



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2022 EJA Fellow:



Name: Virginia Ambeliotis

Law School: Boston College Law School

Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services

Update 1: Organizations like Equal Justice America make summer internships at legal services providers more viable for law students. Without EJA, law students would earn little to no wages for their summer legal work assisting low-income clients of civil legal services providers, and these awesome organizations would have less resources to educate the next generation of public interest lawyers. I am really enjoying being a family law intern at Greater Boston Legal Services so far, and I thank EJA for helping make that possible.

Update 2: As a family law unit intern at GBLS, I am assisting immigrant women and domestic violence survivors with their divorce, child support, and child custody cases. Thank you so much to Equal Justice America for enabling me to work with these wonderful clients and gain valuable legal experience.

Update 3: I have spent the last few weeks at mt GBLS internship funded by Equal Justice America helping a noncitizen client obtain and extend a restraining order against her abusive ex-partner. It has been really hard to see my client and her household family members endure the ex-partner's dangerous and escalating behaviors, and while I am hopeful that the order will increase my client's sense of safety, this experience has raised some doubts for me concerning criminal law's utility in mitigating intimate partner violence on a structural level. Still, the more I learn about intimate partner violence and other issues impacting low-income immigrant women of color, the more I am convinced that civil legal services have the power to reduce poverty, and that other aspects of family law practice - divorce, child custody, child support, immigration relief, etc. – can provide a real economic benefit to clients.

Update 4: Thank you to Equal Justice America for helping the family law interns at GBLS do public interest legal work this summer.

Update 5: Many thanks again to Equal Justice America for funding my family law internship at GBLS and for helping law students pursue public interest paths.