



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: This summer, I am interning in the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services, which supports tenants in their eviction cases to promote housing stability in Boston. The Housing Unit focuses on preserving tenancies where possible and increasing access to affordable and suitable housing opportunities through its eviction defense practice. So far, I have had the opportunity to observe court proceedings and work directly with clients in responding to complaints, answering discovery requests, drafting motions to dismiss the case, sealing past evictions, and providing connections to relevant social services. The Unit's attorneys, paralegals, and intake staff work tirelessly to accompany clients through both the legal and emotional aspects of their cases and I am looking forward to continuing to learn from them throughout the next few months. I have come to learn that evictions, even in Massachusetts, can move very quickly because they are a summary process proceeding. With many new cases being filed every day in Housing Court, access to legal aid is incredibly important in ensuring that tenants' defenses and counterclaims are adequately heard and to ensuring that people are able to stay housed.

Update 2: I am in my 7th week interning in the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. So far, while working on answers and discovery, motions to dismiss or for summary judgment, and while helping clients navigate the housing search process, I have seen just how impactful legal aid work can be. Whether it's clearing up a miscommunication between a landlord and tenant that resulted in an eviction for cause, pointing out fatal defects in a notice to quit that resulted in opposing counsel agree to voluntarily dismiss the case, or diving into the social work side of eviction defense work by assistance a client with their housing search as much as possible, GBLS attorneys work tirelessly to give tenants a fair chance to defend themselves and share their stories. Helping tenants assert their legal rights is critical to maintaining housing



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stability and promoting the well-being of the community in Boston and I have really enjoyed being a part of the team.

Update 3: Checking in during my 9th week interning in the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services! These past few weeks I have really enjoyed getting to know clients while sharpening my legal research skills. While interacting with clients and learning more about their stories, I have been thinking a lot about how important it is to build trust with them in order to work with them in meeting their goals and doing what is best for them. Granted, I recognize that I am meeting them at what may be a very stressful time in their lives, but I want to do everything I can to be a reliable person in a system that has let many clients down time and time again. Coordinating care amongst different organizations is incredibly important to maximizing chances of housing retention but is not always the easiest part of the job. I think the most important part of relationship building with clients is being consistent and following up. I started putting together a litigation plan for a client, which included researching the elements of different claims, and am realizing how important communication is to making sure we are putting forth the most effective legal strategy to get the client what they want. I look forward to continuing to build my interpersonal skills, which is critical to legal aid work.

Update 4: Hello! Checking in from my 10th week at Greater Boston Legal Services. During these past few weeks, I have been helping my supervisor prepare for litigation as one of her cases heads towards trial. I have learned a lot about trial preparation, including how to prepare pre-trial memos, exhibits, and stipulations of fact. Additionally, we have been thinking a lot about how difficult it can be to ensure landlords are making repairs and providing services such that units are completely compliant with the State Sanitary Code, especially in Boston's ever-aging housing stock where tenants live in units with ever-present conditions issues. I also had the chance to go to EJA's Boston Reception last week and really enjoyed being able to connect with other public interest summer interns and people connected with EJA. I greatly appreciate all the support and encouragement from EJA and would not be able to do all the work I am doing with it.

Final Reflection: This summer, I really enjoyed working in the Housing Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services and having a chance to really reflect on what I liked about my role, what was challenging, and where I need to both improve my soft and hard skills to grow as a legal professional. I had the opportunity to work very directly with clients, whether through phone calls so I would be able to write their answer and discovery or in person at their court mediation dates or the Attorney for the Day program. I also was able to sharpen my legal writing and research skills while also developing an aptitude for motivational interviewing. My supervisor and I worked on a variety of motions and research projects together and I really enjoyed being able to learn from her.



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Although I learned a lot about the legal side of the eviction process, I also witnessed just how overwhelming, chaotic, and emotional Housing Court can be. There are many tenants on the docket for each day with cases in all sorts of postures. However, many barely make it past the first-tier court event where they are often settlements. With a lot of people around, it is a very noisy environment, let alone having to navigate the legal space and the stress of trying to preserve one's housing. Attorneys on both sides are often juggling many cases at a time and running all around the courthouse. I was very inspired by many of the attorneys I worked with in the Housing Unit and their creativity and motivation to advocate for their clients.

I also had the chance to learn so much from the attorneys from the way they think about systems and social justice. Housing is truly a social determinant of health and a basic human need, so I believe everyone deserves a safe and habitable place to live. When people thrive, communities thrive. I hope to continue similar work in the future, whether it is working directly with clients or on policy, or a combination of both as I was greatly inspired by the attorneys and clients I had the pleasure of working with this summer.