



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: Hello all! I am happy to share that my experience at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau has been incredible so far. It has been so wonderful to learn from amazing peers and clinical instructors. I am so fortunate to be working in both the Family law practice and the Wage & Hour practice under the guidance of Jacob Chin. Jacob always makes an effort to check with how I am doing and if I need any support or encouragement. During my first two weeks, the clinical instructors at HLAB provided lectures and facilitated discussions concerning the applicable law, client interaction, litigation preparation, legal research, and more. The clinical instructors provided a strong foundation for me and other incoming summer counsel—not only building knowledge but also camaraderie. I truly appreciate the time, effort, and care that went into preparing me and my cohort for our summer counsel experience. It's also exciting to apply the knowledge and skills from my courses at BU law—thank you to my amazing professors. I am looking forward to attending my first meeting with La Colaborativa at their Workers Center in Chelsea this evening and empowering workers!

I also want to thank Boston University School of Law and Equal Justice America for funding my work at HLAB. Without their support, I would not be able to do this work.

Update 2: Here is another update regarding my summer at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau! During mid-June, I went to my first event at La Colaborativa in Chelsea with other HLAB summer counsel and Patricio Rossi, a clinical instructor. It was an inspiring experience to see a well-connected community organization provide a wide range of resources to empower the surrounding Latinx population. I look forward to attending more intake sessions and learning from community members and leaders. I also want to thank Laura Leal, the Community Organizing Specialist at La Colaborativa, who provided Spanish translations while we interacted with community members. She did a great job, and I look forward to seeing her future



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programming! She interacted with each client with empathy, care, and energy. The folks at La Colaborativa are doing it right—and I appreciate them welcoming us to their space. I feel fortunate to experience working in a legal aid environment that is deeply committed to collaborating with critical community organizations.

Update 3: My time at the HLAB has provided me the opportunity to learn more about client counseling. In particular, it has been incredibly meaningful to help my clients understand the law and know what options are available to them. I hope to ensure that my clients feel empowered in their decisions. A crucial component to client counseling is language accessibility. I have been incredibly fortunate to have Spanish interpreters at the HLAB office who continue to provide language interpretation when I am interacting with my Spanish-speaking clients. This summer has been my first time working with an interpreter when interacting with a client for meetings, and I deeply appreciate how skilled and thoughtful the Spanish interpreters at HLAB have been during each meeting. I plan to take some Spanish classes (and perhaps Korean) throughout my legal career so I can connect with clients and meet them better where they are.

I also recently did another motion hearing but this time on zoom. Although it was short, the preparation that I did for it was good practice for knowing what steps I can take to be ready in court. I have another motion hearing scheduled at the end of July, and I am looking forward to being on the record again as a SJC 3:03 student attorney.

Update 4: My time at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau is coming to a close soon in August. I feel very fortunate to have gained more experience with writing complaints, submitting motions, having client meetings, and appearing on the record for court hearings. I also learned to be more flexible and to maneuver unexpected challenges through collaborating with my peers. The other summer counsels have been passionate, funny, and kind, and I hope that my next work experience in the fall matches the same energy. I am excited to see what my other peers will be able to accomplish in the next coming years. I feel grateful to HLAB for giving me such a great workplace environment that I can use to guide my job search for post-grad.

I also feel grateful to have such an amazing supervisor. I hope I can become a powerful advocate as I continue to develop my legal identity and style of lawyering. My time at HLAB has definitely helped me flourish more as a legal advocate, and I am so excited to go into my last year of law school!

Update 5: As I get ready for my last year of law school, a big thank you to Equal Justice America and BU Law for funding my summer at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. It was truly an engaging and fun experience working with my peers and supervisor. I learned so much within a short amount of time, and I have found myself talking to potential employers about both challenging



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and rewarding work from the summer. I also believe that I have a good baseline for the type of workplace I want to join and the onboarding supports that help me thrive. I feel extremely grateful to my clients for trusting me with their stories and helping me learn how to be a better advocate. I am also grateful towards the other staff at HLAB for supporting my work—huge shoutout to the Spanish speakers in the office for assisting me with client contact!

Over the summer, I got to represent clients in Family and Wage law. I appeared in court for multiple hearings, wrote motions and memorandums of law, consulted clients, collaborated with attorneys at other orgs, participated in the AG's wage clinic and La Colaborativa's clinic, contacted social workers, filed documents in court, and so much more. It was a summer full of new experiences and chances to improve myself. I am grateful towards my supervisor for providing constructive feedback during our meetings. I felt like I was able to grow through those conversations.

I have also gained invaluable friendships with an amazing set of soon-to-be lawyers! I really enjoyed the conversations we had during happy hours and lunches. It was nice to learn more about my peers as the summer went by and I am grateful for the laughs and smiles that we shared! I can't wait to see what they will be able to accomplish in the near future. I look forward to keeping in touch and seeing them again soon!

I know that I will hold HLAB memories long into my legal career.