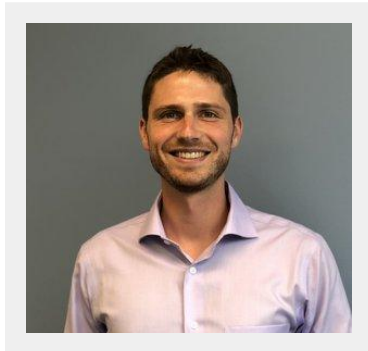




Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: David Romanow

Law School: Boston College Law School

EJA Fellowship: MetroWest Legal Services

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

[#EJAfellowupdate](#)

It's crazy how much I've seen in my first two weeks interning with MetroWest Legal Services. From helping the elderly secure housing to fighting for workers to get paid for months of labor, my experience with MWLS has already opened my eyes to issues that are often kept behind scenes.

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

[#EJAfellowupdate](#)

Last week during my internship, I met with two brothers who were hired as laborers for a construction company. Despite doing all that was asked from them, one was fired for asking to be paid his full wages. A day later his brother was fired in retaliation without explanation. It's for innocent and hardworking people like these two brothers that MetroWest Legal Services exists.

Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

[#EJAfellowupdate](#)

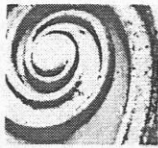
Working with the elder care unit at MetroWest Legal Services allows me to gain exposure to a wide variety of legal issues. From subsidized housing to health insurance to handling finances, elder law is an intersection of so many daily necessities. It's sad that elders without a strong support system may find themselves in a hole through no fault of their own. Luckily great organizations like MetroWest Legal Services and [Equal Justice America](#) help bridge that gap.



Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

[#EJAfellowupdate](#)

Can't believe my time with MetroWest Legal Services is nearing a finish. One of the amazing things about this organization is the slew of legal services they provide. Throughout the summer I've been working primarily with the elder law and worker's rights units. In my final two weeks, however, I've had the chance to work in the immigration unit, helping undocumented persons who are victims of crimes gain immigration relief. It's good to know that even in these unsteady times, attorneys throughout the nation are still fighting the good fight. Please consider supporting [Equal Justice America](#), who plays a vital role in helping disadvantaged people gain access to legal services:



METROWEST
Legal Services

Protecting rights. Improving lives.

August 17, 2018

Emma Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Ms. Ruben:

My name is Pablo Carrasco and I am a Staff Attorney at MetroWest Legal Services ("MWLS"), a non-profit law firm providing free legal aid to indigent people, elders, and victims of domestic abuse. I am the sole-manager of the workers' rights unit at MWLS and I was one of David Romanow's supervising attorneys during his summer internship with MWLS.

MWLS provides free legal counsel and representation to clients in Massachusetts' Middlesex County and Norfolk County pertaining to a variety of legal issues including immigration, housing, family law, elder law, worker's rights, government benefits, and consumer bankruptcy. Specifically, within the workers' rights unit, we represent workers who have been mistreated by their employers. Unfortunately, many of our clients come to our office after performing weeks of labor without receiving earned overtime, minimum wage, or even any compensation at all. As an attorney, I conduct advisory clinics at various "worker centers" and represent a number of clients in lawsuits against their employers. Interns assigned to work in the workers' rights unit assist in researching niche areas of Massachusetts labor law in order to provide the best legal aid possible.

Over the summer, David was exposed to both wage/hour disputes and contract disputes between contractors and subcontractors. Whether it was writing a legal memorandum to be filed with the district court or researching case law to help bolster our argument, David's assistance was integral to our unit. The sad reality is that many of our clients are undocumented immigrants who are often reluctant to bring any legal action out of fear of deportation. I believe David's previous experience in immigration law and passion for helping persons in need strengthened his commitment to MWLS' mission and ultimately resulted in better advocacy.

Please contact me at (508) 620-1830 or by email, pcarrasco@mwlegal.org, should you have any further questions.

Thank you,

Pablo Carrasco
Staff Attorney



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63 Fountain Street, Suite 304 • Framingham, MA 01702

508.620.1830 (TDD) • T 800.696.1501 • F 508.620.2323 • www.mwlegal.org



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August 17, 2018

Emma Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Ms. Ruben:

My name is Veranira Ochea and I am a Staff Attorney at MetroWest Legal Services ("MWLS"), a non-profit law firm providing free legal aid to indigent people, elders, and victims of domestic abuse. I currently manage the elder law unit at MWLS and I was one of David Romanow's supervising attorneys during his summer internship with MWLS.

MWLS provides free legal counsel and representation to clients in Massachusetts' Middlesex County and Norfolk County pertaining to a variety of legal issues including immigration, housing, family law, elder law, worker's rights, government benefits, and consumer bankruptcy. Specifically, within the elder law unit, we focus on representing elders who live in subsidized housing and/or receive government benefits. As an attorney, I conduct monthly advisory clinics at various senior centers and represent a number of clients facing legal challenges. Interns assigned to work in the elder law unit assist in many different aspects of the legal issues elders face.

Over the summer, David was tasked with continued correspondence with clients, phone contacts, drafting basic estate planning documents, reviewing discovery documents, and assisting in various research projects. David's prior experience translated well to our unit's fast-paced and high-volume work environment. The elder law unit receives new intakes daily, which meant David was busy preparing documents, working on a new case or researching a niche area of law every day. Though he had not previously worked with elders or had exposure to their pertinent legal challenges, David quickly developed an understanding of the issues our client's face and was an effective advocate. He was also compassionate towards the population we served.

Please contact me at (508) 620-1830 or by email, vochea@mwlegal.org, should you have any further questions.

Thank you,

Veranira Ochea
Staff Attorney



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