Urban Law Clinic Students Successfully Negotiate Settlement for Autistic Client

Jeremy Wechsler (left) and Jessica Fisher (right) successfully negotiated a settlement for an autistic client.

Urban Law Clinic students Jeremy Wechsler (3L) and Jessica Fisher (3L) successfully negotiated a settlement agreement with the New York City Department of Education (DOE) enabling their client, Jordan, to be placed in a private school. Jordan, a 5-year-old child with severe autism, aged out of his preschool program last year, requiring that a new school placement be located for him. Due to the DOE’s failure to locate a placement, Jordan has been out of school—receiving absolutely no educational services—since May. Jeremy and Jessica filed an impartial hearing complaint, seeking to force the DOE to immediately locate an appropriate educational placement for the student. While preparing for the impartial hearing, Jessica and Jeremy convinced the DOE to hold a settlement conference, where they persuaded the DOE to agree to place their client in a private school for children with autism.

Unfortunately, autism is becoming more pervasive, and placements at appropriate schools in New York City are severely limited. However, in conjunction with the legal action taken, Jeremy and Jessica located an appropriate private school specializing in autism where Jordan could be placed immediately. Jordan has already completed the necessary intake session for the school, and hopefully will be joining his new classmates shortly.

To find out more about clinics/externships please contact the Lawyering Skills Center at 212.431.2179.
Mediation Clinic Students Successfully Mediate Landlord/Tenant Dispute

Mediation Clinic students Atty Bruggemann (3L) and Jeremy Weinstein (3L) successfully mediated a small claims court dispute between a landlord and a former tenant regarding the return of a security deposit to the tenant. The parties had signed an unusual lease that called for the tenant to take the apartment “as is,” but also required the tenant to leave the apartment “in good condition.” As one might predict, a conflict stemming from the two clauses was inevitable. Jeremy and Atty patiently and effectively mediated the dispute to a reasonable conclusion.

Urban Law Clinic Students Successfully Negotiate Settlement for Impaired Student

Urban Law Clinic students Eric Henry (2L) and Matthew Windman (3L) successfully negotiated a settlement with the New York City Department of Education (DOE). Eric and Matthew represent an 11-year-old boy with a speech and language impairment. His impairment makes it difficult for him to communicate because his speech is virtually unintelligible. Since 2005, the youth has been attending a private school in Springfield Gardens, New York that specializes in educating children with emotional disturbances, but not speech and language impairments. He is performing drastically below grade level, because he has not been receiving specific speech and language services that cater to his condition.

In accordance with every child’s right to a “free and appropriate public education,” the child’s parents have repeatedly asked the DOE to place the youth in an appropriate setting. In mid-October 2008, Eric and Matthew were successful in securing compensatory services for the child from the DOE. These services will provide the child with intensive speech therapy to compensate for the time that he did not receive such services.

The next step will be to secure a permanent, appropriate placement for the youth.

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