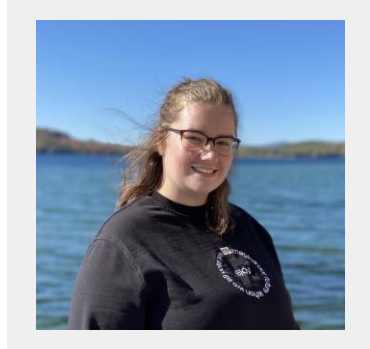




Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Kate (Katherine) Micher

Law School: Northeastern University School of Law

Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services - Housing Unit

Update 1:

I'm excited to share that I've been selected as a summer fellow by Equal Justice America and am working as a legal intern with Greater Boston Legal Services' Housing Unit for the summer! The expiration of the federal eviction moratorium has certainly made it an interesting (and busy) time to be working in housing law. I have primarily been assisting with eviction defense cases but have also enjoyed the opportunity to engage with trainings and organizing meetings about the state of housing in both Massachusetts and the country as a whole. I am looking forward to continuing to learn from great attorneys and from our clients this summer!

Update 2:

Although most of my work so far with GBLS's Housing Unit has focused on assisting tenants facing eviction with court paperwork and attending court events, this week I got to dig a bit deeper into housing law itself through some case research. Legal research is one area where I know I have a lot of room to grow, so it's been great to have the opportunity to engage with it in a real-world context, outside of the classroom. The research I am working on relates to renovation work and quiet enjoyment, which is a concept I actually learned about last fall in my Property Law class. It's been interesting to apply the legal concepts I learned to a real-life situation and also investigate some of the nuances in Massachusetts' case law.

Update 3:

Since my last EJA Fellow Update, I had the opportunity to draft and file a Motion to Dismiss in an eviction case. During our initial conversation, the tenant mentioned that his landlord had continued to accept his rent payments for several months after sending the tenant a Notice to Quit (NTQ), which is the notice tenants receive from their landlords stating they need to vacate the property by a specific date. I noticed that the NTQ



did not include language stating that any future payments accepted would be used for "use and occupancy" only, not for rent; without that language, the landlord had essentially created a new tenancy for the tenant by continuing to accept rent checks. This gave us grounds to dismiss the case because the initial NTQ was no longer valid. Although we are still waiting to hear from the court, it was exciting to apply the abstract law I've been learning to a real-life scenario and, hopefully, help this tenant as well.

Entry 4:

Next week is the last week of my internship with GBLS's Housing Unit and I've been reflecting on the range of experiences I've had this summer. I've been able to draft numerous motions, strengthen my legal research skills, and work directly with tenants facing eviction in the midst of a global pandemic. It's been incredibly impactful to witness community lawyering and organizing in action. I came into this summer not knowing whether direct client service work was one of my areas of legal interest and leave it pretty certain that this is the type of work I would like to pursue after I graduate law school. I'm excited for what is shaping up to be a busy final week, and feel thankful to have been able to complete the internship as an Equal Justice America fellow.