



## Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



**Name:** Isabelle Holt

**Law School:** Northeastern University Law School

**Organization:** Greater Boston Legal Services

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### Update 1:

After a long year of studying legal doctrines at Northeastern University School of Law, my office mate and I are doing what we came to law school to do: supporting and expanding workers' rights.

Supported by an Equal Justice America grant, I am spending my summer working in the Employment Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. GBLS provides pro bono civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals to secure the most basic necessities of life. I am so excited to share what I have been up to thus far in my first EJA Fellow Update.

I have researched and advocated for reclassification of workers currently excluded from Unemployment Insurance benefits, begun assembling a case against an employer that has been stealing wages from its employees, and represented a client in my first unemployment denial hearing.

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### Update 2:

I am working as an Equal Justice America Fellow in the Employment Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services this summer. Please consider donating to Equal Justice America to support my work and the work of future law students providing pro bono legal services to those most vulnerable in the legal system.

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### Update 3:

Writing with my third EJA Fellow Update! Supported by an Equal Justice America grant, I am spending my summer working in the Employment Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services.

It's been a big week - I learned that I won my first unemployment benefits denial hearing which means that my client received the ~30k dollars in back benefits to which he was entitled. In addition to prepping for and representing two more clients at hearings, I have undertaken a policy research project on ways we can learn from the Pandemic and change our unemployment benefits system moving forward to be more expedient, inclusive, and accessible.



**Entry 4:**

I can't believe it's already time for my final EJA Fellow Update.

Supported by an Equal Justice America grant, I am spending my summer working in the Employment Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services.

In addition to wrapping up a full case load of client work, I am also in the process of writing not one but three memos! It was with immense pleasure that I was able to contribute my research and writing skills to GBLS' ongoing efforts to ensure that no one unable to obtain childcare is disqualified from receiving unemployment in the state of Massachusetts because they have to remain at home to care for their children. I am also working on advising a non-binary client on their anti-discrimination claim and writing an unemployment claim denial appeal memo for the board of review!

I am so grateful to have been able to engage in this work this summer and for the support of Equal Justice America. Please consider donating to enable future law students to be able to do this vital work!