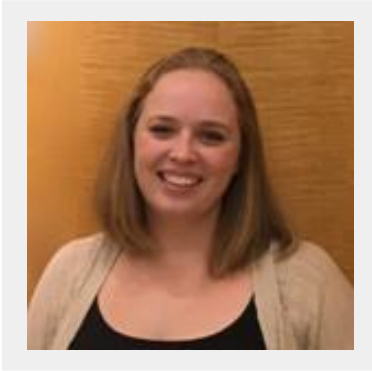




Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Rebecca (Becky) Reindel

Law School: BC Law School

EJA Fellowship: Massachusetts Advocates for Children

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

I'm spending my summer working at Massachusetts Advocates for Children, an organization that seeks to combat the significant barriers to equal educational and life opportunities for children. Over the past few weeks, I have worked with attorneys at MAC to support transition age students with disabilities (ages 18-22) on an individual basis and through MAC's policy work. I'm particularly excited to be working on MAC's initiative to expand access to higher education for these students in transition through the MAICEI grant program and legislation to remove barriers to access.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Since my last update, I have been able to participate in the coalition work that MAC convenes and I have learned how important it is to collaborate with others in the child welfare and education space. I attended a B-SET meeting, a network Boston Public Schools, state and other city agencies; employers, unions and job developers; and youth service, disability and parent organizations, which MAC convened. This particular meeting focused on the Intersection of Disability, Race, and the School to Prison Pipeline to learn about how our work can remove barriers for students. I have also attended coalition meetings on Education Law and will attend an upcoming meeting on Child Welfare. <https://massadvocates.org/b-set-for-career-networks-hosts-spring-meeting-disability-race-and-the-school-to-prison-pipeline/>



Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

In the past few weeks, I have continued to assist transition aged students (ages 14-21) with disabilities and their families through MAC's Special Education Transition Project. I've been able to attend an IEP team meeting and draft responses to proposed Individualized Education Programs (IEP). I've had the unique experience of discussing special education advocacy and representation with MAC's Young Adult Leaders Fellow, which I've used to inform my work with transition aged students. The fellowship offers an opportunity for young adults 18-26 with intellectual disabilities and/or autism to learn the professional skills needed to advocate on behalf of other youth with disabilities.

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

Last #EJAFellowUpdate

I have about one week left at MAC, so I'm pushing to wrap up some of the longer term research I've done on school discipline for children as young as 3 years old and on access to higher education for individuals with intellectual disabilities. I have had an amazing experience here at MAC this summer and have learned so much; I'm so grateful for the support and mentorship from the entire staff. In the fall, I will continue to work with low income children as part of the BC Law Juvenile Rights Advocacy Clinic.

August 31, 2018

Emma Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112
emma@equaljusticeamerica.org

RE: Rebecca Reindel, EJA Fellowship Recipient

Dear Ms. Ruben:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Rebecca Reindel, Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC)'s summer legal intern funded by Equal Justice America. I was Rebecca's primary supervisor during her time at MAC.

It was a pleasure to having Rebecca at MAC. She quickly adapted to the substantive work and office environment. She performed a wide range of tasks over the summer, including: legal research on the standard of proof required for filing abuse and neglect reports by schools in their role as mandated reporters; assisting with legislation on higher education for persons with intellectual disabilities (including drafting legislative fact sheets, compiling notes from congressional meetings, conducting background research, bill review and editing); attending client special education team meetings and compiling evidence for and drafting responses to individual education plans (IEPs); and skillfully handling client communications, both listening carefully and compassionately to clients and clearly explaining complex concepts.

Rebecca has a strong work ethic and contributed extensively to MAC's work and mission throughout her time with us. Rebecca's strong oral and written advocacy skills, combined with her close attention to detail, noteworthy organizational skills, and unwavering dedication to the work made her an exceptional summer intern. She approached her work thoughtfully, carefully thinking through the complexities of the assignment and always asking appropriate questions.

We are grateful to EJA for funding Rebecca's summer internship at MAC. Please feel free to contact me at JSolomon@massadvocates.org or 617-874-5361 for additional information about Rebecca's time at MAC.

Sincerely,



Janine Solomon
Managing Attorney/Senior Project Director