



## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Amanda Baird

**Law School:** Boston University School of Law

**Organization:** Greater Boston Legal Services

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### Week of June 15th

This summer I am working in the Elder, Health and Disability Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. As a Legal Intern and an Equal Justice America Fellow, I am helping elders in the Boston area who could not otherwise afford legal assistance. Cases cover a range of topics, but most are housing- or disability- related. It's the beginning of week three, and I've already had the pleasure of working with three clients directly, while also assisting with other cases, attending trainings, and working on a health policy research project.

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### Week of July 6th

It is hard to believe I am halfway through my internship with Greater Boston Legal Services in the Elder, Health and Disability Unit! I can't decide what has been my favorite part of the internship so far: talking to clients or researching and writing for my independent policy assignment on dual-eligible beneficiaries (individuals who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid).

My unit's housing work feels even more important as the threat of mass evictions gains national attention. Today, I am excited to attend a live-stream lecture with Nikole-Hannah Jones on racial equity and COVID-19 hosted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

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### Week of July 27th

As the end of my internship in the Elder, Health and Disability Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services approaches, I'm thankful to Equal Justice America for the support they have given me to work in public interest this summer.



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Since my last EJA Fellow Update, Governor Baker extended the eviction moratorium in Massachusetts to October 17. While this is good news for the at-risk tenants I work with, I still worry about the flood of evictions that will come when the moratorium ends. Programs like RAFT and the Tenancy Preservation Project will prove crucial.

I will continue to follow these issues when fall semester starts. My experience doing housing and health care work this summer led me to enroll in Affordable Housing Law at Boston University School of Law for this upcoming semester. I'm excited about the opportunity to learn more about affordable housing law.

Recently, my work has been very writing intensive. I am currently finalizing a legal memo on issues of fraud in the inducement, misrepresentation, and tax evasion. I am also adding policy suggestions to my summer-long research project on health care for duals.

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## **Week of August 10th**

It's my final EJA Fellow Update. Time flew by! I completed my internship at Greater Boston Legal Services a week ago.

This summer, I counseled at-risk clients, including the elderly and individuals with mental health challenges. I wrote memos for supervisors and administrative agency officials to provide relevant background and legal analysis. I also examined health insurance options available for duals in the Commonwealth and provided policy suggestions for allowing elders to age in place. I drafted and edited text for an MCLE chapter. I even spent some time researching a criminal law matter to better inform our advice for a client. I did all of this while attending internal and external trainings and learning valuable lessons from the staff and other interns at GBLS.

This experience has increased my commitment to public interest work. I'm very grateful for Equal Justice America's support.

In a few short weeks, I will be back at Boston University School of Law. I'm excited to apply what I've learned this summer to my classes, especially Administrative Law, Health Law, and Affordable Housing Law.