



Introducing, Summer 2018 EJA Fellow:



Name: Danielle Richmond

Law School: Boston College Law School

Internship: Greater Boston Legal Services, Housing Unit

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate Over the past three weeks I have been working with the Housing Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services to help families obtain emergency assistance shelter. What has been alarming to witness is the amount of unjust and illegal obstacles families have to overcome to have their basic need of a safe and adequate shelter met. However, I will use my skills and past experiences to dismantle these inequalities. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue. <https://www.classy.org/campaign/equal-justice-america-2018-fellows-fundraiser/c170372>

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate It's been almost five weeks since I've been working in the Housing Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. I am gaining more knowledge about the emergency assistance (EA) shelter system and it has been rewarding to see how my experience, though limited, successfully help families seek shelter. Additionally, I am closely working with my supervising attorney on a large case that can potentially change the ways in which families under EA are served, creating a more just and efficient system to accommodate their needs. I am excited to learn and do more in the 2nd half of my time here at GBLS. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue. <https://www.classy.org/campaign/equal-justice-america-2018-fellows-fundraiser/c170372>

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate I am seven weeks into my internship in the Housing Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). Most of my contact with clients in the past weeks have been through telephone or email correspondence, but in the past few days, I have been meeting with my clients more in person, even visiting them at their home. I am continually learning that meeting with your clients in person allows you to better understand them and the issues that they are going through. It also removes a barrier, allowing trust and a better working relationship to develop. I will continue to remember this as this advice is useful across many fields of work. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue. <https://www.classy.org/campaign/equal-justice-america-2018-fellows-fundraiser/c170372>



Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate My time in the Housing Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) is winding down to a close. In the last 9-10 weeks since being here, I have been given the opportunity to work with great attorneys, fellows, and other interns. I have also learned a lot about the Emergency Assistance shelter system within Massachusetts. Unfortunately, a lot of work needs to be done to fix certain issues within the EA shelter system so that families are better served. Many are wrongfully denied or placed in places with difficult conditions without any help or accommodation from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). However, the Housing Unit is working to eradicate this. GBLS overall is an organization continually working to help individuals and families in need. Never have I worked in an organization that genuinely cares about its clients.

I am happy that I have actually helped families secure shelter placement, even using my language skill of Haitian Creole to communicate with clients in a class action for the shelter practice group. Additionally, what I will take with me the most is the need to help marginalized groups (people of color, individuals with physical and mental disabilities, etc.) They are usually forgotten and statistically face housing/shelter displacement more than other groups. Although I may not want to pursue this work as my primary legal focus, working on affordable housing and eradicating homelessness peak my interests for pro bono work and community outreach. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that my work, and the work of my peers, may continue. <https://www.classy.org/campaign/equal-justice-america-2018-fellows-fundraiser/c170372>


GREATER BOSTON
LEGAL SERVICES
...and justice for all

Ms. Katie Toman
Office Manager
Equal Justice America
Building II – Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112
Via electronic mail to katie@equaljusticeamerica.org

August 31, 2018

RE: Danielle Richmond, EJA Fellowship Recipient

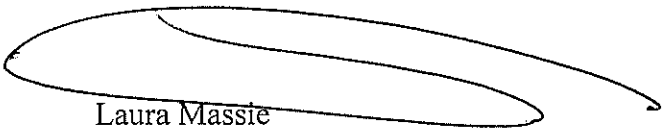
Dear Ms. Toman:

I had the great pleasure of supervising EJA grantee Danielle Richmond this summer. Danielle spent the summer working on behalf of homeless families seeking adequate shelter in Massachusetts' state-funded family shelter system. She worked on the individual cases of numerous clients and also provided support on a major class action pending against the Commonwealth regarding its administration of the family shelter system.

Danielle was an excellent addition to our shelter team. She displayed confidence and competence in tackling all tasks assigned to her and sought supervision as appropriate. Her work was thorough, prompt, and detail-oriented. In her work with individual clients, she remained calm and nonjudgmental, even during extremely challenging client interactions. She also provided invaluable support to the class action in reviewing and organizing voluminous discovery responses.

Danielle's internship this summer enabled us to take on more cases and to provide our clients with more intensive services. We are grateful to Danielle for her contributions and to EJA for making her internship with us possible.

Yours,


Laura Massie
Staff Attorney, Housing Law Unit
Tel: 617-603-1595
Lmassie@gbls.org