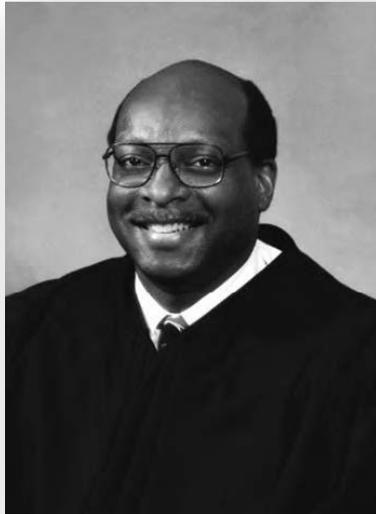




2023 Reginald C. Lindsay & David S. Nelson Fellowship

August 2023
Issue 27



Judge
Reginald C. Lindsay

"I'm proud to be a Lindsay fellow because throughout this experience, especially during our time meeting with Judges, we learned about the legacy Judge Lindsay left for the courthouse. Judge Lindsay's commitment to the youth, his dedication to justice and law, and serving as a well-respected judge that cared for everyone that walked through his courtroom stood out to me the most."

- Ebyan Abshir, 2023 Lindsay Fellow

"Participating in the Nelson Fellowship has taught us all impactful career-building and interpersonal skills that we will apply onward. From the multitude of guest speakers throughout the week down to the memories we have created together. The Nelson Fellowship Program will truly leave a lasting impact on us."

- Franklin Garcia, 2023 Nelson Fellow



Judge
David S. Nelson

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Student experiences in Federal Judge's chambers

Learning about Judge Lindsay and Judge Nelson's legacies

Meeting fellowship alumni

Pictures from the entire summer

And more!

MEET THE COORDINATORS

Samantha Roszczenko

Samantha was the program's 2023 Lead Coordinator and was previously the Deputy Coordinator during the summer of 2022, an intern in the Clerk's Office during the summer of 2021, and a Nelson Fellow during the summer of 2019.

She is a rising senior and Political Science and Philosophy/Public Policy double-major with an English minor at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Samantha was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and currently lives in Dorchester. Besides English, she speaks Polish and teaches the language to children who attend the Polish Language School in Boston.



Jurianny Guerrero

Jurianny was the program's 2023 Deputy Coordinator and was formerly a Nelson Fellow during the summer of 2021 and an intern at Sweeney Merrigan Law Firm during the spring of 2022.

She is a rising sophomore at Centre College as a Posse scholar, pursuing a double major in Political Science and International Relations with a minor in Art Studio. Jurianny is a native Spanish speaker born in Boston, Massachusetts. She resides in Roxbury, but during the school year lives in Danville, Kentucky.



Caleb Houston

Caleb Houston is our new USDC Project Coordinator. Caleb is a Florida native and alumnus of Florida Gulf Coast University, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He has been with the Federal Judiciary for three years and has several years of prior experience in court administration.

Caleb is a collaborator, who is eager to promote community outreach and resources that the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse provides.



Why Did You Believe in Me? *Johnson Peow (Lindsay Fellow)*

“Why did you believe in me?”

Those words echoed in my head as I walked around the courthouse. I was not outgoing. I wasn't confident. I had not even remembered the sides that attorneys were supposed to sit within the courtroom. Judges, lawyers, paralegals, and other courthouse players terrified me because of all the stories I've heard about our criminal justice system. Despite my thoughts, the Lindsay Fellowship believed in me.

During the program, I honed lawyering skills with Jamele, Taisha, and Alexis; learned about and observed federal court proceedings with Magistrate Judge Levenson, Jack, Christian, Cecilia, and Libby; experienced the day-to-day life at the United States Attorney's Office with Anne, Julien, and many more lawyers; learned about the various career paths within the legal profession through several guest speakers; and so much more that my article would need to exceed well beyond the 400-word limit if I had to list all of its impacts.

However, the Lindsay Fellowship should be understood more than just as a snapshot into law school and the various legal career paths, but rather as a demonstration of how we should live day-to-day. The mission of the Lindsay Fellowship can be summed up in one word: advocacy. Regardless of where I walked or what I did, advocates unconditionally believed in me and fought for me. At no point in my life have so many individuals come together and cared about my well-being and development, both inside and outside the courthouse, despite everyone already having busy lives.

Most importantly, my experience in the Lindsay Fellowship will empower me to want to become a lawyer. Despite personal challenges at home, the Lindsay Fellowship believed I could thrive despite adversity. I don't know my statistics of getting into law school or becoming a lawyer, but I know that I'm a living product of Judge Lindsay's legacy. I can fly like one of Judge Lindsay's Bumblebees and defy the probabilities assigned to me, all because the Lindsay Fellowship believed in me.





Mock Trial with Jerry Howland

Nicholas Davis (Nelson Fellow)

Going into the Nelson Fellowship, I was most excited about the mock trial. I have been a member of the Mock Trial Team at my school for the past two years, and I was looking forward to strengthening my knowledge about how best to prepare.

Our fantastic instructor, Mr. Howland, has so much knowledge of the law and how the legal systems work. This was highlighted when the entire class would spend the first half an hour picking his brain about the many important and interesting cases, he had seen that day. Mr. Howland was not alone; Uma Sen was always with him as a beneficial source of information. She was even kind enough to play one of the roles in our mock trial.

This class helped all the Fellows immensely, as we became better public speakers and listeners. Mr. Howland always reminded us that the best attorneys are the ones who know how to listen. He constantly reminded us that there are three keys to success: preparation, preparation, and preparation. While this may sound somewhat corny, it is true.

Before we began preparing for the mock trial at the end of the summer, we all participated in a practice one, during the program's first week. Goldilocks was on trial for trespassing. When we got the case for the competition on the final day of the Fellowship, we got right to work. We worked together to pick a theme and ran with it from there. From the first time we read the case, we were pleased to be the prosecution. There was an immense amount of evidence that pointed to Paula Breedy as the murderer of her great-aunt. She had motive and opportunity, something that no one else in the case had. We still had to prepare for any evidence the defense team would bring, and as we took the case apart, we realized that there was a significant amount of that too.

After this experience, I am sure that many of my peers will consider a career in law, and we will all look back fondly on our time preparing to take down Paula Breedy with Mr. Howland in courtroom three.



Lindsay's with Judge Levenson



Lindsay's with Jermaine Kidd

Lindsay Fellows
with Guest
Speakers



Ebyan with Judges Dein & Kelley



Lindsay's with USAO

The Federal Defender's Office ***Darla Castano (Lindsay Fellow)***

I had the amazing opportunity to be placed with the Federal Public Defenders Office as a Lindsay Fellow. At first, I was unsure what to expect from this experience, or what I would gain. However, upon my arrival my first impression was how welcoming every staff member was; they made my fellow cohorts and I feel as if we were long-time friends. It ensured that we, as Lindsay Fellows, could feel comfortable at the office and confident enough to ask as many questions as needed. While shadowing throughout the office I had the chance to personally get to know everyone profoundly and see the cases they were working on.

Every day, Alex, Ebyan, and I went into the office ecstatic about what awaited us when we walked in. Especially when the law school interns offered to give us a tour of their respective law schools, we were able to see Boston University School of Law and Harvard Law School. Visiting these two law schools made us feel empowered and determined that one day we would fulfill this long-cherished dream of becoming lawyers.

Jessica Thrall, our supervisor, ensured that our experience at the Federal Defenders Office was well-rounded. Besides the fact that we got to sit in on high-profile cases and learn so much from them, we were able to work on a specific case. For this case, we filed and revised documents, filed a motion, and attended specific hearings. Even on Fridays, when working remotely, we reported to work to attend hearings to support our client.

From my time at the Federal Public Defenders Office, the work accomplished there was genuine and beautiful. Every staff member is dedicated to protecting their clients' rights and working towards the best possible outcome for each person they represent. During my time here I learned in depth the true work of a public defender and every factor that contributes to it. From this experience I've earned a different perspective on the judicial system and every person who is part of it. With this, I am elated to have been part of this opportunity.





Meeting Jermaine Kidd

Deborah Nguyen (Nelson Fellow)

We were incredibly grateful to have met with Jermaine Kidd, a former Nelson Fellow. This was a life-changing experience to hear his experience and wise words.

I had carried a lot of doubt about my capabilities because, despite all the hard work I had in mind, I knew that I still didn't have the academic record I wanted. But Mr. Kidd was encouraging and kind, explaining that even though he didn't have a scholarly history, he completed an undergraduate degree at Morehouse College and a graduate degree from Boston College Law School. He explained that it is not about what I have done in the past but what I will do in the future and will continue to do the work not only on myself but the world surrounding me.

He consistently and constantly connects with the communities he has been involved with, including the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association and the Nelson Fellowship. He focuses on the work that helps him advance and wishes to pay it forward to his hometown and college communities.

Additionally, Mr. Kidd calmed my worries about life post-college and a work-life balance. In the past, people's words and ideas attempted to cloud my brain with thoughts that work would consume my life and that my youth was all I would have for enjoyment. He emphasized that although the Nelson Fellowship turned his life around, and he could get all A's continuously, he still enjoyed his life. What is important is to separate work and play, while prioritizing school and work and essential time for oneself to recover. As we heard, being strict with your time means self-care. Time management is one of the most critical skills; one can argue that it is the most vital skill to function in life.



Nelsons with Judge Hennessy



Nelsons with Migdalia Nalls

Nelson Fellows with Guest Speakers

Nelsons with Judge Dein



Nelsons with the USAO



Nelsons with Jermaine Kidd



The Honorable Judge William G. Young

Christine Wanjiru (Lindsay Fellow)

The experience I've had in Judge Young's Chambers is one I'll never forget. Prior to starting, I was nervous about being in such a new and prestigious setting, and was not sure I would be able to fit in. However, Judge Young and his chamber staff did everything to make me feel welcomed. Judge Young's chambers consisted of individuals who hail from various backgrounds, and it was great to hear so many different perspectives on their law careers. As for Judge Young, there was never a dull moment with him. As every conversation we had was always interesting and lively. I truly enjoyed how expressive he was when teaching. I sat in with him on a panel for law school students and loved how he made sure to answer each question fully and that we learned something from it. This showed how dedicated he is to his work, not only for himself but for others as well.

Attending Judge Young's court sessions was an incredible opportunity as well. One that stood out to me the most was a Rule 11 hearing, when the Court decides whether to accept or deny a defendant's guilty plea. The Court takes a colloquy of the defendant to ensure the defendant's plea was voluntary and without coercion. As one can imagine, this type of hearing holds quite a weight emotionally. However, Judge Young made sure to treat the defendant respectfully, they understood and accepted each aspect of their plea. Being able to witness this was very heartwarming and instilled my faith in the courts to handle these matters as equally as possible.

Judge Young's law clerk Kimberly Foreiter and judicial assistant Elizabeth Sonnenberg were impactful members during my time in chambers. From day one Elizabeth made sure that I was well settled into chambers and was always available to help me which I greatly appreciated. Talking with Kimberly and the other opportunities presented in this program helped solidify my decision to go to law school. Hearing about her law journey and seeing where she ended up inspired me and made me hopeful for what's in store for my future. I'm glad Judge Young has such great individuals working alongside him, and I hope to cross paths with them again later in my law career. Thank you to the Lindsay Fellowship for this opportunity and for matching me to Judge Young's chambers.



The U.S. Attorney's Panel

Kimberly Nguyen (Nelson Fellow)

Walking into a random conference room on the ninth floor, I had a cliché image of what federal prosecutors (and government attorneys) were like: stern and cold-hearted. To my pleasant surprise, the panelists were all remarkably funny and likable, shattering any preconceived notions I had.

As Nelson Fellows, we met many different people in the legal community, from law clerks to judges, law firm partners to public defenders. On this particular day, the Nelsons met with a panel of four Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs), career lawyers with the federal government who prosecute federal crimes and file civil complaints to enforce regulations. Two Lindsay Fellows assigned to the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) moderated the panel. The AUSAs shared their funny college stories, their law school internship experiences, and the twists and turns they made to end up at the USAO in their law careers. One panelist even described her mid-career pivot from journalism to the legal profession!

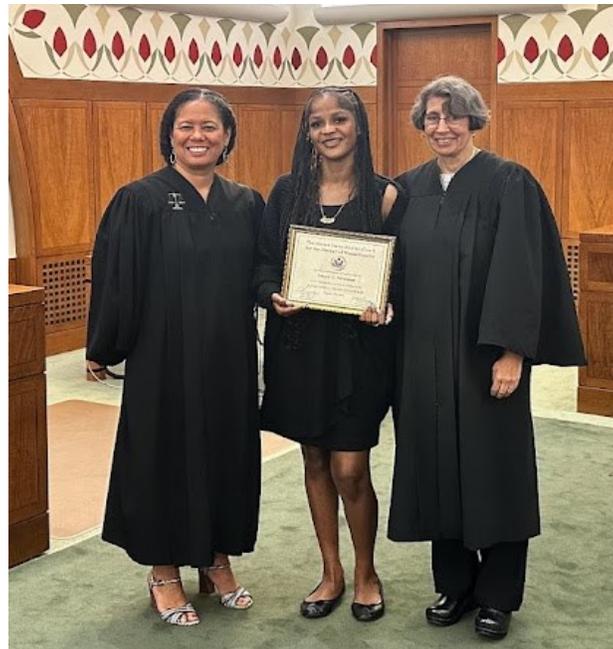
The AUSAs also shared details about their work. Some did civil rights litigation, some did national security work, and others did prosecution for many other federal crimes. Before listening to the panel, I had yet to learn that there were AUSAs who weren't prosecutors. I just found out that several divisions were dedicated to civil litigation!

The most impactful thing I learned was how committed the AUSAs are to public service and morally doing the right thing. Unlike private practices and law firms, the goal of the USAO isn't to win every single case; the goal is to ensure justice is being served, even if it means losing cases. One AUSA emphasized how she would dismiss her cases if she thought there wasn't enough evidence to charge someone reasonably. Prosecutors don't get a good rep for their role in sentencing people to prison. Still, the AUSAs spoke candidly about finding a good balance with fair and reasonable sentences for convicted defendants.

The AUSAs made their jobs seem like the most interesting job in the world; the hour we spent listening to them flew by so quickly—I learned so much about prosecution and civil litigation. I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to learn about the USAO through the Nelson Fellowship.



Nelson Graduation



Legal Research & Writing with Taisha Sturdivant *Ebyan Abshir (Lindsay Fellow)*

When some people hear the words “class” and “research”, it tends to put off most audiences. Throughout this entire fellowship, the classes I was able to experience were vastly different from any class I’ve taken before. This is especially the case when looking at Taisha’s Legal Research and Writing course. Taisha’s versatility as an instructor captivated the attention of myself and my peers. One second, we would learn how to write a case brief, and the following, we would plan a trip to the Sturdivant Ulysses residence to “borrow” from her fashionable closet. While this was one of the more fun tangents in her course, Taisha was never hesitant to change the class flow to cater to what the fellows wanted to learn or needed clarification on. Whether it was about legal research and writing, her crazy hypos, law school, or overall conversations of the future. Taisha was open and happy to get to know us on a personal level and help us in any way she could.

The very first day we started Taisha’s course, she informed us that her way of teaching would be based on the Socratic method. I previously learned about this method, but I never fully considered the benefits it would bring to my confidence. Taisha explained to us that this method would not only prepare us for law school, but also encourage us to take a step back while we consider what we are really asking and hoping to gain from our conversations. I was able to sit with my thoughts, critically understand what I wanted out of my questions, and ultimately take the time to do research at home before bringing in the answer to my questions the next day. Rather than relying so heavily on what the instructor would tell me to do, Taisha’s course motivated me to start depending on myself and what I could bring to the table. I’m grateful for her class for a multitude of reasons. However, the most influential is that Taisha will always be a friend I can reach out to, and her class brought me even closer to the fellows. I will cherish this program as an integral part of my journey as a Lindsay Fellow.





The Honorable Judge William G. Young

Arianna Lamarche (Nelson Fellow)

July 5th, 2023 was when I saw my possible future set for me. More specifically when I connected with the individuals in my chamber this summer. At first, I was surprised to find out what a judge's chambers and law clerks were. That all changed when I went to Judge Young's chambers. I only knew a little about the law at first, besides what I learned from working at City Hall. Judge Young has seen a lot while working as a senior federal judge. One of the things that stuck with me was his love for the jury. After every trial, he personally always thanked them.

I got a lot of things out of being in chambers with Judge William G. Young and his team—specifically, Elizabeth and Kimberly. Elizabeth was the first person I met from chambers over Zoom. I quickly wanted to impress her. She was the first official federal courthouse employee that I was ever meeting. She was lovely and welcoming and was always there to answer my questions about the courthouse. She was always the go-to person I went to when I stepped foot in the chambers. Her favorite memory of me was coming to chambers to say 'Good Morning' every day. That I brightened up chambers with my lovely smile. (Judge Young's chamber was VERY nice) I always bragged about it to my other Nelsons.

Judge Young always took the time out of his busy schedule to get a chance to talk to me about his trip with his family to the lake or to read my opening statement with some comments.

The first "assignment" I was given was to switch out federal pocket-books, and Judge Young has A LOT of books. He easily prefers the physical copy rather than anything technology related. To my surprise, I always ended up in a conversation with the law clerks or interns, which I loved. That is when I connected with Kimberly—someone I would officially like to call my mentor. From my first day meeting her, I could tell she was who I wanted as a role model. She was always there and encouraged me whenever we talked about law or life. "Never take no for an answer," she always said. She gave me helpful information about different steps to be ahead of the game that I would have never known as a first-generation Hispanic/Latin woman. Her favorite memory of me was listening to my questions to the Judge, and she and her co-clerk said my deep appreciation for their work and my willingness to learn and check in often was noticed and appreciated. "Our next generation is in great hands because Arianna will be a lawyer!"

I was sad when it was time to say my goodbyes early at the end of July since Judge Young takes August to himself. Yes, he is that busy to the point where he needs a month's break.

Lindsay & Nelson Fellows on Trips



Lindsay's visiting Kirkland & Ellis



Lindsay's visiting Suffolk Law School



Lindsay's visiting Boston College Law



Nelsons visiting the Edward Brooke Courthouse



Nelsons visiting the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

Meeting Mrs. Lindsay

Kenisha Lamarre (Lindsay Fellow)

During the Lindsay fellowship, I had the great pleasure to meet Mrs. Lindsay, the widow of Judge Reginald C. Lindsay. Guided by Judge Casper's thoughtful questions, we uncovered the inspiring story of Judge Lindsay's life, filled with resilience and dedication.

Throughout the discussion, a common theme emerged, revolving around the notions of preservation and resilience, ultimately leaving three lasting impressions:

Mrs. Lindsay shines a light on the challenges that Judge Lindsay confronted during the segregation era illustrating the racial implications and the obstacles that Black people faced during that time. Mrs. Lindsay recounted how Judge Lindsay overcame difficulties as a Black man from the South aspiring to become an attorney - receiving early admission to Morehouse College and attending Harvard Law School. Through his unyielding perseverance, Judge Lindsay showcased his intelligence and an extraordinary level of resilience. His journey emphasized that preservation and determination can lead to remarkable success, even in the face of adversity.

Secondly, Mrs. Lindsay's dedication to upholding the Lindsay Fellowship Program and preserving Judge Lindsay's legacy was truly inspiring. She emphasized the program's commitment to fostering representation within the legal field. Her conviction resonated deeply with the fellowship community, serving as a reminder that inclusivity and diversity remain paramount in the pursuit of justice. The program's continued growth under her guidance is a living tribute to the importance of these principles.

Lastly, the discussion touched upon a facet of Judge Lindsay's life that left an indelible impression. Despite being disabled and confined to a wheelchair, Judge Lindsay radiated a boundless spirit. Mrs. Lindsay shared anecdotes of how his disability never hindered his work as a judge but rather propelled him to make the courthouse more accessible for others facing similar challenges. This particularly resonated with me as I felt inspired to be a leader in my community, in whichever manner that takes form. Moreover, it showcased the many ways of equality, that there is no singular path to achieving social justice.

As a Lindsay Fellow, this conversation served as a reminder of what the Lindsay Fellowship stands for and the vast insights we can gain with-





Mediation Training with the CSDC

Justin Le (Nelson Fellow)

Some people assume you must win an argument to resolve it; that's not the case in many situations. During the Nelson Fellowship, we had the opportunity to participate in Mediation Training led by the Community Dispute Settlement Center! Mediation Training consists of resolving conflicts between parties or individuals; this group assists in helping people learn communication skills, determining the different kinds of disputes, and applying concepts to de-escalate situations.

When I sat down, the team had just started discussing the five different ways to resolve conflicts. These different ways were avoiding, compromising, collaborating, accommodating, and competing. We could visualize these ways of resolution on a graph showing the "extremes," such as preventing, and the "in the middle" options, such as compromising. All these ways of conflict had their ups and downs when concluding. To determine those pros and cons, an activity was prepared for us in small groups; each group would have an individual conflict and brainstorm ideas about what was so bad or so good about a particular conflict. It was interesting to see afterward the different scenarios or situations that each group came up with. One prime example would be when two individuals' needs must be met simultaneously. In that example, collaboration would be the most applicable way of resolution compared to avoiding or compromising.

The main highlight of the Mediation Training was the skits we developed ourselves. The team gave us a specific scenario to act out and told us to make two skits, one where the conflict wasn't resolved and one where it was. It was incredibly hilarious to act out these skits as one of my peers was playing a coach and told their partner to "SIT ON THE BENCH!" and turned beet red! After the skits, we received feedback on what could be done better and what was already good.

Overall, everyone enjoyed the Mediation Training, and it was an eye-opening experience for me. I didn't realize there were so many ways to resolve an issue! I'm glad to have the chance to experience that class.



Lindsay Graduation



Boston College Law School Visit

Alex Alvarez (Lindsay Fellow)

I am immensely grateful that the Lindsay fellowship coordinated to have us go on a tour of Boston College Law School. Like many other fellows, touring a law school was a first for me. It was incredibly eye-opening to see a law school, how it is laid out, and all the resources law students have. We walked around campus and sat in classrooms, pretending to be cold called by our non-existent professor. Being in the classroom made my dream real and tangible. I could picture myself walking the hallways of BC Law in a couple of years, walking to my Torts class. It was fascinating to see the different classrooms and how big or small they were, depending on your course. As we walked into the classrooms Lissy Medvedow gave us facts about the school, such as how big the incoming class is or, typically how many students are in your main courses.

During our visit we had the pleasure to meet a few inspiring administrators as well as a former Lindsay Fellow and Fellowship Coordinator who spoke about the culture and curriculum of BC Law. We spoke to the Dean of Admissions, who informed us more about the application process. He gave us tips and tricks on what makes a stellar application and what to look for. He answered our many questions and gave us thorough answers. I appreciated that he took time out of his day to speak with us and tell us what law schools are looking for, precisely what Boston College Law is looking for in a student, someone to add to their community.

Additionally, we were able to meet with the DEI coordinator. It was especially nice to hear from someone devoted to helping students who do not have everything figured out because they are first-generation college or law school students. I was scared about going through law school alone but quickly realized that the students at BC are not alone. They have a fantastic mentor who will stick her neck out for you and remind you that you can do anything you set your mind to. Speaking to both the Dean and the DEI coordinator, as well as a current law student, has pushed me to apply to BC Law because I am confident that I can and will succeed there.



Civics Class With Jason Wise

Lynsastkia Noel (Nelson Fellow)

This summer, we had the opportunity to participate in three separate classes over six weeks: Public Speaking, Civics Class, and Mock Trial Prep. The lessons were designed to help us develop our voices but also to help us articulate our words in a way that makes our desired outcome perceptible to others.

In our civics class with Jason Wise, we examined various issues connected by the primary theme of how stereotypes affect us and how we grow up. We read a story about Jennifer Wang, a Chinese immigrant who struggled to identify as Chinese or American because she felt she didn't fit into either category. Jennifer's experience connected with the Fellows because several of us were in a similar circumstance, which conflicted with our identity and what others thought us to be.

Jason introduced an experiment into this lesson by having each Fellow pick a number 1-14, and depending on their chosen number, he put a sticker on our foreheads. This exercise aimed to act out what the other person's sticker said on their forehead without telling them. This was an eye-opening activity. The Fellows knew stereotypes were insensitive because some had experienced stereotypes, but it shows how strongly they can affect you.

Through this activity, Jason reminded us that it didn't matter how you saw yourself; if other people saw you differently, then the perception of you that they formed in their minds is how they will treat you.

I am grateful to Jason and all our teachers during the Nelson Fellowship program because we got to know them as people, not just teachers who participated. My time as a Nelson Fellow during the summer of 2023 has certainly been enjoyable. Thank you, Jason Wise, and my Fellowship Coordinators!



Lindsays with Jamele Adams



Nelsons with Jason Wise



Taisha Sturdivant
with Cheryl Lindsay



Lindsays with Taisha Sturdivant

Lindsay & Nelsons with Instructors



Nelsons with Jamele Adams



Clerk of Court Rob Farrell
Daniela Londono Ramirez (Lindsay Fellow)

The conversation with Rob Farrell was distinct from our other guest speakers' conversations, in a positively unique way. When asked about why he was in the Federal Court System, he provided a meaningful answer. An answer that promoted motivation in overcoming challenges and to then turn that into something better. His dedication and care for the work he does for the court was evident throughout the entire conversation. A type of dedication and care that motivates others to follow suit. We originally did not know what to expect from our conversation with him but were immediately drawn to and inspired by his caring nature.

Not only did we learn about his caring and dedicated character, but we also learned about a different aspect of the court. We obtained some insight about what occurs behind the scenes and the various tasks that the Clerk's Office must achieve. There is a lot of organization, thought, and effort put into how the courts are run by the Clerk's Office, and by Rob Farrell. He ensures that the Court continues to run as smoothly as possible. This can be difficult during hard times such as the Covid pandemic. However, despite a pandemic, he was able to persist through the challenge and continue to support the Court and the judges. The caring and supportive nature of the Court was also revealed throughout this conversation. He told us about how the Court assisted the Suffolk Superior Court during the pandemic and dedicated two courtrooms for State proceedings to ensure that the legal system continued running as best as possible during difficult times. This was only one of many ways in which the Clerk's Office has overcome challenges.

Rob Farrell meets with judges, helps the Court run and so much more. He has shown immense zeal and care. Our conversation with him was full of honesty and sincerity which will be remembered and always appreciated. Learning about the valuable work of the Clerk's Office was important and contributed to a wonderful learning experience that was the overall Lindsay Fellowship program.





The Honorable Judge Allison D. Burroughs

Aasanah Jones (Nelson Fellow)

Before starting the Nelson Fellowship program, I had yet to learn what a judge's chambers were. Walking in on the first day, I had no clue that these chambers would be my favorite summer experience. From flying chickens, mint time, black licorice debates, and, oh, the actual work I did in the chambers, I'm beyond grateful to have been assigned to the Honorable Judge Allison D. Burroughs' chambers.

I didn't get to meet my judge right away because she was on trial the first week I was there. I met Alie and the three interns at the time, Cam, Hayden, and Jason. Alexandra Borstein (Alie for short) is a Law Clerk at the courthouse and has been since January. She attended Middlebury College and Columbia Law School. Alie initially didn't want to become a lawyer, but I'm happy she did. One of my favorite moments was one day during my lunch; I asked her about the current trial and jury selection. We talked for a whole hour about it, and everything she said fascinated me. Alie guided me through chamber time, and when she was busy, Thomas directed me.

Now, Thomas is a character. He attended Colby College and Boston College Law School. Thomas wanted to become a lawyer because of role models who spoke highly of their jobs. Mine and Thomas' favorite memory must be when he threw a rubber chicken at me. And listen, I know what you're thinking, "Rubber chicken? Do they ever work?" Yes, yes, we do. But one day, Thomas had a bunch of fidget toys in his backpack and was showing me and the other interns. Out of nowhere, I see a little yellow thing flying at me. It was his rubber chicken. This moment was so funny, and the whole chambers laughed for a while. It was one of the many laughs we had.

Then there is, of course, the Honorable Judge Allison D. Burroughs. She also attended Middlebury College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She has been a judge for eight and a half years and became a judge because she wanted to be the one making decisions, not arguing what the decision should be. Judge loves her job, but she wishes more people could afford lawyers and that there was a better way to manage mental health.

I loved the atmosphere of my chambers and honestly wouldn't trade it for the world. I always felt welcomed and heard. Whenever I needed assistance, everyone and anyone was there to help. Thank you to everyone in my chambers!



Lindsay Moot Court



Trip to Boston University

Imani Newman (Nelson Fellow)

My time as a Nelson Fellow taught me more about myself and the law. I learned about professionalism and what it is like to be a person of color in a professional workspace--the stares, the compliments, the judgment, and the confusion. This experience took me out of my comfort zone; I learned that sometimes you must first be uncomfortable to become comfortable.

I enjoyed the courage and determination this opportunity brought me. I finally have an idea of what my future could look like. I could finally see the majors and minors I want to pursue and what I desired in a community. I can envision myself "making it out," as others call it.

Without further ado, I realized my inspiration was from the college tours this summer. Visiting Boston University was my first "WOW" moment; opening my eyes a bit wider, and it looked like I pulled an all-nighter just by being there. The tour showed me what I could have and what I'm capable of.

BU has the diversity I desire while having a beautiful, convenient, and safe campus. The school offers many options and opportunities with clubs, great counselors, programs, and dorm choices. All my college wants and needs. The school is convenient for people who travel on the MBTA and has many food places, banks, and convenience stores. Safety is encouraged because if you want to walk with someone, there are assigned buddies you can call who will automatically walk you back to your destination.

It's even believable for me, even as I view it from the outside. I never considered tours exciting or a dream, but this changed my perspective. I haven't been on many college tours; therefore, I can't say it's my final decision, but it is a great option. BU gave me a chance to think of other colleges with the spark I'm looking for. I aim to find my forever home for however many years I am there. Even though BU might not rock everyone's world, it did mine.





Visit to WilmerHale

Franklin Garcia (Nelson Fellow)

As a Nelson Fellow, we had the opportunity to go on many stimulating trips and meet with many impressive people. One of the trips that stood out to me was the trip to WilmerHale. Not only did we get to meet many people, but we also had the chance to hear about their exciting lives and what they had to do to get to where they are today.

On our way to WilmerHale, the other Nelsons and I wanted coffee from the nearby Dunkin' and Starbucks. I got some Dunkin while some of my peers got Starbucks. While it seemed like we were all different, based on our coffee choices, we grew closer as a family from the shared conversations over coffee.

Once we arrived at WilmerHale, we immediately met many people from different backgrounds. To my surprise, we met Kevin Prussia, the firm's partner, who had no interest in being involved in the law; if anything, he was in college to be a doctor at first. Kevin's college years at NYU were characterized by former mayor Rudy Giuliani's reign in NYC, where he enforced stick policing. Kevin suffered from racial prejudice which fueled his passion for law. Since then, Kevin has become one of the company's most valued lawyers, even litigating in the Moderna v. Pfizer case.

That was only one of the many stories we heard that day. It was one of those days where being a Nelson Fellow showed us that not all successful people come from an easy background; if anything, most come from a very hard one. After that visit, I wondered what moment in my life would decide what career I wanted to pursue.

Nelson Mock Trial



The Honorable Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton
Patricia De Los Santos (Nelson Fellow)

Throughout the Nelson Fellowship this summer, my peers and I met many people who influenced our perception of the law, the justice system, and the world. I enjoyed every opportunity to expand my knowledge of the justice system.

Speaking with Judge Gorton expanded my knowledge of jurors and their role in the justice system. He recalled many stories where the jury got so invested in their cases that they would eagerly continue to show up, even when sick. After conversing about the jury, I realize they are a significant part of the justice system and critical to having a fair trial.

Judge Gorton also spoke about a program called Discovering Justice and his participation in the program over the years. He started to explain Discovering Justice's purpose, describing how the program caters to elementary school students and teaches the youth about the judicial system early on. After he talked about the program, I raised my hand to reveal that I had been a part of that program during my 6th-grade year. I described the case that I did with my classmates; it was a civil case where a boy sued his school for not protecting him against the bullying he faced. I remember the mock judge told me I did a great job explaining my argument. This was a significant event that influenced my interest in the judicial branch. Judge Gorton said he recalled a case like the one I described, and I am happy to have had that connection.

I am grateful to have talked to Judge Gorton because the conversation was educational and informative. I learned so much through his funny stories. It meant a lot to me that he wanted to speak to us and engage with us. My peers and I noticed that he lit up when talking to us, showing how dedicated he is to his job and how much he loves his role.



THE 2023 LINDSAY FELLOWS



Alex Alvarez Sepulveda is a rising senior at Colby College, where she majors in Government and Anthropology with a concentration in Human Rights. Alex was assigned to the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton and was placed in the Federal Public Defender’s Office.

Christine Wanjiru is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts — Amherst, where she majors in Psychology, minors in Political Science, and pursues a certificate in Criminology and the Criminal Justice System. Christine was assigned to the Honorable William G. Young and was placed in the U.S. Probation Office.



Daniela Londono Ramirez is a rising senior at the College of the Holy Cross where she majors in Political Science and Sociology with a concentration in Latin American and Caribbean studies. Daniela was assigned to the Honorable Jennifer C. Boal and was placed in the U.S. Probation Office.

Darla A. Castano is a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts — Boston, where she majored in Latin American and Iberian Studies and minored in Sociology. Darla was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper and was placed in the Federal Public Defender’s Office.



THE 2023 LINDSAY FELLOWS



Ebyan J. Abshir is a rising senior at Union College, where she majors in Africana Studies and minors in Spanish and English. Ebyan was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris and was placed in the Federal Public Defender’s Office.

Johnson V. Peow is a rising senior at Boston University, where he majors in History and Political Science. Johnson was assigned to the Honorable Paul G. Levenson and was placed in the U.S. Attorney’s Office.



Kenisha Lamarre is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, where she majors in Political Science and Social Thought & Political Economy. Kenisha was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns and was placed in the U.S. Attorney’s Office.





2023 Alumni Potluck



THE 2023 NELSON FELLOWS



Aasanah Jones is a rising junior attending the John D. O'Bryant High School. Aasanah was assigned to the Honorable Allison D. Burroughs.

Arianna Lamarche is a rising junior attending Boston Latin Academy. Arianna was assigned to the Honorable William G. Young.



Deborah Nguyen is a rising senior attending the John D. O'Bryant High School. Deborah was assigned to the Honorable Leo T. Sorokin.

Franklin Garcia is a rising senior attending Charlestown High School. Franklin was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris.



THE 2023 NELSON FELLOWS



Imani Newman is a rising senior attending the John D. O'Bryant High School. Imani was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper.

Justin Le is rising college freshman attending Suffolk University. Justin was assigned to the Honorable Donald L. Cabell.



Kimberly Nguyen is a rising junior attending the Winsor School. Kimberly was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns.

Lynsastkia Noel is a rising senior attending Boston Prep Charter School. Lynsastkia was assigned to the Honorable Jennifer C. Boal.



THE 2023 NELSON FELLOWS



Nicholas Davis is a rising senior attending Saint John's High School in Shrewsbury. Nick was assigned to the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton.

Patricia De Los Santos is a rising junior attending the John D. O'Bryant High School. Patricia was assigned to the Honorable Paul G. Levenson.



The

GINNY HURLEY

Memorial Scholarship

Ginny Hurley joined the Clerk’s Office of the United States District Court, District of Massachusetts in 1976 as a Deputy Clerk. Through the years her responsibilities grew and she touched the lives of virtually every member of the Court family. From 2003 until her passing, Ginny was responsible for organizing all of the educational programs at the Court for the bench, bar and public. Her title of “Outreach Coordinator” reflected the fact that she was the face of the court, welcoming all who came to take part in the judicial system, including dignitaries from around the world, international and national press, and students from down the street, all with grace and a smile. Ginny was a good friend, teacher and mentor. She was a quick wit, and had the ability to make people laugh.



Ginny derived great satisfaction coordinating the Court’s summer programs for high school and college students – the Lindsay and Nelson Fellowship programs. She helped nurture and train the next generation to appreciate and participate in the legal process.

In memory of her tremendous work for these students, the Massachusetts Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has established the Ginny Hurley Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship, for books or tuition expenses, will be awarded annually to all graduating Lindsay and Nelson Fellows.

Donations are welcome. Please email FBA Treasurer Brian Murphy (murphy@murphyrudolf.com) if you wish to donate. Checks should be made out to Federal Bar Association - Massachusetts Chapter. Please include a note designating the funds for the Ginny Hurley Memorial Scholarship.

Thank You!

*We wish to thank those
who have provided invaluable assistance to the Fellowship:*

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Taisha Sturvidant, Esq.
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Jason Wise
Jerry Howland

Our Devoted Judges, Chambers' Staff, Law Clerks, and Interns

Robert Farrell, USDC Clerk of Court, and Staff

The U.S. Attorney's Office

The U.S. Marshal's Office

The U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office

The Federal Public Defender's Office

Bottom Line, Boston

Posse Foundation, Boston

Private Industry Council, Boston

Lissy Medvedow, Boston College Law Rappaport Center

Gail Packer, Community Dispute Settlement Center, and Staff

Anne Bowie, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Lisa White & Library Staff

The Hurley Family

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Judge Ham & The Suffolk Superior Courthouse

Migdalia Nalls, Esq.

Chief Justice Ronquillo & The Suffolk County Juvenile Court

The Federal Bar Association—Massachusetts Chapter

Stacey Borden, New Beginnings Re-Entry Services

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... All others who have given their time to this program in any way!