



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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LAW SCHOOL	Boston University School of Law
ORGANIZATION	Prisoners' Legal Services of MA

Update 1: This summer, I am grateful to be working with Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts, where I have already completed my first two weeks. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and for the support of EJA, which has allowed me to pursue meaningful public interest legal work.

During my internship, I have been assigned to the Brutality, Solitary Confinement, and Visitation teams. Through these assignments, I have begun learning about the legal and human rights issues faced by incarcerated individuals throughout Massachusetts. My work has included reviewing client correspondence and institutional records, conducting legal research, assisting attorneys with case preparation, and helping to investigate claims involving excessive force, restrictive housing conditions, and barriers to maintaining family and community connections through visitation.

Working across these teams has provided valuable insight into the ways legal advocacy can protect the rights and dignity of incarcerated people. I have observed how attorneys use litigation, policy advocacy, and direct client representation to address systemic issues within correctional facilities. The experience has already strengthened my commitment to public interest law and expanded my understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable populations within the justice system.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this important work and appreciate the scholarship's role in making this experience possible. I look forward to continuing to learn from the dedicated attorneys and advocates at Prisoners' Legal Services throughout the remainder of the summer.



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Update 2: I am incredibly grateful to Equal Justice America for making my unpaid summer internship at Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts possible through its generous grant support. This experience has provided invaluable opportunities to develop my legal advocacy skills while working alongside dedicated attorneys committed to protecting the rights of incarcerated individuals. So far this summer, I have attended hearings on proposed Department of Correction visitation regulations, where I observed the public comment process and gained insight into systemic advocacy on behalf of incarcerated people and their families. I also had the opportunity to draft and submit a medical advocacy letter on behalf of an incarcerated client, allowing me to contribute directly to client representation. I am deeply thankful to Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts for welcoming me as part of the team and for the exceptional mentorship I have received, which has strengthened both my legal skills and my commitment to public interest law. I sincerely appreciate Equal Justice America's investment in my professional development and in the next generation of public interest advocates.

Update 3: Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to work on a variety of meaningful projects that have strengthened both my legal research and advocacy skills. Most recently, I completed a legal research assignment that allowed me to delve deeply into the issue of retaliation claims by prisoners and contribute to ongoing case work. It was rewarding to apply what I have learned in law school to a real-world legal question with practical implications for our clients.

In addition to research, I have helped advocate for the medical needs of incarcerated individuals by assisting with matters involving access to necessary healthcare. This work has given me valuable insight into the challenges that many prisoners face and the important role that legal advocacy plays in protecting their rights and well-being.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this internship has been the mentorship I have received from the attorneys and staff at Prisoners' Legal Services. Their thoughtful guidance, constructive feedback, and willingness to invest in my professional development have helped me grow as both a law student and an aspiring advocate.

Update 4: I've had a rewarding experience this summer at Prisoners' Legal Services, where I've been able to contribute to meaningful advocacy on behalf of incarcerated clients. Over the past few weeks, much of my work has focused on legal research related to prison visitation policies in connection with a potential class action lawsuit. This research has involved examining constitutional and statutory issues, reviewing policies across correctional facilities, and analyzing relevant case law to help assess potential legal claims. It has been an excellent opportunity to strengthen my legal research and writing skills while gaining insight into the challenges of



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impact litigation. I'm grateful for the opportunity to support this work and to learn from attorneys dedicated to protecting the rights of incarcerated individuals.

Final Reflection: This summer, my experience at Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts has given me a deeper understanding of what it means to practice public interest law and advocate for people whose voices are often overlooked. I am incredibly grateful to Equal Justice America for making this opportunity possible, and especially grateful to the attorneys and staff at PLS who welcomed me so warmly, challenged me to grow, and generously shared their time, knowledge, and experience. Their mentorship has been one of the most meaningful parts of my experience, and I am leaving PLS with a much clearer sense of the kind of advocate I hope to become.

Throughout the semester, I worked across the Brutality, Solitary Confinement, and Visitation teams, gaining exposure to a range of legal and human rights issues affecting incarcerated individuals. My work included reviewing client correspondence and institutional records, conducting legal research, assisting with case preparation, and investigating claims involving excessive force, restrictive housing, medical care, and visitation barriers. Each assignment reminded me that behind every legal question is a person whose health, safety, dignity, or connection to loved ones may depend on the outcome.

Some of the most meaningful moments came from opportunities to contribute directly to advocacy. I assisted with multiple medical advocacy matters on behalf of incarcerated clients and attended a hearing concerning proposed Department of Correction visitation regulations, after which the DOC made positive changes to its proposals. Seeing the public comment process firsthand showed me how legal advocacy can extend beyond individual cases to address policies affecting incarcerated people and their families. I also conducted research concerning prisoner retaliation claims and law library access. These experiences allowed me to apply concepts from law school to complex, real-world questions while developing my research, writing, and analytical skills.

The work was not always easy. Some legal questions required me to work through complicated constitutional and statutory issues, sift through extensive case law, and listen to profound personal accounts from incarcerated people of the neglect or malice they experienced. At times, the weight of these issues was difficult to ignore. Yet my mentors consistently helped me approach these challenges with care, curiosity, and humility. Their thoughtful feedback pushed me to think more critically, their encouragement gave me confidence in my work, and their example showed me what compassionate and principled advocacy looks like in practice.



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Perhaps the greatest lesson I will carry forward is that effective public interest law requires both rigorous legal analysis and genuine empathy. I am especially grateful to the attorneys who took the time to teach me, answer my questions, and trust me with meaningful work. Their mentorship strengthened my commitment to using the law to advance justice and reminded me why this work matters. I leave PLS with greater confidence in my abilities, a deeper understanding of impact litigation and client advocacy, and an even stronger commitment to a career in public interest law.