Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



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Law School: Boston University

EJA Fellowship: Greater Boston Legal Services

CORI & Re-Entry Project

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

As a Fellow with Equal Justice America, I get to share my experience working with Greater Boston Legal Services's CORI & Re-Entry Project this summer. This week our unit headed to the State House to celebrate Massachusetts's historic criminal reform bill.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Last week I had the opportunity to sit in on a panel about Bruce Western's new book "Life in the Year After Prison" hosted by the Boston Bar Association. We were fortunate enough to hear from two participants in the Boston Reentry Survey, and learn about the struggles they faced reintegrating into life outside of prison. The work being done in the CORI & Re-Entry Project allows people with criminal records the opportunity to positively contribute to and reintegrate into their communities. #BULaw #GBLS

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate Last week, my co-interns and I spent our Friday afternoon at the State House dropping off information on Bill H.3153 – "An Act Regulating the Use of Credit Reports by Employers." Currently, the use of credit reports is entirely unregulated, meaning employers can reject applicants with poor credit, even if it is entirely unrelated to the position and future job performance. The use of credit reports as a screening tool perpetuates racial inequality, poverty, and lack of social mobility.

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate Last week, my colleagues and I headed to Roxbury for a job fair sponsored by the Massachusetts Cannabis Business Association and a number of other advocacy groups. The recreational marijuana industry will ultimately create nearly 20,000 jobs and millions in tax revenue in Massachusetts. Our booth hosted a free legal clinic for those hoping to seal records related to past marijuana convictions. This is part of a larger effort by MA to bring cannabis workers and consumers out of the illegal market and into the regulated one. In the words of one advocate, Marcus Johnson-Smith, "The talent is here, and it's transferable. Folks are now being hired to do things they went to jail for."