



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Greater Boston Legal Services

Final Reflection:

This summer I worked in the Family Law Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), and I am grateful to Equal Justice America for making it possible. I arrived with an interest in and passion for family law, but without practical experience. I leave knowing what it takes to do that work well, and a conviction that a career in family law will be fulfilling and worthwhile. My first weeks were about getting up to speed on my clients' cases and learning how a family law case moves from filing to resolution. GBLS practices client-centered lawyering, which taught me that the job is to fit the court's procedural requirements to what the client actually wants. Most of my early work was on divorce cases, their answers and counterclaims, and proposed motions. Each task taught me something new, and each showed me how much a case's outcome can depend on getting the procedure correct.

The matter that shaped my summer most was a divorce case I worked on through discovery. After the parties exchanged financial statements, I helped decide what we needed to subpoena and what we could get through interrogatories. We also exchanged documents under Supplemental Rule 410, and I sorted through those materials. Discovery is often where a divorce case is won or lost. Financial information decides whether a client can keep housing, support their children, and rebuild after a marriage ends. Legal aid clients rarely have the resources to chase that information on their own, so careful discovery work helped make sure the negotiation was on equal footing.

I also spent a lot of time in court, where I observed a divorce trial and hearings on temporary orders. Watching attorneys advocate for their clients in real time was among the most valuable experiences of my summer. I saw how preparation, credibility, and knowing the client's goals shape an argument. I also saw how high the stakes are for people at some of the hardest moments of their lives. Working directly with clients at different stages of their litigation showed me that behind every filing is a person waiting for an outcome.



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In my last days of the internship, I was able to accompany a survivor to court for her abuse prevention hearing. Leading up to the hearing I worked with the client to compile her affidavit and craft the legal argument for why she needed the abuse prevention order extended. I built a rapport with her and was able to be a source of comfort through what can be an overwhelming process. Hearing the attorney use my work to argue in front of the judge was extremely rewarding, and it was so fulfilling to obtain protection for my client.

Personally, this fellowship confirmed my commitment to direct client advocacy. I did advocacy work before law school, and this summer showed me how legal training makes that work more effective. Professionally, GBLS gave me practical skills I could not have gotten in a classroom, including drafting pleadings, planning discovery, and organizing a case file. It also gave me a model of the lawyer I want to be: rigorous and client-centered and committed to the idea that the quality of your representation should not depend on your ability to pay. Thank you to EJA and its donors for investing in this work and in me.