



Summer 2020 EJA Fellow:



Name: Julian Montijo

Law School: Northeastern University

Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services

Week of June 15th

This summer, I have been generously awarded Equal Justice America fellowship to support my work in the pro bono unit at Greater Boston Legal Services. Though I am also currently in class as a 2L at Northeastern University School of Law, I wanted to devote time to the Greater Boston community to help in my capacity as a law student with the COVID-19 response. My internship with GBLS has thus far focused on supporting workers in their applications for unemployment insurance, given the immense need and various barriers to applying (like language access and the need for a computer). I am looking forward to doing more research for the pro bono team in the creation of training materials for future volunteers and pro bono attorneys.

Part of my fellowship entails providing a EJA Fellow Update on my experience and fundraising for EJA, which provides support to students working in legal services. Consider supporting them this summer.

Week of July 6th

Hi all - writing to provide an update on my work in the pro bono unit at Greater Boston Legal Services as part of my Equal Justice America fellowship. Recently, I have been working on training materials for pro bono partners to provide eviction defense when the Mass. housing eviction moratorium is lifted. People facing eviction do not yet have an automatic right to counsel in housing court in Massachusetts, yet representation can have a dramatic impact on the outcome. These trainings will hopefully help prepare attorneys provide free representation when housing court reopens and Boston faces an outpouring of eviction petitions by landlords against families who have been unable to pay rent due to COVID-19.

I am also working on a training for pro bono attorneys to help noncitizens file VAWA petitions, which enable victims of domestic violence to obtain permanent resident status without an abusive partner.



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Working on this training is giving me more insight into immigration procedures that I am also learning in an immigration course at Northeastern University School of Law.

Week of July 27th

Hi again! My work at Greater Boston Legal Services is quickly coming to an end (as is my academic quarter Northeastern University School of Law). Most recently, I helped draft training materials for an eviction defense clinic that will support advocates in their work defending individuals against eviction when the moratorium is lifted. The training gives an overview of the eviction process in Massachusetts, available defenses to tenants, and how to file answers, discovery requests, and counterclaims in housing court. Throughout my research, I have been continually inspired by the advocates and organizers who are fighting for tenants across the Greater Boston area, and I am excited to see many more advocates provide these essential legal services.

Week of August 10th

My summer internship at Greater Boston Legal Services has come to an end, so this is my final #EJAFellowUpdate for Equal Justice America. (writing a little late after a computer blip, now fixed!) It's been an incredible summer at GBLS - working to support residents of the Greater Boston area while studying social welfare law and immigration law put my studies Northeastern University School of Law into practical context. My supervisor at GBLS was great to work for too. She really had an interest in my learning about community lawyering, housing law, immigration and the other important legal assistance that GBLS provides.

Thank you again to GBLS for having me this summer and to EJA for supporting my work!