



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Victoria Broderick

Law School: Boston College Law School

Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services

Entry 1: June 15, 2020

This summer, I was selected as one of Equal Justice America's Fellows and am working at Greater Boston Legal Services as a legal intern in their Housing Unit. Currently, I am helping clients protect their rights as tenants as they face unparalleled difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help low-income families in the Greater Boston area remain in safe and affordable housing and am looking forward to continuing my work at GBLS advocating for clients.

Entry 2: July 10, 2020

Over the past few weeks, I have interviewed families regarding their household compositions, financial situations, and employment statuses. In doing so, I am working to ensure that their landlords are calculating their rent in accordance with rent policies during the pandemic. I am also helping these families apply for rental assistance as they face housing emergencies exacerbated by the pandemic. As many of these families were previously struggling to afford their rent, it is especially vital during these times for them to stabilize their financial situations so that they can preserve their housing. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to work with Greater Boston Legal Services and advocate for families who are vulnerable to facing eviction and becoming homeless.



Entry 3: July 31, 2020

With only one week left of my internship at Greater Boston Legal Services, I am beginning to wrap up the projects I have been working on throughout the summer. One project has involved drafting jury instructions for tenants' attorneys to submit during eviction trials that concern discrimination on the basis of race and disability. It is vital that these instructions reflect both the most recent and relevant case law as well as the tenant's perspective of the case so that attorneys can effectively advocate for their clients, especially considering the wave of evictions that will likely occur once the eviction moratorium ends. I am so thankful for the opportunity to do this work and I look forward to seeing what else I can accomplish in my time remaining at Greater Boston Legal Services.

Entry 4: August 16, 2020

I am incredibly thankful to Greater Boston Legal Services for having me as a legal intern this summer. One of the most exciting projects I worked on involved writing a brief in support of the Massachusetts eviction moratorium. Specifically, I argued that the eviction moratorium does not violate the right to petition under the First Amendment. Researching the public interest in the legislation, the nature of the restriction upon landlords' pursuit of eviction proceedings, and the effect of the restriction on landlords' ability to resolve legal disputes with tenants was a challenging and thought-provoking experience. I am also grateful to Equal Justice America for supporting my public interest work as an EJA Fellow.