



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2025

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



NAME	Magdalena DiPierdomenico
LAW SCHOOL	Northeastern University School of Law
ORGANIZATION	DOVE (Domestic Violence Ended) Inc.

Final Reflection:

This past week marked my last full week of my co-op at DOVE Inc., officially ending my first co-op experience during my time at Northeastern University School of Law. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to engage in client-centered legal work and contribute to the advancement of clients' legal matters. Over the course of the summer, I had the opportunity to conduct legal intakes through the legal helpline, complete divorce filings, draft and file motions, write pretrial memorandums in support of pro se litigants, and assist with immigration petitions. These responsibilities provided invaluable hands-on experience, something I prioritize in a work environment, and I am honored to have been entrusted with such important work and given the independence to carry this work out.

One of the most impactful takeaways from my time at DOVE Inc. was how it shifted my understanding of public interest work. At first, I believed that trying to help as many people as possible was the best way to make a difference. However, I came to realize that this approach can sometimes spread resources too thin and make it harder to give each client the attention they need. While it is challenging to turn clients away and hold firm to service restrictions in moments when individuals are in crisis and facing urgent legal issues, providing thorough and effective assistance to some individuals leads to more meaningful outcomes. During my co-op, I have been on the receiving end of gratitude and appreciation from clients for our organization's work, but also harsh words and frustration from others. These experiences helped me understand that effective public interest work sometimes means making hard choices, which is not a bad thing. This is a lesson I will carry with me into my future legal career.



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All in all, I am incredibly grateful for the guidance and mentorship I received from the dedicated attorneys at DOVE Inc., whose support and example deeply shaped my experience, and the lessons that will stay with me as I grow into a more thoughtful and effective attorney.

To support Equal Justice America so they can continue to support law students dedicated to legal aid work and helping communities in need, please donate. Thank you for your support!