



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



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EJA Fellowship: Greater Boston Legal Services

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Three weeks ago, I began my internship at Greater Boston Legal Services in the Elder, Health, and Disability Unit as an Equal Justice America Legal Services Fellow to help elders navigate the legal processes of obtaining Social Security and Medicare benefits and to help prevent and raise awareness about elder abuse. Today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and roughly 10% of older adults have experienced some form of elder abuse, but only 1 out of every 14 cases are reported to authorities. Elder abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, or financial. It also includes neglect and self-neglect. It affects elders across all income levels, cultures, genders, and races. I hope to continue learning more about this prevalent social and legal issue throughout my summer with GBLS.

[Posted on LinkedIn on 6.15.2018 at 10:35 AM]

[Link to Post: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6413397923593281536>]

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

This past week at my internship at Greater Boston Legal Services in the Elder, Health, and Disability Unit as an Equal Justice America Legal Services Fellow, I spent the morning at a local Social Security Office on behalf of two elderly clients who cannot travel to their local office due to their age and disabilities. I am amazed by the number of people who wait, sometimes for hours, to acquire help at local offices, whether they are trying to obtain benefits, fix an issue with their benefits, or appeal a termination of their benefits. There can be many barriers to interacting with Social Security, including physical, mental, linguistic, and communication challenges. There can also be temporal challenges, such as finding a few hours of time to visit a local office or waiting on hold for the next available representative on the phone. Many of the clients that I work with at GBLS can spend months or even years trying to find a solution to problems with their Social Security benefits.

[Posted on LinkedIn on 6.25.2018 at 9:30 AM]

[Link to Post: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6417005549459689472>]



Entry 3: Week of 7/9/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

Since I began my internship as an Equal Justice America Legal Services Fellow at Greater Boston Legal Services in the Elder, Health, and Disability Unit, I have really enjoyed the opportunity and privilege to work directly with elder and disabled clients on their cases. I am amazed by their kindness, willingness to organize and provide their documents for time-sensitive deadlines, and their positive outlooks on their cases. My clients and their hope continue to inspire me to become a better advocate.

[Posted on LinkedIn on 7.9.2018 at 10:49 AM]

[Link to Post: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6422098981819609088>]

Entry 4: Week of 7/23/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate

During my final week as an Equal Justice America Legal Services Fellow at Greater Boston Legal Services in the Elder, Health, and Disability Unit, I will be representing a client in front of a judge at an administrative hearing for a Social Security disability determination! I have spent the past few weeks gathering medical records for exhibits, preparing the client for court, and writing a legal memorandum for the judge. I am excited to have the opportunity to represent my client in court and feel fortunate that I will gain valuable experience representing clients during my first legal internship as an EJA Fellow!

[Posted on LinkedIn on 7.23.2018 at 9:15 AM]

[Link to Post: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6427148896903983104>]