

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

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you so much for providing me with the opportunity through fellowship funding to work at the National Center for Youth Law (NYCL) in Oakland, California. Working there for just ten short weeks has only solidified my commitment to serving the public interest.

While at NYCL, I worked closely with the Deputy Director Patrick Gardner, and Arthur Liman Fellow Zahra Hayat, assisting children on Medicaid gain access to the mental health services they desperately need. Most of my work was assisting in discovery in a class action suit against Washington State for failing to provide wraparound services that children receiving Medicaid are entitled to receive under the EPSDT mandate under federal law. I also helped draft a report outlining the access and payment problem children in California in the foster care system encounter when they are moved to a different county, since California Medicaid (Medi-Cal) is administered by each county individually. I was able to strengthen my research and writing skills through Patrick and Zahra's close supervision.

Additionally, NYCL's summer program provided me the opportunity to explore other careers in the public interest, as well as speak with successful lawyers in the field. I was able to visit a juvenile detention facility and see how the juvenile court process works, as well as visit a criminal court and see the role of the judge and public defenders. The program also enabled me to watch videos of the life of Judge Thelton Henderson, a district court judge and former civil rights lawyer and the life of Cruz Reynoso, a farmworker who emerged as the first Latino justice in the Supreme Court of California. I was also exposed to social problems of harsh sentencing for juveniles and was able to see firsthand the policy and advocacy work that NYCL does to ameliorate those problems.

The experience provided me the opportunity to work closely with fierce advocates who dedicate their careers and lives to generating social change, through policy work, advocacy, and strong will and determination. I have made many professional contacts that will serve as mentors and role models in my path to a career in the public interest. NYCL also provided very practical information about financing a public interest career, applying for clerkships and fellowships, and generally creating your own path to pursue a worthwhile career that you love. I cannot speak highly enough about this experience, and I hope that one day I am able to work at an organization as committed to creating the next generation of poverty lawyers as the

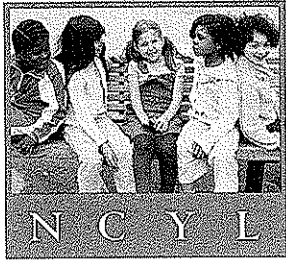
National Center for Youth Law is.

I cannot yet say in what area of law I would like to pursue a career, but I have been provided the tools through my summer work to find an excellent organization and explore my options. As of right now I would like to either work in civil rights, juvenile justice, child advocacy, or environmental justice. I now feel confident in my skills and determination to make my dream a reality, and wholeheartedly pursue a career in serving the public interest.

Again, I thank you very much for this opportunity, and hope that everyone who was able to receive this fellowship had a similarly amazing experience.

Sincerely,

Rachel Miller  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
Class of 2012



## National Center for Youth Law

October 25, 2010

**Director**

John F. O'Toole

**Deputy Director**

Patrick Gardner

**Senior Attorneys**

Pat Arthur

Admitted only in NY & WA

William L. Grimm

Admitted only in MD

Rebecca Gudeman

Leecia Welch

**Attorneys**

Christiana Macfarlane

Bryn Martyna

Fiza Quraishi

Camille Roberts

Patricia Soung

**Of Counsel**

Edward Opton

Shira Weissman

Admitted only in IL

**Liman Fellow**

Zahra Hayat

**Policy Advocate**

Mikaela Rabinowitz

**Skadden Fellow**

Jesse Hahnel

**Director of Finance  
& Administration**

Hayden Lilien

**Director of Communications**

Tracy Schroth

**Assistant Administrator**

Larry Nguyen

**Administrative Staff**

Ethel L. Oden-Brown

Dan Ruben

Executive Director

Equal Justice America

13540 East Boundary Road

Building II, Suite 204

Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Thank you so much for providing Rachel Miller with the opportunity through fellowship funding to work at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) in Oakland, California. I am an attorney and Yale Law School Public Interest Liman Fellow at NCYL, and have benefited greatly from Rachel's assistance with my work on improving mental health access for foster youth.

Rachel assisted me in drafting a report outlining the access and payment problems children in California's foster care system encounter when they are moved to a different county, since California's Medicaid program, Medi-Cal, is administered by each county individually. I supervised Rachel's writing, and in exposing her to policy advocacy rather than adversarial litigation, was able to familiarize her with a type of lawyering she previously had not been exposed to.

I found Rachel's quality of work to be excellent. Her research skills were superb and her writing effective and concise. She also responded to critique of her work very positively and incorporated it in her work effectively. This was especially admirable given that she had had no prior exposure to policy advocacy and her work with me was outside the realm of the legal research and writing that law student interns typically do. As my project at NCYL draws to a close, and we appear to be on the verge of getting the California Child Welfare Council to adopt a comprehensive set of recommendations to address the longstanding out-of-county problem, I have no hesitation in saying that Rachel's assistance during the summer played a key role in helping us get here.

I am glad that I had the opportunity to serve as a type of mentor for Rachel as she navigates her role as a future attorney in the public sector. Again, I thank you very much for this opportunity, and hope that everyone who was able to receive this fellowship had a similar experience.

Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you any further. Note however, that my fellowship at NCYL comes to an end on Oct 29, 2010, and in January 2011 onwards, I will be starting as an associate at a law firm in Palo Alto. I will be traveling abroad in the interim, and the best way to contact me during this period is at my personal email address: [zahra.hayat@gmail.com](mailto:zahra.hayat@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zahra Hayat". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Zahra Hayat

Attorney and Liman Fellow

Ph: 510-835-8098 ext 3022

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