

August 22, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for the 2010 Summer Fellowship, which enabled me to have an outstanding internship experience at the Detroit Center For Family Advocacy (CFA). The purpose of this letter is to summarize the work I did at CFA this summer.

CFA provides legal services to low-income families of children who are at risk of entering foster care or who are already in foster care and awaiting permanency. Under CFA's prevention program, staff attorneys work with families who present legal problems, beyond child welfare proceedings, which, if unaddressed, would constitute the primary reason for the child's removal from home. Under the permanency program, attorneys address legal issues that create obstacles to permanency.

Because CFA is a multi-disciplinary practice, I had the opportunity to research a variety of legal topics (and observe related hearings), including child custody, ex parte orders and procedure, confidentiality of medical records, probate and juvenile guardianships, foster care licensing and contested hearings in administrative court, temporary restraining orders, and termination of parental rights proceedings. Assignments included drafting motions, complaints, orders, an appellate reply brief, closing case summaries, and drafting routine procedural documents such as notice of hearing, proof of service, appearance of attorney, etc.; several major research assignments; a court appearance in a contested matter; screening and recommending new clients; participating in client intake meetings and community outreach events; and filing and serving documents in circuit, family and appellate courts. I enjoyed developing familiarity with diverse practice areas, and this may enhance my ability to broaden

my employment search--my prior significant public interest experience was representing children in child welfare cases. Also, because CFA represents the interests of parents and caregivers, this experience added depth to my experience in child welfare, which is my primary field of interest.

One notable highlight of my internship was representing a father in a child welfare proceeding. The child had been returned to the father and the judge wanted him to establish custody before closing the case. Although the judge denied my request to dismiss the case, he decided to hear the custody matter in juvenile court, rather than have us file for custody in family court, and this should ultimately expedite resolution of the custody matter. While I have had some mock trial experience, this was my first occasion to appear in court, and I really appreciated the opportunity to practice live client representation.

My most challenging assignment (in a good way) was researching and writing an appellate reply brief on behalf of an incarcerated father whose parental rights had been terminated. Because the court had failed to include this parent by telephone in the preliminary and pretrial hearings, in violation of the Michigan Court Rules, this case has a strong likelihood of reversal. Although I had some experience writing briefs for my Legal Writing course at law school, the amount of time and attention to detail required for this assignment was of a completely different order of magnitude. I enjoyed the critical thinking involved and developed what I believe to be my best piece of legal writing to date.

Again, thank you so much for the funding which enabled me to participate in this summer internship. I know that this experience will be invaluable to me as I pursue a career in public interest.

Very truly yours,



Julie Goldstein
University of Michigan Law School
JD expected December 2011

Tracy E. Green
Managing Attorney
Detroit Center for Family Advocacy

Mr. Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

August 6, 2010

RE: JULIE ELIZABETH GOLDSTEIN, EJA Fellow
Detroit Center for Family Advocacy Summer Internship

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Julie Elizabeth Goldstein was a summer student law intern at the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy (CFA) from May 27, 2010 to August 6, 2010. CFA provides free legal services to families involved in the child welfare system. CFA employs a multidisciplinary advocacy approach --- utilizing a lawyer, social worker and, where appropriate, a parent advocate --- to resolve legal issues that create barriers to children remaining safely in their homes with family or to their achievement of a permanent home after prolonged foster care placement.

The work of the CFA is very challenging, requiring both scholarly acumen and social insight. Julie posses these attributes in abundance.

Julie is a skilled legal researcher and writer who consistently produced impressive memoranda of law supportive of her research. She assisted all three of the office lawyers by drafting motions, briefs, complaints, and proposed orders, and by filing such prepared pleadings in the relevant courts. Most importantly, Julie was entrusted with critical tasks such as making court appearances on behalf of clients and the preparation of a reply brief on behalf of an incarcerated client whose parental rights had been wrongfully terminated.

An exceptionally bright and compassionate person, Julie's keen intellect and sensitivity

also rendered her capable of providing meaningful contributions to case discussions and strategy development whenever she was called to offer them. Additionally, Julie effectively leveraged her previous experience as an investigator in the area of child welfare to the profit of CFA. She participated in interviews with clients and other personnel, and she performed various important investigative tasks in cases.

Moreover, and very importantly, Julie was well-received by CFA clients, who are often scared and confused about their ability to maintain the integrity of their families. CFA clients are often distrustful, and, therefore, difficult to engage in the process of representation. Despite this impediment, Julie always displayed a compassionate and respectful demeanor with clients, which helped to build essential rapport. She demonstrated great wisdom about family dynamics and challenges, as well.

Furthermore, as an intern this summer, Julie displayed a true “team spirit” --- eagerly accepting new assignments and direction from staff attorneys. This is a trait that is particularly welcome in a high-intensity law office environment, like CFA’s. Also, as a returning intern, Julie was of great assistance in acclimating two other law interns and a social work intern to the CFA team at the beginning of the summer. Julie always maintained a pleasant and helpful disposition with staff attorneys, and she worked effectively with other interns and support staff.

Julie Elizabeth Goldstein made an immensely valuable contribution to the efforts of the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy during her EJA Summer 2010 Fellowship. CFA and its clients definitely benefited from her internship. We would be delighted to welcome her, again, in the future.

Very truly yours,

TRACY E. GREEN

Managing Attorney