

August 28, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I sincerely enjoyed my experience this summer working at the University of Michigan Law School Pediatric Advocacy Clinic, and I wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of Equal Justice America.

My fellowship allowed me to work full-time providing direct legal services to families in significant need. I worked on education access for special needs children, access to public benefits for hardworking families, a custody and divorce agreement for a victim of domestic violence and her children, and other critical issues that had a direct impact on our client's lives. I will share two brief examples of the incredible clients I worked for during my summer.

I was able to argue an appeal in court to restore eligibility for childcare benefits for a young woman who had done everything right. She earned her BA while parenting two young children, and was working full time. She had fully complied with the public benefits requirements, but was held to an improper standard for compliance. She needed legal representation to help establish that the state was improperly denying her childcare benefits. We secured a court order restoring her eligibility, and ensuring she would be properly assessed for benefits moving forward. The Clinic is still working on her case, but her perseverance is phenomenal, and I was honored to be able to provide her with legal assistance.

I helped another young woman secure a divorce and custody agreement that helped stretch her limited financial resources, provided safe visitation for her medically fragile child with her ex-husband, and efficiently resolve the of the contentious issues these proceedings encompass. She works incredibly hard, loves and cares for her children fiercely, and was endlessly patient with my ongoing requests for documents and feedback on specific proposals, and the multiple procedural court dates required to finalize her divorce.

Working with both of these clients, and my other clients at the Clinic showed me the focus, patience, and fortitude it takes to work with counsel to enforce your rights while parenting, working, and attending to medical needs. As the counsel this summer, I had

the easy and rewarding job, seeing the legal victories without living the challenges that create a need for those victories.

It is critical for young attorneys to have experience working directly with people who need legal assistance, and Equal Justice America does great good in making that possible. Because of my experience this summer, I plan to continue in public service work following graduation from law school.

Sincerely,

Kate Craddock  
University of Michigan Law School  
Class of 2018

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September 6, 2016

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
Building II – Suite 204  
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Dear Mr. Ruben:

I had the pleasure of supervising Kate Craddock this past summer at the University of Michigan Law School Pediatric Advocacy Clinic. I am writing to describe her work and to express gratitude for Equal Justice America's support for her.

Kate was one of two student attorneys working in the clinic this past summer. I was her direct supervisor on most of her cases. One case in particular stands out as a nice example of Kate's wonderful work in the clinic. Kate represented a young, low-income mother in her appeal regarding the Department of Health and Human Services' ("the Department") denial of subsidized day care benefits and food assistance benefits. The Department accused the client of not complying with the Office of Child Support and terminated her benefits. The client represented herself in an appeal before an administrative law judge and lost, and Kate began working in the clinic a few weeks before our scheduled oral argument in circuit court. Kate worked very hard to understand the federal law underlying these welfare benefits and to synthesize it with the state welfare regulations. She wrote and re-wrote her talking points, and practiced her oral argument before fellow students and seasoned benefits attorneys. In the end, Kate delivered an outstanding oral argument in circuit court and our client was awarded a year's worth of retroactive day care and food assistance benefits.

Despite having no background in any of the substantive areas of law in which the clinic practices, Kate dove right into her cases and began learning the law (public benefits, special education, and family law) and counseling her clients. She is incredibly smart and was always professional, inquisitive, and compassionate to her clients.

I am thrilled that we had the opportunity to work with Kate this summer. I believe that this experience helped her better define the type of lawyer she wants to be, and there is no doubt that it helped the clinic's clients along the way. Thank you for your support of Kate and for your future support of other likeminded law students.

Sincerely,



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Debra Chopp  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Director, Pediatric Advocacy Clinic