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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

I am writing to thank Equal Justice America for providing me with a very rewarding summer experience. I spent my summer working at the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles. The Children's Law Center represents nearly all of the children involved in dependency proceedings in Los Angeles County and advocates for the critical services that these children and their families need. As a law clerk, I had the opportunity to interview children who have been abused or neglected, help attorneys prepare for a wide variety of hearings, write motions and develop recommendations for the court, and even argue before the court.

The children who were our clients at the Children's Law Center made my experience one that I will never forget. I will never forget the first child for whom I spoke up for in court. He was a seventeen-year-old boy who had spent nearly his whole life in the foster care system. Throughout his teenage years, he had run away from several foster homes due to his frustrations. However, when I met him, he had already matured greatly. He is currently applying to local colleges and is working at McDonald's. He has a very strong sense of personal responsibility.

Nevertheless, his story did not, and does not, end there. Just before I left, this seventeen-year-old boy was arrested on an outstanding warrant from over one year ago. Although he has turned his life around, he still has to pay the consequences for his prior actions. At this point, the Children's Law Center is preparing to advocate on his behalf in delinquency court in order to keep him in the dependency system. Without the Children's Law Center, a child like this boy would have no one to advocate on his behalf and would be likely to get lost in the delinquency system. If he is unable to remain in the dependency system, he is likely to serve more time than his sentence requires because there would be no one to whom he could be released.

Thus, it is because of the Children's Law Center that this boy still has hope. In addition, it is children like him who inspire the work at the Center. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to work at such a wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Ostrosky