



## Summer 2019 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Jesslin Wooliver

**Law School:** Boston College Law School

**Fellowship:** Prisoner's Legal Services of  
Massachusetts

---

### Entry 1: 6/17/2019

After only three weeks at Prisoners Legal Services, I've written two advocacy letters on behalf of clients not receiving adequate medical care in prison. I've written memos about the rights of immigrant detainees being held in county jails, potential arguments against forms of solitary confinement in Massachusetts prisons, prisoners' access to "canteen" - purchases prisoners can make from their accounts, and analyzing individual cases of medical parole. I've also had the opportunity to attend a meeting between members of the state committee on restrictive housing, and a hearing for a case challenging the policy of confiscating all original copies of prisoners' mail. This wide range of work has allowed me to interact with and assist individual clients, while also researching and writing about larger systemic problems. I've loved the variety.

---

### Entry 2: 7/18/19

The variety continues!! Throughout the past month I have worked on a number of longer, more in-depth memos regarding the new Medical Parole program in Massachusetts and the rights of prisoners under the Criminal Justice Reform Act--writing about complex topics in a clear, organized, and thorough manner has been the most challenging part of my summer thus far. At the same time, I love to write and am thrilled with how much I've improved.

Other than writing, I've spent time visiting and interviewing clients in various prisons and jails around the Boston area. The opportunity to interact with clients in a professional manner was one aspect of the internship at Prisoners Legal Services that really excited me, and it has been a very important part of my experience thus far. Meeting and speaking with clients directly has deepened my sense of responsibility as a member of the legal profession, and has helped me feel more connected to the work of PLS and to the law in general.



---

**Entry 3: 7/29/19**

I can't believe how fast the summer has been going but I only have two more weeks at Prisoners' Legal Services. As things start to wind down I am working hard to finish up a couple of memos regarding the interpretation of the Criminal Justice Reform Act that Massachusetts passed last year, getting advocacy letters sent, and working up a brutality case summary that has been pushed to the bottom of my to-do list over the past few weeks. A recent highlight of my internship was a conference I attended with the rest of the PLS office about diversity and inclusivity in the legal profession. Hosted by the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation at Simmons University, the conference lasted all day and offered numerous workshops and key speakers. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn more about what I can do as a law student and what I will be able to do as a lawyer to help eradicate the inequities within my chosen profession.

---

**Entry 4: 8/8/19**

Today was my last day!! I am excited for the upcoming semester but was sad to say my goodbyes - I had such a great experience with PLS, and have learned so much from my supervisors and coworkers. I really appreciate the amount of time I was given to conduct research and develop my writing, and enjoyed the variety and depth of the subject matter. I was able to dive deeply into statutory interpretation but also tackle narrower questions in a few short assignments.

Coming into my internship, I looked forward to doing advocacy and getting the opportunity to work directly with clients, though I didn't know what to expect. This ended up being one of my favorite parts of my summer. Meeting clients and advocating on behalf of individuals, as opposed to arguing on behalf of potential plaintiffs or hypothetical groups of people, was really energizing after a year of living in the library, focusing on old cases and hypothetical issues. I will miss this a lot as I enter my 2L year.

I am very grateful to EJA for funding my internship this summer - I not only was able to work on a cause I feel passionately about, but was able to work on the skills I most wanted to work on. In my interview with PLS I had mentioned that I wanted to research and write a lot, and those assignments were ready for me whenever I felt I had the capacity to take them on. At the same time, I was given day to day responsibilities outside of my formal assignments and asked to participate in visits, projects, and/or decisions that made it easy to feel useful and like a member of the team. It was a great balance and a wonderful experience.