center, Washington, DC



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student
Fellowships at the Following Legal
Assistance Organizations

- Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 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 Association, Pittsburgh, PA
- 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 Penn Legal Services, Williamsport, PA
- 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/Immigration Representation Project, Boston, MA
- Political Asylum Project of Austin, TX
- Positive Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Potomac Legal Aid Society
- 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 Florida Interfaith Worker Justice
- South Middlesex Legal Services, Framingham, MA



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

has Sponsored Law Student
Fellowships at the Following Legal
Assistance Organizations

- South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, TX
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, New Orleans, LA
- 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 Advocacy Project, Austin, TX
- 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 Lawyers for Justice, Newark, NJ
- Volunteer Lawyer's Project, Boston, MA
- Volunteer Legal Services Program, San Francisco, CA
- 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**

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

FINAL REPORT

Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic

John Jay Legal Services

Pace University School of Law

June 30, 2009

Introduction

Completing its ninth 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 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.

The Special Education Concentration

During 2008-09, students were offered the opportunity to work exclusively on Special Education cases, supervised by Prof. Don Doernberg, a tenured member of the Pace Law Faculty. Prof. Doernberg's salary was covered fully by Law School funds.

The Seminar Component

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 2008-2009 academic year, the Clinic was again offered as a two-semester course. Four students worked exclusively on Special Education cases and received four credits each semester. Seven students worked on the full range of clinic cases and 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. One student was a part-time evening student; 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.

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, Westchester Residential Opportunities, and Taconic Innovations and Jowonio, case management agencies serving the developmentally disabled. Several clients were referred by other Clinic clients or self-referred. We were asked by a Federal Magistrate Judge to represent a *pro se* plaintiff in an age discrimination case. 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 47 matters were handled by students during the grant year.¹ Of these, 23 were new matters. Eighteen matters were concluded by the end of the grant year and 29 are pending.

The cases involved the following substantive areas:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Number of Clients</u>
Lifetime and Estate Planning	5
Special Needs Trusts	2
Estate Administration	4
Benefits Issues	8
Art. 17-A Guardianship	14
Human Rights	3
Special Education	11

Case Examples

Clinic students represented L.S. in a hearing before the Westchester Human Rights Commission. Ms. S. had filed a complaint, alleging that she was forced to retire at the age of 72, just two years before she would have been eligible for a full pension. Two clinic students represented Ms. S. in a three-day administrative hearing, conducting direct examinations of the complainant and her witness and cross-examining the respondents' witnesses. Following the hearing, the students submitted a closing memorandum of law. A decision in the case has not yet been issued.

¹ During the summer of 2008, with Federal work study funds and a grant from a Clinic alumnus, two students were hired to assist with on-going and new matters. During the summer of 2009, three students are working in the Clinic.

A Federal Magistrate Judge asked the Clinic to represent a *pro se* plaintiff in an age discrimination in employment case before her. During the spring semester, the students interviewed and counseled the Plaintiff, propounded interrogatories and document requests, answered the Defendants' discovery requests, and handled conferences with the presiding Magistrate Judge. In the last month, the summer students defended the Plaintiff's deposition and conducted the deposition of one of the Defendants. Settlement discussions have just begun.

The Clinic represented G.D., an elderly woman who needed to have a ramp installed in order to be able to enter and leave her apartment. Until the Clinic became involved, the Condominium Association had refused to permit the installation of the ramp, in spite of pressure from HUD and a local fair housing agency. After the intervention of the Clinic, the ramp was installed and the case settled on terms very favorable to the client.

A Clinic student represented G.N., a disabled woman who had a New York State tax debt. The student negotiated a settlement of the debt with the New York State Department of Taxation. Under the terms of the settlement, the amount of the debt was reduced significantly and the client is able to afford the required monthly payment.

In a special education case involving a severely disabled pre-school child, following a meeting with the students representing the parents, the school district agreed to extend the child's program from half-day to full day, provide compensatory home instruction hours to compensate for the district's failure to provide appropriate home services for the child, and to send copies of the student's records to seven private schools to see whether any of them had an appropriate program and space.

We continued to work with families who wish to become guardians of their adult disabled children. Students worked with 14 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. Letters of guardianship were issued in five cases. The decision is pending in one case. Petitions are being prepared in the remaining cases.

Community Outreach

Prof. Flint was the keynote speaker at a Special Needs Seminar for parents and professionals sponsored by the New York City Church of Christ and held at Bell Park Jewish Center in Queens Village. Her talk covered guardianship and special needs trusts for disabled adults.

Prof. Flint was a panelist on a program cosponsored by the Committee on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities and the Trusts and Estates Law Section at the New York State Bar Associations 2009 Annual Meeting. Her talk covered the rights of nursing home residents to be free from unnecessary transfer and discharge.

On June 11 and 12, the Clinic cosponsored with NAMI of Westchester, a two-day training on Social Security Disability and SSI. Over 150 non-profit agency personnel, consumers and family members attended the training, which was very well received.

Plans for 2009-20010

The Clinic is being offered again next year as a year-long course. We anticipate handling a similar mix of litigation and transaction matters. Once again, Prof. Flint will be joined by Prof. Don Doernberg who will supervise 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.



Letters from Legal Services Organizations

Section 2

NEW HAVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

October 21, 2009

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

Dear Dan:

Thanks to Equal Justice America, we have three new student fellows and one returning fellow who are this semester's student directors of the Yale Law School Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) project: Kaitlin Ainsworth, Kristin Shaffer, Kenneth Jamison and Chelsea Purvis for the fall semester. You will have Kaitlin's resume from last year and I will send you the other three as soon as I receive them. Kaitlin Ainsworth will be replaced by Carrie Gross for the spring semester.

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Kaplan
Executive Director



August 27, 2009

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

Re: Daniel Baltuch

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am a staff attorney specializing in public benefits law at the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, a non profit law firm providing statewide free legal representation to people living with HIV/AIDS. Daniel Baltuch, a University of Pennsylvania law student, spent the summer with us as an Equal Justice America Summer Fellow. Daniel was with us from May 18, 2009 through July 23, 2009 and worked directly under my supervision. I write this evaluation based on this relationship.

In keeping with Equal Justice America's goal of providing assistance to low income individuals and families, Daniel had the opportunity to work with our clients who were in need of public benefits, which included Cash Assistance, Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Medicare, Social Security Disability benefits, Supplementary Security Income and other related matters. In representing clients with these issues, he had to deal with the Social Security Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Without reservation, I say, Daniel did a terrific job for our clients. He was very methodical in his work which is crucial for dealing with these bureaucracies. Daniel's work included filing appeals from denials, discontinuance and reduction of federal and state benefits and he excelled in getting favorable results for our client by his staunch advocacy. Daniel dealt with these bureaucracies in an extremely professional manner.

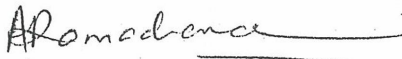
Daniel's legal writing and oral advocacy skills are exceptional. I believe he has sharpened ability to understand the articulate legal issues. Because of these traits and skills, combined with a professional yet affable personality, I firmly believe that Daniel will be a successful advocate for his clients. Daniel has demonstrated the skills necessary to be highly successful as an attorney and a law student. I found Daniel to be intelligent, hard working, diligent and dedicated to his work. He ensured that the cases assigned to him were concluded to his clients' and the firm's utmost satisfaction. His work ethic was totally scrupulous and his commitment to work was absolute. Even though he was handling a heavy case load, I found Daniel to be extremely efficient. He completing his tasks in a timely manner and had the ability to successfully manage several tasks at once.

Daniel's work involved dealing with diverse clients who were disabled and vulnerable. I found Daniel to be very polite and courteous to his clients. Daniel dealt with his client in a professional manner and extended his courtesy and professionalism towards his colleagues and staff attorneys.

It was a pleasure knowing and working with Daniel this summer. I thank Equal Justice America for making it possible for Daniel to work with our clients this summer. I wish him well in law school and his professional life.

Please do not hesitate to call (215) 587-9377, or email me ramachan@aidslawpa.org, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "ARomachandran", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Asha Ramachandran
Staff Attorney



August 31, 2009

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

Re: Nell Schaffer summer grant

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing regarding Nell Schaffer's summer internship at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC), made possible by a grant from your organization. As a former Equal Justice America grant recipient, I was particularly glad to be supervising two students this summer who received this grant. Both did excellent work at EBCLC's Neighborhood Justice Clinic assisting low-income clients in need of legal services. Nell Schaffer's talents are lauded at the end of this letter, after a description of the services we provide.

The East Bay Community Law Center was founded in 1988 by law students at UC Berkeley School of Law to provide desperately-needed legal services to the low-income community. Currently we provide services in the areas of housing, welfare, criminal records, HIV & health, debt relief and homelessness, and economic development; and hands-on clinical education to law students to make them aware of and skilled in addressing the needs of indigent communities.

Despite the presence of organizations like ours, the Volunteer Legal Services Corporation of the Alameda County Bar Association calculates that only 28% of the legal needs of California's poor are being met. As a means of addressing more of the need in our county, EBCLC launched the Neighborhood Justice Clinic (formerly the Community Legal Access Service Site) in June 2007. The Neighborhood Justice Clinic operates in the legal services gap, providing limited-scope assistance on the broad range of legal issues that are not covered by other legal services organizations and offering an array of self-help tools to enable effective self-representation for those without an attorney.

For legal problems that are not covered by alternative free or low-cost services, NJC advocates (usually students like Ms. Schaffer) write letters, draft and review court documents, negotiate favorable settlements, assist clients with case strategy, and provide education about the court process and clients' legal rights. Even in cases where we cannot



provide the legal representation a client wants, our advocates work closely with the clients to assess their legal needs and come up with a realistic plan based on the client's goals.

One of the areas where our general legal clinic is seeing the highest need is consumer law. As a result of the mortgage and economic crises and the scarcity of corresponding legal services, a growing percentage of our work relates to consumer debt, harassment, or fraud. For example, this summer Nell Schaffer helped a client who was sued for a debt that was not hers, but the result of identity theft by her ex-husband and his new girlfriend. Despite strict laws protecting people from suit in identity theft cases, the debt collector refused to drop the suit, and Nell wrote a brief to help the client advocate for herself. Nell also worked with a client who lost his job, fell behind on his debts, and was sued by a credit card company. Nell guided this client through the court process, explaining his rights and assisting with each procedural step. After she left at the end of the summer, the client came back and expressed his gratitude for Nell's help at a time in his life when he felt simply overwhelmed. He volunteers at a local radio station and wanted to do a story on our services to highlight one area of hope in a bleak economic environment.

Nell excelled in serving clients with a wide variety of legal issues. She did an excellent job drafting a motion for a client who was being sued by his landlord on dubious claims most likely filed for harassment. Her written advocacy was strong, and she took direction well. At the same time, she had a kind manner with clients, who were moved by her obvious care and concern for them. This was true over a broad spectrum, from a teenager who was overcharged for a hotel ballroom reservation for a youth event she organized, to an elderly gentleman who needed help deciphering probate documents. One older woman who came to the clinic said the assistance she received from Nell was her only comfort in the middle of an intimidating debt collection lawsuit.

These are clients who could not have gotten legal help elsewhere. Nell had big and small victories as a result of her legal advocacy, but the one constant was that she helped clients feel valued, hopeful, and calm in the midst of great challenges. That is a testament to Nell's great work, and we are so grateful to have had her work with us this summer.

Please let me know if I can provide any more information about Nell's work this summer or our organization generally. Thank you again for providing this important funding.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elisa Della-Piana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Elisa Della-Piana
Director, Neighborhood Justice Clinic



GREATER BOSTON
LEGAL SERVICES

Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services Office

July 30, 2009

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

Re: Evaluation for Beth Zweig

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing on behalf of my summer legal intern, Beth Zweig, whose internship was funded by Equal Justice America. Beth worked full time under my supervision from May 20 – July 24, 2009. Beth did superb work, was a pleasure to supervise, and handled a full caseload of diverse poverty law legal cases.

Beth handled cases under the categories of Elder Law and Mental Health & Disability Rights Law. Beth worked on cases involving a broad range of different substantive legal issues, including legal cases related to food stamps; Social Security disability-related benefits; consumer rights issues such as utility advocacy and challenging restrictive eligibility criteria for Safelink free cell phone service; eviction defense representation; special education legal research; and advocacy for increased home care services for seniors at risk of eviction from public housing. Throughout all of her casework, Beth exhibited tremendous sensitivity and respect for our low income, often psychiatrically disabled clients. Beth was also extremely effective in her advocacy with opposing counsel and agency staff with whom she had to negotiate on behalf of our clients.

Beth was remarkably efficient in completing all assignments, with great attention to detail. Beth's legal research and writing skills are excellent. Beth relished opportunities to learn new substantive areas of poverty law, as well as handling increased degrees of casehandling responsibility. Beth also experienced great satisfaction in seeing the successful fruits of her legal work and the ways in which her efforts enhanced our clients' quality of life, as she successfully resolved most of her assigned cases during her internship.

Beth Zweig is a wonderful law student to supervise and mentor, as well as a terrific colleague in a workplace. I have no doubt that she will apply her tremendous intellect and legal skills in all of her legal endeavors. At the end of her internship, Beth indicated that her experiences this summer have strengthened her interest in pursuing a public interest legal career. I have no doubt that Beth's contributions in all of her legal workplaces will be exemplary.

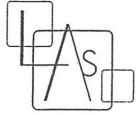
Mr. Dan Ruben
July 30, 2009
Page 2

Thank you for Equal Justice America's financial support for Beth Zweig's summer internship at our Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services office of Greater Boston Legal Services. Beth's work enabled us to provide expanded free legal services to our low income elderly and disabled clients throughout this summer. As always, we appreciate EJA's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Filler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Deborah Filler
Senior Staff Attorney



The Legal Aid Society
EMPLOYMENT LAW CENTER

August 5, 2009

*Advocating for workers,
their families and communities*

Joan Messing Graff
President

William C. McNeill III
Managing Attorney

Patricia A. Shiu
Vice President, Programs

Senior Staff Attorneys
Claudia Center
Michael T. Gaitley
Christopher Ho

Christina Chung
Staff Attorney

Matthew Goldberg
Staff Attorney

Shelley A. Gregory
Staff Attorney

Professor Joseph R. Grodin
Special Counsel

Denise M. Hulett
Staff Attorney

Jinny Kim
Staff Attorney

Elizabeth Kristen
Staff Attorney

Anya Lakner
Project Attorney

Rachael Langston
Skadden Fellow

Ruth Silver Taube
Special Counsel

Sharon Tetman
Staff Attorney

Carole Vigne
Skadden Fellow

Pamela Mitchell
Litigation Assistant

Mary Broughton
Paralegal

Djuna Gray
Litigation Assistant

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

Re: Joanne Villanueva's Clerkship at LAS-ELC

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to update you on Joanne Villanueva's summer clerkship with the Legal Aid Society - Employment Law Center, which has been made possible by generous funding from Equal Justice America.

As you may know, Joanne spent her summer working mainly within LAS-ELC's National Origin, Immigration, and Language Rights program, which addresses the types of workplace exploitation disproportionately faced by low-wage immigrant workers. For her part, aside from helping to develop a variety of cases presenting issues such as language-based discrimination and governmental discrimination against persons because of their Islamic religious beliefs, Joanne spent the majority of her summer working on a potentially dispositive motion in a Fair Labor Standards Act case on behalf of a Latina immigrant housekeeper whose employers had failed to comply with minimum wage and many other workplace laws. In that regard, Joanne was given the responsibility of drafting what would become our legal argument that, because they had falsified a key document in the course of discovery, the defendants had forfeited their right to a trial, and that our client was entitled to a default judgment against them.

Joanne's work on this significant question, which drew heavily upon her legal research and writing skills, was impressive. Among other things, it required her to assimilate a large and often inconsistent body of case law, apply it to a complicated series of events, and to set out her analysis in a complete yet concise manner. Particularly coming from a first-year student, the quality of Joanne's work on this challenging project was excellent, reflecting a firm grasp of the applicable legal precedent and a great degree of skill in crafting a persuasive argument. Not incidentally,

her legal abilities were also indispensable to us in drafting a variety of other filings in that case under severe time pressure. In all cases, Joanne was an ideal colleague, working well as part of a larger team and making significant contributions to the quality of our advocacy.

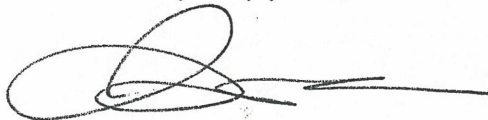
Joanne's contributions to LAS-ELC's work were not limited to the litigation area, however. She actively participated in our Workers' Rights Clinic -- a natural extension of her prior involvement with the WRC as a student director of the clinics we offer at Boalt Hall. In this capacity, as one of our Spanish-speaking counselors, Joanne was a major resource, enabling us to provide legal assistance in dozens of cases presented by low-wage Latino workers.

In sum, LAS-ELC was very privileged to have Joanne with us this summer, based not only on her tangible contributions to our work but also in light of the fact that, owing to her formidable intelligence and legal and advocacy skills, she will undoubtedly become a leader in the future generation of public interest attorneys. Similarly, we are indebted to Equal Justice America for providing her with the financial support that she, and we, needed in order to make her summer clerkship with us possible in the first place.

Thank you for your continuing support of our work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher Ho

CH/pjm

cc: Christine Todd

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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July 29, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am writing to provide an evaluation of Jennifer Rodrigue, an Equal Justice America Fellow who served as an intern with the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty this summer. We have been so pleased with Jennifer's work and contribution to our efforts. She has been an exceptional intern and a very valued addition to our office this summer.

Jennifer worked on a variety of matters this summer. She contributed substantially to a number of our project areas, including our Domestic Violence and Civil Rights Projects. Among other things, Jennifer conducted research and wrote memoranda on issues related to public housing authorities' responses to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence. She researched and drafted recommendations for revisions to the Violence Against Women Act's housing provisions, which will be used in our legislative advocacy. She also gave two presentations to service providers on the Violence Against Women Act's housing provisions.

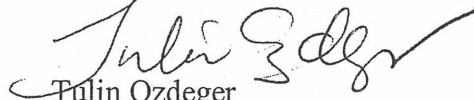
Her work on the Civil Rights Project was also substantial. She researched and drafted a letter to the California Coastal Commission that was part of a successful campaign to thwart imposition of restrictions that would have had a negative impact on homeless persons. She also developed a model police order that we will be using in our advocacy campaign to make sure homeless D.C. residents' rights are not violated. She also researched and drafted a memorandum on legal issues related to a response to a motion to dismiss in one of our cases challenging measures that criminalize homelessness. Her memo was excellent and we used portions of it in the pleading we filed.

In addition to the above-mentioned projects, Jennifer did a number of other activities for us that were extremely valuable. We have been impressed by her ability to learn new areas of the law quickly and to critically think about the issues on which we work. She is clearly very committed to public interest law and poverty issues. She also went above and beyond at times, staying late into the night to finish various projects.

We were very pleased to have Jennifer with us this summer. Her work enabled us to accomplish much more than we could have with only our full-time staff. The Equal Justice America Fellowship is a very valuable way to encourage and reward students who take on public interest work. NLCHP is grateful for the opportunity to have hosted one of your Fellows.

Thank you very much for supporting such a wonderful intern. Please feel free to be in touch with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tulin Ozdeger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tulin Ozdeger
Civil Rights Director

Bronx

Legal
Services NYC

August 21, 2009

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 review the experience of our office in working with Peter Lawrence during this summer. Mr. Lawrence was funded by Equal Justice America to work as a summer fellow with our program.

We were lucky to have Peter working with our office. He was able to work with a number of our staff attorneys, from our most junior to our most senior, and also to work with some of our paralegals and directly with clients or potential clients trying to access our services. His assistance was very helpful to our program and it was a pleasure to have him with us over this time.

Peter assisted our staff attorneys in doing legal research, writing memoranda in support of motions in housing court proceedings, and in engaging in administrative advocacy on behalf of clients seeking grants to avert their possible eviction. He attended court proceedings, visited welfare centers, and observed client interviews with our staff. He conducted interviews of potential clients seeking assistance to avert home foreclosures. Through all of these efforts, Peter was professional, responsible, diligent and accurate in the work he engaged in for clients.

As an example of some of the work completed over this summer, Peter worked on a legal memorandum on behalf of a tenant living in a federally subsidized apartment. The tenant's landlord was attempting to evict the tenant as a "month-to-month" unregulated tenant. Peter argued that the housing was regulated both under New York State rent stabilization and also under federal law. He completed an internal memoranda explaining that the landlord's misstatements in the petition regarding the regulatory status of the

Legal Services NYC - Bronx

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Steven B. Telzak, Project Director

Ellen P. Chapnick, Board Chair



LSC

Letter to Dan Ruben
August 21, 2009
Page 2

apartment and tenancy could not be amended once a predicate eviction notice was served. The case was dismissed after the attorney filed a motion asserting that the landlord's predicate notice was not adequate to support the proceeding. Peter assisted with the motion and with the research needed to support the motion.

In another case, Peter spoke with a caller to our foreclosure prevention hotline who was facing foreclosure of her home in the Bronx. The caller was a soldier currently serving in Iraq. Peter did research related to the rights of the soldier under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and prepared a memo for the supervisor of the Foreclosure Project. Our office accepted the case on behalf of the service member and is currently defending the client in foreclosure proceedings.

In a third case, Peter wrote a memo regarding our ability to enforce an oral agreement to settle a foreclosure proceeding. The attorney for the lender seeking foreclosure had not concluded a written settlement despite an oral agreement reached in court at a settlement conference. The case later settled after the memo prepared by Peter.

In his time with our office, Peter had the ability to observe the range of work needed for clients, and to assist in that work in many ways. I believe he obtained a solid introduction to the issues most commonly faced by clients of an urban civil legal services program.

Peter provided critical support to the clients and staff of our office during his time with us. His work was of a high quality and his initiative, effort, and sensitivity to clients was appropriate to the demands of a civil legal services practice. Peter got along well with the clients and staff of our program and with representatives of agencies and parties with whom we regularly interact.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with Peter over this summer. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Maris, Esq.
Director, Housing Unit
(718) 928-3742



**Letters from Equal
Justice America
Fellowship Recipients**

Section 3

August 27, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

As a rising third-year student at William & Mary School of Law, I am proud to have spent this summer as an intern in the Petersburg office of the Legal Aid Justice Center ("LAJC"). The provision of legal services to low-income members of our community is a commendable aim and is one that LAJC pursues with vigor.

My summer fellowship experience with LAJC has exceeded my expectations in every sense. The opportunity to work in several fields of practice in which LAJC attorneys represent clients has been truly beneficial to my professional development. The staff attorneys are all quite passionate about the work that they do, which is a quality that naturally translates to the summer fellows. The ability to work in the legal profession and to do so with a true sense of purpose is a tremendously fulfilling privilege. The direct and immediate access to clients that I was granted instilled a pressing sense of duty that will remain with me throughout my career. Once I began dealing directly with LAJC clients and their personally impactful issues, I truly realized the gravity of the work that is executed here on a daily basis. Often times, one's livelihood and well-being are at stake. It is a powerful and humbling situation in which to be involved.

The highlights of the summer were many, but all followed a common theme. The ability to help those in need is a tremendous motivator and is one that is ever-present in the work supported by Equal Justice America and by LAJC. There were a number of instances over the summer when I met with clients who believed themselves to be in hopeless situations. The services provided by LAJC, services of which I was a part, helped to resolve those situations amicably. Simply put, Equal Justice America and LAJC help to provide legal services to those who may otherwise be forced to face seemingly catastrophic legal dilemmas alone. The general ability to help those that need help the most, has been for me, the most profound benefit of the summer.

I remain immensely appreciative for the opportunity that Equal Justice America and the Legal Aid Justice Center have bestowed upon me. I have learned a tremendous amount this summer, both in a practical and in a fundamental sense. Thank you very much for your time and support.

Most Sincerely,

Brock Smith



LAW OFFICE OF
TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID, INC.
El Paso

September 30, 2009

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

Re: Equal Justice Fellowship

Dear Mr. Ruben,

The Equal Justice America (EJA) Fellowship re-affirmed my commitment to the legal profession. I entered law school in August 2008, and because of family circumstances, I did not fully immerse myself into the study of law. I lacked focus, and as a result, during my first semester, my pre-law resolve to become a lawyer faded. By late January of my first year, my father passed and my professional ambitions fell. I had enough. I withdrew from law school and returned home.

In April, after a few months of seeking employment, a friend recommended that I volunteer with a local non-profit. I followed her advice and interviewed for an unpaid clerkship with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. (TRLA) in El Paso. Since that interview, TRLA embraced me as an apprentice. After a few research projects, TRLA assigned a client, Irma.

The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP) runs a public benefits program that subsidizes monthly rental payments. Section 8 often covers over 90% of a participant's rental and utility costs. Irma was a Section 8 participant and her landlord initiated an eviction suit against her; Irma was in danger of losing her Section 8 benefits and becoming homeless.

When I first met Irma, her eccentric, endearing character immediately connected me to her cause. I was more than just professionally and intellectually engaged, but my sense of empathy assumed control. In her late forties, Irma worked part-time for a nutritional supplement company. During the first half of that first meeting, Irma subtly attempted to sell. She wore a large picture of herself as a necklace. Thick fiberglass encased her photo, and thin, shoelace string suspended it from her neck. The picture captured a significantly larger Irma: "I was over 100 lbs. heavier then. Then, I started taking this stuff [she pulled a box from her bag] and lost the weight really quickly." With those words, and with that picture and casing, suspended by that string, I knew I would enjoy working on this case.

Irma's case required advocating along parallel processes. Her public benefits were in jeopardy as her landlord initiated a civil suit. I immediately contacted HACEP and submitted a request for appeal. Then, I met with the landlord and negotiated settlement so Irma could avoid an eviction. We negotiated for nearly a month, and I was forced to balance my client's needs and wishes against the landlord's stubborn demands. In the end, we helped Irma out of her home, documented the home's condition when she left, and avoided an eviction. I also represented Irma before a HACEP's appeals officer, and helped retain her Section 8 benefits.

Since Irma's case, I've worked with several clients on housing and family matters. I also spent the majority of my summer researching and co-authoring an appellate brief on a discrimination claim against a local school district. Here, under close mentorship, I helped devise the brief's legal argument. We submitted the brief to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in Texas last month.

At TRLA, I've worked directly with clients, negotiated with opposing parties, and engaged in serious research and writing. My work stimulated and challenged me intellectually, as it re-invigorated my sense of empathy. When I left school and lost my father, I fell into an enormous wave of anomie. Then, I confined my thoughts to my troubles. TRLA saved me. It asked me to think of others, then act on their behalf. I've since been reminded of my commitment to public service and the law.

Since this summer's end, TRLA hired me as a paid law clerk. I will work here until early November, a few months before I return to law school to complete my first year. I owe you a significant debt, Mr. Ruben. Without the EJA Fellowship, I may not have continued my work here at TRLA these past few months. As a result of your generosity and clear dedication to serve historically disenfranchised groups, I will return to law school a recovered individual, no longer confined to my troubles; and I'll resume reinvigorated in my professional and personal ambitions. I learned more this year than I could have possibly learned in law school. For that and so much more, thank you.

Always,

Jose A. Medina
Law Clerk
New York University School of Law
J.D. Candidate, 2012

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

April 2, 2009

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I am so grateful for Equal Justice America's assistance with my internship this spring at the Legal Aid Society of DC. No other organization funds students working in nonprofit public interest law jobs during the school year, and the stipend allowed me to take the internship instead of some work-study job on campus. I know that legal aid organizations need the help during the school year as well as the summer, so thank you for filling this niche.

I was in the family law unit at LAS, where I worked on child custody and child support cases. I was also able to shadow one of the attorneys doing intake for domestic violence protection orders at a satellite office. I spent most of my time helping with follow-up interviews from intakes and helping prepare for hearings by examining documents. I also wrote memos about the arrears that the government can claim as reimbursement for TANF and about child support obligations when a child is incarcerated. I was able to see how my research on TANF arrears helped our client, because I prepared spreadsheets to figure out how much of the arrears were still owed our client after the government forgave their part, and thus preserve about \$10,000 of arrears that will go to support the mother and child.

One of my proudest achievements is that I was able to convince the team to take a second look at one of the potential clients I interviewed. The client came to us because he was afraid he would be denied visitation with his baby daughter after she was released from the hospital, and because the hospitals were not giving him information about her special needs. He had a physical disability and felt threatened by the extended family of his child, with whom his girlfriend and the baby would live. The team first decided just to give him legal advice, but after talking with him extensively, I knew that this father really needed our help. Even though my supervising attorney had just taken on cases of a colleague who went on maternity leave, I was able to convince her. She is going to represent him in a suit for visitation now that the child is home. I am very fond of this client and was sad to leave before his parental right to visitation is resolved. However, I am glad that I was a part of his access to justice.

I came to law school committed to direct service to low-income clients, and the experience at LAS only further solidified my goal. I know it will not always be an easy path, especially because of the debt I am accumulating at law school. The support of Equal Justice America means a lot to me, not just because it helps me reduce my debt,

but also because I know that staff and donors support my commitment to justice for all people, no matter what their economic situation. Thank you for your encouragement of equal justice.

Sincerely,

Renee Erline
Georgetown University Law Center
Class of 2010

August 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

This summer, I have the opportunity to intern with the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. GBLS provides free civil legal assistance to low-income people in Boston and the surrounding areas and towns. It assists both clients on an individual level as well as addressing systemic problems. GBLS has many other units besides housing, including but not limited to elder law, health and disabilities, family law, and employment law.

Over the course of the summer, I received the chance to do a wide variety of work. I was able to perform legal research on the requirements to file for supplementary process in order to collect on a previously won judgment, assist with client intake, and file papers in the Cambridge court. Currently, I am working on drafting a complaint to file on behalf of a client who was wrongly rejected for a government housing subsidy.

Beyond my opportunities to perform work myself, I also had the chance to learn from the attorneys I work with by seeing them in action. For example, I was able to accompany my supervisor to a meeting with a tenant association. At this meeting, they planned what legal strategy they would pursue to fight the proposed demolition of a government subsidized apartment building. Getting to see the real world implications and meet the people directly impacted by my work has made this an all the more meaningful opportunity for me this summer.

The clients I served were all in the process of varying stages of eviction proceedings. They ranged from the informal conference stage all the way to having received a Notice to Quit, which begins the countdown until a summary process eviction trial. One such client came to GBLS having received a Notice to Quit for clutter and untidiness. However, the landlord had blatantly not followed the necessary procedural requirements for an eviction. Therefore,

GBLS was able to get the Notice to Quit rescinded and keep the client in her home.

If not for Equal Justice America, I would not have had the opportunity to spend my summer at GBLS. GBLS cannot afford to pay its interns and without EJA, I could not have otherwise afforded to live in Boston. I am very appreciative of EJA for helping to make my summer possible. I hope that EJA is able to provide help to many law students in the future, as allowing students to experience a summer of public interest is a worthwhile and important goal.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rich
Georgetown May 2011

August 31, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I spent my summer as an intern at Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago. Most of my work was with the family law program, working on a wide range of cases, including custody, guardianship, child support, divorce, and other domestic relations issues.

CGLA itself was a wonderful place to work, both because of the organization itself and the clients we serve. CGLA started in the notorious Cabrini Green neighborhood, with the goal of providing legal services to individuals with little access to justice. Through expansion beyond its single founding attorney, its focus on the client has remained, and is reflected in its vision: "for clients to leave us stronger than they came."

From my first day, I found myself immersed in emotional and high impact cases, where my work had real effects in my clients' lives. One of my clients came to us for help with a divorce. It seems like a simple legal issue, but she had been the victim of domestic violence throughout her marriage. Helping her through the process gave her the strength to stand up in court and achieve closure, helping her to begin to heal and move forward with her life. Another client came to us with a custody issue; he wanted to have legal custody of his son, who was already living with him. One of the memorable moments of my summer was when we were prepping him for his custody hearing. We told him to bring whatever we could show at trial to prove his son was doing well, and he arrived with a bag bulging with letters from teachers, academic awards, sports team photos, and an essay his son had written about family. I knew, during that case, that we were going to help make their lives a little bit easier, by taking away the obstacles they had faced when the father didn't have legal custody.

Over the summer, we also did clemency intake interviews. This was a weeklong process where we interviewed potential clients, eligible to petition the governor for executive clemency for past criminal offenses, to assist them with the process. All our candidates had no arrests for the past ten years, and as we interviewed them, we began to learn how each one of these individuals had turned their lives around. Their stories were moving, and we took more cases than we intended.

I was continually amazed at how much seemingly simple work was appreciated by many of our clients. A number came to us with relatively simple legal issues, but faced language barriers or socioeconomic barriers that prevented them from finding out where to go or what to file. Helping these clients resolve their legal issues made me feel like my law degree was really going

to help others in my community. My own work made justice accessible and available to individuals to whom it was previously out of reach.

I also learned about the true need for legal services. We interviewed many more potential clients than we could accept, and many more people called than we could interview. The value of the help provided by legal services organizations, and the scarcity of that help compared to the vast need, is striking, and was readily apparent throughout my work. I am sure this summer will continue to be a source of inspiration for me to

Thank you for making this summer possible. Equal Justice America makes it possible for law students to learn the importance of public interest law, and for organizations like CGLA to reach even more clients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen M. Sullivan".

Kathleen M. Sullivan
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
J.D. 2011

Mr. Dan Ruben
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112
(804) 744-4200

August 17, 2009

Dear Mr. Ruben,

My name is Laura Whipple and I spent this summer working as a legal intern at SeniorLAW Center in Philadelphia, PA. I am a rising 2L at Temple University Beasley School of Law. I am writing to express my gratitude to Equal Justice America for the generous grant that helped make it possible for me to work at SeniorLAW Center for a twelve-week tenure as a summer intern.

Reflecting back on this summer already creates stirrings of nostalgia for me, and I am surprised by how much I've developed professionally and personally. The training period of my internship, while informative, was certainly overwhelming. I am awestruck when I think about how comfortable I have become within my position, in addition to the extent of my exposure to several legal practice areas. The knowledge and insight into the legal world that I have gained this summer has been unprecedented for me, and will serve to benefit me greatly as I enter my second year of law school. I feel that the experience I've acquired from the practical application of legal information throughout this twelve-week internship has paralleled—perhaps even surpassed—what I learned in my first year of law school.

In twelve weeks, I handled a wide variety of legal matters through intake and an individual caseload, from mortgage foreclosures, to drafting personal planning documents, to contractor fraud cases. In addition, I attended several of the neighborhood clinics, which are part of the outreach network of SeniorLAW Center. I appreciated the balance that the attorneys who mentored me struck; between giving me firm guidance and allowing to me develop how to approach our clients independently.

My interaction with clients jumps out as the most significant aspect of my internship. The clients of SeniorLAW Center run the full gamut of personalities. Some of the seniors we see are sweet, caring, and excited to get to know who you, the legal intern; others assertively demand help, knowing that they are entitled to more and frustrated that the bureaucratic system has failed them in one way or another. Working with seniors this summer has confirmed to me that their population is the demographic I wish to serve throughout my legal career.

I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to help one of our seniors to rest a little easier at night because there are now legal provisions for her adopted daughters should something happen to her. It was also heartwarming to help another one of our clients in entering a payment plan so that his house would not be foreclosed on. During intake, I feel that I provided seniors access to legal and social assistance, even if our agency

directed them to other agencies that could assist them. SeniorLAW Center has the important task of handling legal emergencies, and doing everything within its capacity to provide resources to seniors that cannot be found anywhere else within Philadelphia.

I am joining the legal profession to serve in public interest. I chose to become a lawyer because I wanted to help people who may not otherwise have the resources to receive equal access to the legal system. I am particularly interested in helping senior citizens, because I feel that they are often an overlooked and ignored demographic within our society. It is too easy for seniors to fall through the cracks of the justice system. The need for public interest service in elder law will remain strong as our ever-expanding population continues to grow, and I intend to spend my career assisting this important and underrepresented population. My internship at SeniorLAW Center has confirmed my desire to guide my career in this direction. Thank you for helping me to realize my professional goals and shape my legal career towards assisting senior citizens.

Warmest Regards,

Laura J. Whipple
SeniorLAW Summer Intern '09

September 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

First, I want to say thank you to Equal Justice America for generously funding my summer internship at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. My commitment to public interest law is strong, but without EJA, I may not have been able to work at LAF over the summer. I truly appreciate the effort your organization puts into enabling students like myself to hold otherwise-unpaid internships.

Second, I want to tell you a little bit about the experience I had at LAF. I worked in the downtown office of the organization, under the supervision of a young attorney who was perhaps the best supervisor I have ever had. She was an excellent teacher and a brilliant attorney. With her guidance and support, as well as the guidance and support of other attorneys in our group, I quickly began doing intake interviews with potential clients.

My most memorable experience at LAF involved helping a client who had an eviction proceeding brought against him. The management of his building had not served him with a proper notice of intent to terminate tenancy. I wrote and argued a motion to dismiss on behalf of our client, and won the case. The most exciting part was calling the client after my supervisor and I returned to the office, and letting him know that he could stay in his home.

As I mentioned earlier, my commitment to public interest law is strong. But, I can say with certainty that after my summer at LAF, my commitment is even stronger. Being able to help people in need was a truly rewarding experience, and I very much look forward to graduating from law school and beginning my career as a public-interest attorney.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ilana Morady
Northwestern Law, Class of 2010

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

August 26, 2009

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I want to thank you and Equal Justice America for helping me spend my summer clerking for Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. The clerkship was even more challenging and enriching than I had anticipated, and deepened my desire to dedicate my legal career to work that makes a positive impact on the lives of others.

Working in the Medical-Legal Community Partnership provided a fast-paced and frequently heart-wrenching glimpse into the array of problems facing the urban poor. Health clinic staff referred patients to us when they recognized that medical treatment alone would not ameliorate the health problems those patients were experiencing. I worked on cases where a legal fix could reach, at least partly, the underlying social problems causing the person's health to deteriorate. It was in this context that I worked with a survivor of domestic violence who needed work authorization to provide for her family, tenants whose substandard housing was endangering their children, and a mother who had become homeless because she could not care for her son with special needs and work at the same time.

After only ten short weeks, many of the cases I worked on are still pending. But I am proud to have played a part in moving each case in the right direction. In other cases, my clients finally achieved the resolution they needed. I helped to get families back on the public benefits to which they were entitled and to clear one client's name of a two-year-old invalid debt.

These successes buoyed my spirits in a legal landscape that could otherwise be emotionally overwhelming and intellectually frustrating. My clients, already struggling to maintain healthy, stable lives despite their poverty, faced problems that were frequently the result of failures in our social and legal systems. Perhaps a case worker in the welfare office made a mistake in data entry, knocking a family off of public benefits and issuing them notice in a language they did not read. Or a landlord failed to maintain her apartment building in habitable condition, betting that her tenants would be too fearful of retaliation or unaware of their rights to enforce the law.

More than one client remarked to me that it was only when she contacted our organization that she felt someone was really listening to her story and really cared about what happened to her. To me, this is the essence of why public interest organizations are so important, and support for students who want to enter this field is so crucial. I appreciate that Equal Justice America strives to make it more feasible for students to follow their hearts and work in the public interest. Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Maureen Hussain
Harvard Law School, Class of 2011



Report of Independent Auditors

Section 4

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2009

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2009

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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, 2009, 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, 2009, 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
November 9, 2009

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 140,325
Contributions receivable	<u>199,596</u>
Total Current Assets	339,921
Property and equipment - at cost (notes 1 and 2)	29,801
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(29,342)</u>
Net property and equipment	459
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 340,380</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Grants payable	<u>\$ 330,000</u>
Total Liabilities	330,000
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	10,380
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 340,380</u></u>

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

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2009

Public Support and Revenue		
Public support:		
Contributions	\$ 1,101,401	
Revenue:		
Interest Income	1,256	
Total Public Support and Revenue		\$ 1,102,657
Expenses		
Program services	710,399	
Management and general expenses	136,378	
Fund raising expenses	247,186	
Total Expenses		<u>1,093,963</u>
Expenses in excess of public support and revenue		\$ 8,694
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		<u>1,686</u>
Net Assets at End of Year		<u><u>\$ 10,380</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, 2009

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Public support and revenue under expenses	\$ 8,694
Adjustment To Reconcile to Excess Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses	
To net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation of property and equipment	\$ 923
Changes In Operating Assets and Liabilities:	
Decrease in contributions receivable	37,603
Decrease in grants payable	<u>(15,604)</u>
Total adjustments	<u>22,922</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>31,616</u>
Net decrease in cash during the year	31,616
Cash at July 1, 2008	<u>108,709</u>
Cash at June 30, 2009	<u><u>\$ 140,325</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, 2009

Program Expenses:	
Grants	\$ 624,656
Program Administration:	
Computer	542
Executive Director's Salary	19,450
Executive Director's Benefits	2,279
Employee Benefits	2,283
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	818
Payroll	45,437
Payroll Service	675
Payroll Taxes	6,366
Printing and Postage	260
Supplies	768
Telephone	1,593
Web Site	272
Total	<u>\$ 710,399</u>
Management and General Expenses:	
Accounting	5,100
Executive Director's Salary	29,175
Executive Director's Benefits	3,419
Bank charges	565
Depreciation	923
Employee Benefits	3,424
Insurance	940
Internet	545
Legal Fees	573
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	3,137
Payroll	68,156
Payroll Service	675
Payroll Taxes	9,550
Printing & Postage	520
State Registration Fees	2,315

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

EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA, INC.
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended June 30, 2009

Management and General Expenses:

Supplies	768
Telephone	1,593
Total	<u>\$ 136,378</u>

Fund Raising Expenses:

Computer	813
Consulting	4,015
Credit Card Fees	18,469
Employee Benefits	11,404
Executive Director's Salary	48,625
Executive Director's Benefits	4,780
Fund Raising	3,307
Internet	1,905
Mailing List	9,921
Office Rent	5,000
Office Expenses	3,519
Payroll	113,593
Payroll Service	675
Payroll Taxes	11,136
Printing & Postage	1,821
Supplies	768
Telephone	7,435
	<u>\$ 247,186</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, 2009

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 Directors 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, 2009

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>(29,342)</u>
	<u><u>\$ 459</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.