



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Greater Boston Legal Services

Final Reflection:

This summer, I had the privilege of working at Greater Boston Legal Services in the Family Law Unit. It was an incredible experience, and I can see how much I grew over the course of my time there, particularly in the area of client counseling. I had the opportunity to work closely with clients, often through interpreters, which not only strengthened my communication skills but also prepared me well for my current work in the Immigrants' Rights and Human Trafficking Clinic at BU.

Although I had prior client-facing experience as a legal assistant before law school, this summer gave me the chance to engage with clients from the perspective of an attorney, which was invaluable. I especially appreciated this responsibility because it allowed me to see the impact of my work more directly. I also became proficient in the basics of divorce law, child custody, and child support, and I developed practical legal skills such as legal research and drafting affidavits and memoranda for court. The Family Law Unit's focus on supporting survivors of domestic violence was particularly meaningful. At first, I felt hesitant about addressing such sensitive issues, but I quickly learned how to navigate these conversations with empathy and care. These client interactions were some of the most rewarding parts of my summer, as I could truly feel the difference our work made in their lives. Working closely with the attorneys in the unit helped me see more of myself in the law and gave me confidence that not only could I be an attorney, but I could thrive in that role.

Another highlight of my summer was observing attorneys in court. Watching them in action gave me valuable insight into litigation practice and reinforced the importance of strong advocacy for clients navigating difficult circumstances. One especially meaningful moment came



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during my last week, when I shadowed my supervisor on a case we had both worked on since my first day. I had become very involved in the case, and by the end of my internship I felt like I had

truly bonded with that client: I had spoken with one of her sons and seen pictures of the other two, I had laughed with her, and I had been a shoulder to lean on to support her throughout the duration of her case. We were helping her file for divorce and get a child support order after she and her children left her abuser. The case was intense and reviewing the documentation was hard at times, but she was a wonderful client. Although the outcome that day was to prolong the case, which was not what our client had hoped for, we were able to make meaningful progress and develop a clearer understanding of her needs moving forward. It was a full-circle experience that reminded me of the persistence and patience required in family law practice. This job also showed me how clients often face challenges beyond their immediate legal issues, especially clients from underserved communities like those GBLS serves. In addition to family law matters, many clients struggled with food or housing insecurity, medical concerns, or mental health issues. Sometimes the most important thing we could do was listen, even if there wasn't a legal remedy available. This underscored for me the importance of connecting clients with community resources and maintaining a holistic perspective on advocacy.

Overall, my time at GBLS was incredibly positive. I gained confidence, developed substantive and practical skills, and strengthened my commitment to client-centered advocacy. I am deeply grateful for the experience and know it will continue to shape my work as I move forward in my legal career.

I am grateful that I was able to engage in work like this, even when it was not economically feasible. The EJA Fellowship was a beacon of assistance for me that allowed me to engage in work that was not only objectively needed, but also personally meaningful to me.