



## Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Jordan Paurowski

**Law School:** Boston College

**Organization:** Greater Boston Legal Services

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### Week of June 15<sup>th</sup>

As some of you know, I was lucky to be selected as one of this year's Equal Justice America Fellows for Summer 2020. This fellowship is helping to fund my summer at Greater Boston Legal Services. As part of my fellowship, I will be posting updates of the work I do throughout the summer.

Here's my first update:

At this point, I'm just about a month into my summer internship where I've primarily been working on family law matters involving victims of domestic violence, including divorce and child custody. So far, I'm loving the work I've been doing and the team I'm working with. I've been managing my own cases, assisting in others as co-counsel, attending virtual trainings and webinars, and overall learning a lot. It's been really encouraging to see the direct impact that my work can have on the lives of our clients. Many of our clients are struggling through the impact that Covid-19 has had on our court system, including extensive delays. Some of the work I've been especially proud of thus far has been in drafting emergency motions and supporting affidavits to help clients through matters that cannot wait. I'm looking forward to doing more work like this throughout the summer!

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### Week of July 6<sup>th</sup>

In conjunction with my Summer 2020 Fellowship with Equal Justice America, here's my second update about my work in the Family Law Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services.

In the midst of everything going on in our country right now, it's been difficult to find ways to feel like I'm doing enough to contribute to positive and lasting changes I want to see happen. I'm grateful that I've been able to channel my frustrations and my desire to make a difference into the social justice work I'm doing this summer. Knowing that I'm making a lasting impact in the lives of my clients has given me purpose and allowed me to reframe discouragement into action. In the past few weeks, I've been lucky to work at an organization encouraging and facilitating conversations on topics like responding to high risk cases in communities of color and best practices in domestic violence cases during the COVID-19 crisis.



These conversations have been enlightening and will no doubt make me a better attorney one day. There's a lot more work to be done and I'm excited for the rest of this summer at GBLS.

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## **Week of July 27<sup>th</sup>**

In conjunction with my Summer 2020 Fellowship with Equal Justice America, here's my third update about my work in the Family Law Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services.

The past few weeks have been some of the busiest of the summer. My cases have been moving along well, with many of them finally having long-awaited hearings. Recently, I've helped a client obtain a 209A Abuse Prevention Order, assisted my supervising attorney in filing a new divorce and taken on a new case. I was particularly happy to take on a new case last week for a client who otherwise would have had a very difficult time navigating the legal system. Over the course of this summer, I've seen first-hand the many ways in which limited English proficiency, immigration status, socioeconomic status and more can deter people from reaching out for help when they need it most. While I'm happy to help these clients and make a difference in their lives, I'm aggravated by how difficult it otherwise would be for them. This summer has been flying by. Today is technically the last day of my internship with GBLS. However, I've been enjoying the work I've been doing this summer so much that I've decided to continue my internship into this upcoming semester. I'll be continuing to work at GBLS part-time and I'm excited to keep many of my same clients.

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## **Week of August 10<sup>th</sup>**

In conjunction with my Summer 2020 Fellowship with Equal Justice America, here's my last update about my work in the Family Law Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services:

The past few weeks have continued to be pretty busy. The courts seem to be moving my cases along faster than they were earlier this summer and we've had many more hearings being scheduled lately. Currently, I'm working on a variety of things for different clients with cases at different stages of the divorce process. Once school begins and I'm working part-time, I'll be focusing on discovery for one client, drafting pleadings for another, and working with a variety of agencies to obtain necessary documentation for a new client.

Last Friday was technically the last day of my summer internship at GBLS. I feel very lucky to have had such a meaningful summer even amidst Covid-19 and our virtual internship program. I'm very excited to continue working alongside the incredible attorneys and staff in my unit this upcoming semester and to be able to see my cases through further along the line.