



# EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

## Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Abigail Rosovsky

**Law School:** Boston College Law School

**Organization:** Greater Boston Legal Services

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### Update 1:

This summer, I am so grateful to have received an Equal Justice America Fellowship (EJA) to support my legal work with Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) in their Family Law Unit. EJA is a non-profit that supports law students in their public interest work. As a part of my fellowship, I will be posting five #EJAFellowUpdate's throughout the summer. GBLS provides free legal assistance and representation to low-income residents in the Boston and greater Boston areas. Throughout the summer, I will be working closely with survivors of domestic violence to support them through their divorce, custody, and abuse prevention orders. Many survivors face barriers that make it difficult for them to advocate effectively for themselves in the legal system. I am excited to be a part of such a dedicated team who is working to alleviate these obstacles and am looking forward to the rest of the summer!

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### Update 2:

Today marks my fourth week at Greater Boston Legal Services in the Family Law Unit. Over the past month, I've had the opportunity to work on a variety of substantive projects and put my legal skills into practice. Specifically, I've been interviewing clients, drafting divorce and custody orders, and supporting survivors of domestic violence in court. Earlier this week, I was able to help secure a custody order for one of our clients to allow her to travel outside the United States without the consent of her abusive ex-husband. It's been incredibly rewarding to work with a team that is doing such important work in the Boston area.

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### Update 3:

This week marks the halfway point of my internship at Greater Boston Legal Services. Over the past few weeks, I've learned so much from the fantastic attorneys and staff in the Family Law Unit. Specifically, I've been working with a client to prepare her divorce proceedings and child custody arrangement. In order to arrange the information we need to compose her complaints, we have to work with a variety of government agencies



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including the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Revenue, and many more. One barrier I've realized that our clients often face, is that there are so many steps involved with reaching assistance and guidance in family law. I'm grateful to be working for such a dedicated team that works tirelessly to make sure we are aiding our clients in every way we can.

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## **Update 4:**

This week, I am entering the last few weeks of my internship with the Family Law Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. Over the past few weeks, I have been learning about the importance of comprehensive and integrated legal services. One of my client's is a survivor of domestic violence and I am assisting her in her divorce proceedings and her custody arrangement. However, her abuser is no longer in the country and when he left, my client found herself unable to pay the rent for her and her children. Thus, even though I am interning with the Family Law Unit, my client's greatest needs are actually related to how she can keep her family safe and housed. Because of this, I have found myself interacting with other units at Greater Boston Legal Services, such as the Housing Unit and the Welfare Unit, in order to get a referral for my client. These units are able to help her get cash assistance, apply for a housing voucher, and find subsidized child care so she can work. I am so grateful to be working at an organization like Greater Boston Legal Services that prioritizes meeting all of their client's needs.

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## **Update 5:**

For my final EJA Fellow Update, I want to reflect on how much I have learned and experienced at Greater Boston Legal Services, in the Family Law Unit, over the course of this summer. Throughout my internship, I was able to get hands on experience with clients who needed urgent help with restraining orders, child custody issues, divorces, and many other Family Law matters. I drafted pleadings, conducted client intakes and interviews, and strengthened my legal research and writing skills. Moreover, with the extensive resources and wide reaching support of GBLS, I was able to connect many of my clients with social services and other aid they needed to support them and their children to live safe, stable lives. Additionally, I am also appreciative of the time I was able to spend in Family Court. The first time I went with my client to Family Court, I realized how challenging it is to navigate the complex court system without the assistance of counsel, as a pro se litigant. I was glad to be a part of the Suffolk County Court's Lawyer for a Day Program, where we helped clients figure out what forms they needed to file with the court and other paperwork they might need for their cases. Finally, I am so grateful for each and every individual at Greater Boston Legal Services who helped make this summer such a great experience. Each person I worked with was excited to talk with me about their work and answer the many questions I had. Greater Boston Legal Services provided me extensive opportunities to experience the many different aspects of Family Law. My supervisor, and the other attorneys in the office, mentored and supported me in all of my client interactions. I look forward to using the skills I learned this summer during my 2L year and throughout the rest of my time at Boston College Law School. I'm grateful to Equal Justice America for helping to make it possible for me to spend the summer at Greater Boston Legal Services and for the important work they do in the public interest field.