



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

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EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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Update 1: Hi everyone! This summer, I am interning at the Workers' Rights Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services with the generous support of Equal Justice America. I loved my labor law course last summer at NUSL and I'm excited to dive into employment law now! So far, I've been helping clients secure paid leave and/or unemployment benefits. This involves calling clients to request information for their applications and filling out the paperwork on their behalf. It's been very rewarding to have so much client interaction.

Update 2: Hi everyone! Here is my second update about my internship at GBLS, funded by EJA. Every two weeks, we go to a worker center in Chelsea and do intakes for people dealing with any kind of employment issue, like sick time retaliation, wrongful termination, and so much more. Worker centers like La Collaborative are a great place for the community to gather and get support, offering everything from legal services to English and citizenship classes. It's been so inspiring to see all the important work they do and get to be part of it in this small way.

Update 3: Hi everyone! I am about halfway through my internship at GBLS, funded by EJA. This week, I observed a hearing with a reviewing examiner from the Department of Family and Medical Leave. The hearing was regarding our client's application for paid leave, and the goal is to put on the record why it is necessary for them to secure these leave benefits. In the world of employment law and legal aid, hearings are a great way to have a mini-trial experience and flex your legal advocacy skills in a way that will (hopefully) result in a positive outcome for your client.

Update 4: Hi everyone! Here is my second-to-last update about my internship at GBLS, funded by EJA. I have my first hearing on Friday with the Department of Unemployment Assistance, about a separation issue. I have prepared direct and cross-examination questions as well as a



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closing statement. The hearing will be over the phone, and because it is before an administrative agency, the usual rules of evidence don't apply. Other than that, this will be a great chance to do real lawyering and I'm grateful for the opportunity.

Final Reflection: Hi everyone! This is my final update about my internship at the Workers' Rights unit of GBLS, funded by EJA as this week is my last! My internship was 15 weeks long, which is longer than most summer internships. Completing two 15-week internships is one of the requirements of Northeastern's co-operative education program, and I think getting to work for nearly 4 months was great for my learning experience. I was able to fully immerse myself in the work of a legal aid lawyer and make sure I was getting a variety of experiences within the practice area of employment law.

During my internship, I had the opportunity to take the lead on not one, but *three* hearings before the Department of Unemployment Assistance and argue for why GBLS' client should still qualify for unemployment benefits. I researched canons of statutory interpretation for an appeal regarding Paid Family Medical Leave. I drafted a declaration for a T-Visa application, which is a type of visa for victims of human trafficking (in this case, forced labor). I helped clients apply for unemployment and paid leave, appeal decisions as needed and navigate the online platforms that these two very important wage replacement programs use. These programs are designed to assist low-wage workers but can be very confusing to navigate and it has been incredibly rewarding to help our clients get the most out of them and be their zealous advocates.

Legal aid is some of the most challenging and fulfilling work a lawyer can do. This summer has reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career in public interest after law school and help low-income people. There is a greater need for legal advocacy now more than ever and it is important that we use the skills we have to help those in need. If you want to help other students do this work, please donate.

Thank you EJA and GBLS for an amazing summer. I hope to continue to advance workers' rights in my legal career, with a focus on low-wage workers.