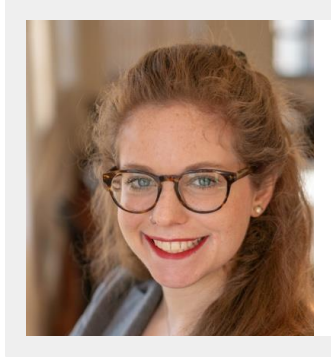




Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Eleanor Landsbaum

Law School: Northeastern University School of Law

Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services

Post 1:

It was an exciting few weeks at Greater Boston Legal Services. In the short amount of time that I've worked, I've sent off multiple sets of documents to seal criminal records for clients. All of these have been cases just sitting on client's criminal offender record information (CORI) and are accessible to people who run background checks. In other words, these clients have been coming up with CORI when their cases have been eligible to seal for a while – sometimes decades. One specific client has just one charge that is older than I am. They're were approached about coaching youth sports in their community but said no due to the fear of a background check and being denied. In less than a day we were able to fill out the paperwork and get it sent out to the Office for the Commissioner of Probation (OCP) to seal the charges. It's always exciting when you're able to call a client and tell them that their charges will be sealed in a matter of weeks!

Post 2:

Checking in with another EJA Fellow Update for Greater Boston Legal Services and Equal Justice America – Lots of things have been delayed due to COVID19 court closures. But for some clients, they can seal their CORI through an administrative process. All the clients need is a form to be sent in for charges to be sealed. With unemployment rates in Boston high, it's wonderful to be able to check a CORI and tell a client that they won't have to be reliant on a potential date off in the distant future. We've been able to send in dozens of requests to seal CORI's for clients hoping for a job or who are in search of stable housing.



Post 3:

Checking in with another EJA Fellow Update for Greater Boston Legal Services and Equal Justice America – With so many clients needing to seal their CORI through 100C judicial sealing and courts being primarily closed to nonessential matters, we’ve had to get creative in the CORI unit. To get the ball rolling, we’ve had affidavit interviews over the phone and prepared affidavits and applications to seal virtually. Integral to this work is the USPS, which lets us mail CORI check requests, documents needing signatures, and important correspondence. The CORI unit is looking forward to courts being open and having many hearings to seal CORI’s.

Post 4:

Checking in with another EJA Fellow Update for Greater Boston Legal Services and Equal Justice America – COVID has caused so many different pivots for just about everyone, legal services included. As part of GBLS’ work with the community, we’ve been all hands-on deck helping hundreds of people fill out unemployment applications. This has been a vital service to the community, as the application is only offered in English. Together with a dedicated translation team, GBLS has been ensuring that people out of work due to COVID-19 have been able to access the money they need and deserve.