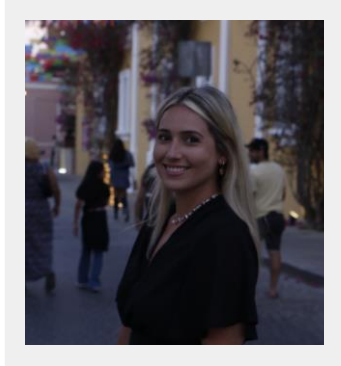




EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2023 EJA Fellow:



Name: Cassidy Young

Law School: Boston University

Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services

Update 1: Last week, I started my internship with Greater Boston Legal Services in their Family Law Unit. We provide representation and legal advice to indigent individuals seeking help with divorce, custody, and other family-related issues. I'm lucky to be part of the Domestic Violence Workgroup that helps survivors of domestic violence get the legal assistance they need to get to a better place in their lives. GBLS supports equal access to justice for everyone by providing essential legal services to those who cannot afford them. I'm excited to begin a career in public interest law at this incredible organization that supports the Boston community.

Update 2: Over the past three weeks, I have learned so much about the needs of the Boston community and how deeply family law issues affect their lives. The legal work that we do at Greater Boston Legal Services is deeply personal, going far beyond providing routine legal services to clients. I feel honored to be helping a single mother get the financial support she needs to create a new life away from her abuser. We are also helping her extend an abuse prevention order to give her some semblance of safety, even though she told us that she and her children will never feel truly safe from her abuser. I am lucky to be able to help clients like her with the help of Equal Justice America - the organization that helps fund students like me who pursue public interest careers.

Update 3: I want to give a huge shoutout to all of the attorneys and staff at Greater Boston Legal Services. So far this summer, everyone has made me feel so welcomed into the Family Law Unit and it really shows that this organization cares about the future generation of public interest lawyers. I've gotten the opportunity to attend hearings with attorneys, watch negotiations happen in real time, and sit in on client counseling meetings. Without the flexibility and openness of the attorneys at GBLS, I wouldn't be able to get these incredible experiences! Not to mention, the pizza parties and cannoli tastings are a great way to contribute to the team environment and keep everyone motivated to do the best work that they can. I have incredible mentors this summer who encourage me to try new things and push my limits.

Please consider donating to Equal Justice America, the organization supporting me financially this summer. They help future public interest attorneys like me get the support they need to work in the important public



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interest sector of law. It has been an honor to be able to work at GBLS this summer and I can't wait to tackle more important work over the next few weeks!

Update 4: It's hard to believe that I am approaching the last few weeks of my summer internship at Greater Boston Legal Services. This summer has taught me so much already - how to prepare for hearings, how to talk directly with clients, and how to navigate the court system. It is disheartening to think about how much trouble I had learning about the court process, let alone how hard it is for those seeking help with no legal background at all. It feels special to be able to help indigent clients get through the court system and give them the confidence to not give up on their goals. Specifically, at GBLS I am assisting victims of domestic violence seek custody of their children and the financial support that they need. Please consider donating to Greater Boston Legal Services as well as Equal Justice America, the amazing organization that is helping fund my summer internship. EJA helps students like me, who want to pursue careers in public interest law, with funding so that we don't have to choose between pursuing our passion and being financially stable.

Update 5: As my time at Greater Boston Legal Services is ending, I thought I would share a summary of my time at this incredible organization.

I had the privilege of working on both abuse prevention order cases and divorce cases. Both types taught me so much about general civil procedure, courtroom practices, client interaction, and the emotional burden that family lawyers take on. In my opinion, family law is some of the most important work for indigent clients. Issues relating to custody, divorce, children, etc. significantly impact their day-to-day lives and directly impacts their safety and wellbeing. Even being a small part of helping our clients change their lives for the better makes all of the hard work well worth it.

A few technical things that I learned along the way – how to draft divorce pleadings, how to conduct a direct examination of a witness, how to draft separation agreements, how to communicate with opposing counsel, and more. Specifically, I learned how to utilize my background in accounting to draft financial statements for divorce cases. It was a nice surprise to learn that my business background could be useful to family law!

My mentors this summer were awesome – they were always willing to field all of my questions and did not hesitate to help me when I struggled. The environment at GBLS is one of inclusivity, teamwork, and compassion. This summer allowed me to take a deep dive into family law and it is now one of my favorite practice areas. It combines everything that I am looking for out of a career – client interaction, writing, counseling, and going into court. I can definitely see myself choosing this path after law school!

A huge thank you to Equal Justice America and Boston University School Of Law for making this summer possible for me through both an EJA Grant and Public Service Summer Grant. It is incredibly important to support public interest lawyers because they do some of the most important work for society, yet receive some of the least compensation. Please consider donating to both EJA and GBLS to support giving everyone equal access to justice in our country!