



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Greater Boston Legal Services

Update 1: I am three weeks into my internship at the Greater Boston Legal Services Family Preservation Project, and I'm learning so much every day!

I am currently working on several appellate matters, agency hearings, and out-of-court advocacy. I have enjoyed researching and assembling creative arguments to help educate decision-makers about domestic violence, mental health disabilities, and trauma. I look forward to developing client relationships and advocacy skills further throughout the rest of the summer.

Update 2: I can't believe I'm already halfway through my summer at Greater Boston Legal Services! Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to work closely with our family law clients, completing several client interviews and accompanying clients to court. I'm also preparing to represent a client in my first Fair Hearing as an advocate of record. Combining legal research and writing with client counseling and advocacy has been extremely rewarding. I feel so lucky to pursue this work as a career!

Update 3: Earlier this month, I conducted direct and cross exams in a DCF Fair Hearing. I'm working on finalizing the memo of law amidst court runs and client calls. So grateful for this advocacy opportunity!

Update 4: I'm halfway through my last week at GBLS. I'm excited to squeeze in one more Fair Hearing before I wrap up. Saying goodbye to clients and colleagues is bittersweet. I look forward to building on everything I've learned this summer!

Final Reflection: I am so grateful to Greater Boston Legal Services, NYU Law, and Equal Justice America for facilitating such an incredible 1L summer internship.



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I interned with the Family Preservation Project at Greater Boston Legal Services for eleven busy weeks. The GBLS FPP is a team of lawyers, parent advocates, and social workers (plus me this summer!) and is situated within the Family Law Unit. The FPP represents survivors of domestic violence who have involvement with Department of Children and Families. I supported over a dozen clients at different stages of litigation and advocacy. Starting from the beginning of a DCF case, I connected with a mother after she received notice that a mandated reporter filed a report against her. The client and I persuaded the Department to unsupport the baseless allegation without yielding her protected rights. For clients facing ongoing surveillance, I collaborated with FPP parent advocates and social workers to challenge the Department's concerns and address the family's actual needs.

As a rising 2L, I especially valued the opportunity to conduct live cross and direct examinations and write supplemental memoranda of law for two DCF Fair Hearings. My supervisors guided me along the way, but I had enough independence to experience the responsibility I will carry as a lawyer. I also drafted pleadings for two other clients in judicial review appeals of adverse Fair Hearing decisions. Judicial review writing gave me a chance to construct creative arguments about issues of first impression and educate trial courts about the racial, gender, and disability injustice perpetuated by family policing. Being able to contribute to all stages of the early family defense process reinforced my commitment to the complex, evolving, and energizing field.

Working within the Family Law Unit also exposed me to civil family law advocacy. I conducted intakes for parents with intersecting DCF and divorce or custody cases, which demonstrated the importance of understanding the overlapping legal challenges our clients encounter. In one Probate & Family Court Case, I helped a mother dismiss a retaliatory filing by her abusive ex-partner. When another mother came to GBLS after a judge wrongfully denied her restraining order extension, I successfully pitched an appeal to GBLS leadership. DCF loomed in the background of both cases. For our clients, abuse by ex-partners and abuse by the state are not as distinct as the law suggests. Learning about these related sources of trauma deepened my ability to provide compassionate representation.

All of my clients this summer were mothers. I encountered them at moments when their abusers, courts, or a state agency threatened the family they worked so hard to protect. Even when they were blamed and vilified, these mothers remained steadfast advocates for their children. My clients taught me more than a law school class ever could. Even when multiple systems stack against us, zealous advocates figure out a way to fight for what matters.

I could not have asked for a better summer experience! Thank you to everyone who played a role.