

May 29, 2014

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 support of EJA and the 2014 Spring Fellowship during my internship at Advocates for Children of New York (AFC).

AFC provides assistance in New York City to low-income children at great risk of academic failure or facing school discrimination. Staff attorneys at AFC approach this line of work through various avenues, including representation at school-related hearings, community education about children's education rights, and policy reform advocacy. Given the diverse populations of children and their various needs, AFC runs several programs of which I was most heavily involved in the Early Childhood Education Project. During my internship at AFC, I was also able to assist in the Charter School Discipline Project by researching charter school compliance with school suspension procedures and statutory protections of children with disabilities.

As part of the Early Childhood Education Project, I advocated most significantly for additional education supports for a little girl diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Her mother came to us after an early intervention administrator denied additional supports for the child, despite the child's severe delays. As my first case at AFC, I advocated for the child from start to end – from interviewing the parent to ultimately securing those additional resources. I made many phone calls to various administrators, obtained letters from specialists recommending supports, escalated the case to early intervention supervisors, and drafted and submitted a mediation request. The careful supervision I was provided resulted in a prompt response to the mediation request, approving all of my client's requests. The ultimate triumph for the little girl is that the additional supports has allowed her to make such tremendous progress that she was recently accepted into a pre-K program with high-functioning and regular education children, where she may continue to learn and grow! Having grown up with a brother with severe cerebral palsy, this case serves as a powerful affirmation of the role of legal advocacy in education.

I am indebted to you for funding this invaluable experience and promise to return in kind once I start my public interest career by funding a spring EJA fellowship.

Sincerely,

Ke Wu  
New York University School of Law  
JD Candidate, May 2016



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

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May 30, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

Thank you for awarding Ke Wu with an Equal Justice America fellowship to intern at Advocates for Children of New York (AFC) during the spring of 2014. Ke interned with us during the fall semester, and we were very pleased that she was able to continue her work on behalf of children and families during the spring semester thanks to the support of Equal Justice America.

AFC is a not-for-profit organization in New York City with a mission of promoting access to the best education New York can provide for all students, especially students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. We use uniquely integrated strategies to advance systemic reform, empower families and communities, and advocate for the educational rights of individual students.

During the spring semester, Ke worked with several families to help them secure the educational services their children needed. Her tasks included communicating with clients and professionals, reviewing evaluations and educational documents, writing letters to the New York City Department of Education (DOE), and helping to prepare for administrative hearings. For example, she served as the primary contact for a parent whose preschooler has developmental delays and requires speech therapy and occupational therapy services. Although the child was entitled to receive these services, the DOE never arranged for the services to begin. Given the importance of getting these services in place as quickly as possible, Ke contacted high-level administrators at the DOE about this legal violation and also searched for therapists who were available to travel to the child's preschool. Once Ke identified therapists, the DOE arranged for the services to begin. Ke also worked on a case in which we filed an impartial hearing to request tutoring services for a student who was several years below grade level. Ke worked with the psychologist who had conducted a neuropsychological evaluation of the student and drafted the direct examination of the psychologist for the hearing.

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Throughout the semester, Ke performed high-quality work. Ke's greatest strengths are her strong interpersonal skills, especially when working with clients. Ke has an excellent rapport with clients, shows an understanding of the challenging circumstances of their lives, and has a strong commitment to and passion for making a difference for children and families. She is a persistent advocate for her clients.

Thank you for supporting Ke's internship. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (212) 822-9532 or [rlevine@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:rlevine@advocatesforchildren.org).

Sincerely yours,

*Randi Levine*

Randi Levine  
Project Director, Early Childhood Education Project