



Summer 2021 EJA Fellow:



Name: Magdalena Madrzyk

Law School: Northeastern University

Organization: Greater Boston Legal Services

Update 1:

Following an unprecedented 1L year, I'm happy to announce that I have been chosen as a 2021 Summer Equal Justice America fellow. I am working this summer at Greater Boston Legal Services' Housing Unit providing support for clients who are facing eviction in the Boston area. Already experiencing high housing costs, COVID has only exasperated Boston's housing crisis. At GBLS, I have been helping people through the eviction process as well as connecting them to rental relief funding.

Legal aid is extremely important; 80% of those living in poverty who need legal assistance do not have access to it. I am thankful for Northeastern University School of Law's commitment to public interest work and Equal Justice America's support in supporting my work on closing the access-to-justice gap in housing. Please consider donating to EJA so they may continue to fund fellows and support legal aid across the country.

Update 2:

Time for my second EJA Fellow Update! Going into my second month at Greater Boston Legal Services, I'm learning that a big part of legal services is just connecting people with resources that are available to them. Even if some qualify for free assistance, other factors such as transportation, time, language, or just being unaware that the resource exists can stand in someone's way from getting the help they need. Especially in housing, holistic approaches that include community outreach and partnerships can be much more impactful by addressing the root causes of housing instability.

Update 3:

Another EJA Fellow Update! I'm about 2/3 done with my time at GBLS in their Housing Unit. One of my favorite parts has been meeting all the incredible advocates that work for GBLS or other organizations. Some came to the organization through a traditional path as an attorney; others were more non-traditional. These advocates bring so many different experiences to the table and constantly help the organization come up with



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creative ways to help their clients, expand services, and raise funds. However, each of them demonstrates a tremendous passion and commitment to their clients and legal aid. It has been humbling and inspiring to be a part of this team and I am so grateful to have the support of these people going into my future.

Update 4:

My last EJA Fellow Update is bittersweet. I know that the legal skills I have learned this summer at GBLS will come in handy in my legal career, however I cannot help but reflect on the time I've spent practicing listening, empathy, and patience. Having a relationship with clients this summer and playing a small role in helping move their life forward gives me hope that a better world is possible. It has been the best part of my internship. I do not yet know if I will stay in Boston or Massachusetts after graduation, but I hope to bring GBLS' commitment and dedication to serving low-income individuals with me wherever I end up.

Legal aid organizations always have a greater need than they can handle. Consider donating to support careers in legal aid.