



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

SUMMER 2024

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Joe Thibodeau
LAW SCHOOL	Boston College Law School
ORGANIZATION	GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)

Update 1: This summer I am interning at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), a civil rights organization located in Boston, Massachusetts. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to learn from GLAD’s attorneys over the coming weeks and honored to receive the support of Equal Justice America (EJA).

Working at GLAD carries particular significance for me. I first came to understand my queer identity during the historic debates over same-sex marriage in the early 2000s. At that time, I followed GLAD’s tireless efforts to advance bold, creative legal arguments that challenged entrenched social norms. GLAD’s campaigns contributed to cultural shifts that have allowed many queer people like me to live authentically and openly as full members of society. Today, as LGBTQIA+ individuals face heightened discrimination and violence, organizations like GLAD continue to play a pivotal role in fighting to maintain and expand the inclusion of queer people. GLAD dives head-on into its creative and challenging advocacy fights and I am excited to roll up my sleeves and contribute to the organization’s critical work this summer.

Update 2: June marks the celebration of Pride month – a time to reflect on historic victories for LGBTQIA+ rights and recommit to the movement for queer liberation. As state legislatures continue to propose hundreds of anti-LGBTQIA+ bills and queer and trans people across the United States face increased threats of violence, I am proud to spend my summer helping the team at GLAD as they work together to fight discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education campaigns. In addition to my ongoing research and writing projects, I have had the opportunity to attend Pride events with my GLAD colleagues including the Pride flag raising at the Massachusetts State House and the Governor’s Pride Month Celebration for LGBTQIA+ Youth & Families. Additionally, I sat in on a formal session of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and witnessed the passage of the Massachusetts Parentage Act- a GLAD policy priority that seeks to modify outdated laws and provide clear, equitable legal protections for LGBTQIA+ families in Massachusetts. Every day I am learning about the different



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ways lawyers work to support LGBTQIA+ civil rights and I am excited for all the upcoming opportunities I will experience as part of my GLAD internship!

Update 3: GLAD is an organization that engages in policy advocacy, civil rights litigation, and public education campaigns focused on protecting and expanding the rights of LGBTQIA+ people. The past six weeks of my internship at GLAD have flown by, and I am trying to soak up every lesson and piece of feedback I have received while working one-on-one with the different attorneys on GLAD's staff. More information about GLAD's ongoing cases and advocacy can be found on the organization's website: <https://www.glad.org/our-impact/cases/>.

So far, my experience interning at GLAD has provided me a hands-on opportunity to observe and put into practice different types of lawyering skills central to the work of civil rights attorneys. I have certainly spent a significant amount of time this summer researching, reading, and citing legal materials (statutes, regulations, cases, etc.) which has strengthened my legal analytical muscles. Additionally, I have helped draft materials including know your rights guides, motions, and memoranda. With each passing week I feel my skills and confidence continue to grow. I am incredibly grateful to all the lawyers at GLAD who have invested in my professional development and regularly take time out of their busy schedules to share helpful advice and knowledge to deepen my understanding of this area of law and legal practice.

Update 4: Over the past two weeks I have been busy helping GLAD's lawyers develop litigation materials for a filing in a state court. This experience has been incredibly rewarding and provided me an opportunity to roll up my sleeves and contribute to the researching and drafting of arguments central to our litigation strategy. Throughout this endeavor, I have been continually impressed by my supervisors' instincts, attention to detail, and broad knowledge of the law. I am grateful to have had this chance to learn from them by working on this exciting project!

As someone who did not grow up with lawyers in his family, the terminology and doctrine central to the study of law was completely foreign to me at first. While I have certainly grown through my courses, clinics, and activities at law school, some aspects of litigation are still a little intimidating for me. Working at GLAD this summer has helped break down barriers and allowed me to gain confidence and grow my legal skills. This internship has complemented my previous work in the Boston College Civil Rights Clinic and provided me an invaluable opportunity to continue learning in a hands-on manner as I plan for my future career beyond law school.

Update 5: As I reflect on the ten weeks I spent interning at GLAD this summer, I feel an immense sense of gratitude for the opportunity to learn from a team of smart, determined attorneys engaged in cutting-edge legal advocacy for LGBTQIA+ civil rights. Through this experience, I built meaningful professional relationships with my supervisor and other members of the legal team through weekly check-ins, brown bag lunch learning sessions, and direct collaboration on projects. The mentorship I received at GLAD has helped sharpen my legal skills and broadened my understanding of the different types of work lawyers do at a civil rights organization.



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Over the summer, I had the opportunity to assist multiple attorneys at GLAD on both policy and litigation projects. From day one on the job, I conducted extensive legal research based on the needs of the legal team. I also helped draft materials throughout the summer including legal memoranda, motions, internal fact sheets, and know your rights resources for public audiences. The feedback I received on these documents was invaluable and has helped strengthen my skills in legal writing and analysis. I am confident the lessons I have learned at GLAD will serve me well as I enter my third year of law school and prepare for my legal career after graduation.

Over the past months, I have developed a deep appreciation for the work of GLAD's entire team. Throughout my internship, I worked directly on projects that supported litigation and policy initiatives designed to combat ongoing discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people. Learning the stories of GLAD's clients, I felt driven to put forth my best work and grew more connected to GLAD's mission. I am humbled to have had this opportunity to make a small contribution at this organization that is engaged in civil rights advocacy that directly impacts the lives of people in my community.

I am incredibly grateful to the team at EJA for helping to fund my internship at GLAD this summer. Your generous support has allowed me to pursue an opportunity related to my public interest career goals and expand my skills and network. Thank you for your continued support!