

August 2019
Issue 23

2019 REGINALD C. LINDSAY AND DAVID S. NELSON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS



I am honestly so grateful for the Nelson Fellowship allowing me to get this opportunity. I have been able to step outside of my comfort zone and experience so many other great things.

**-DEVON LEWIS-THOMPSON,
2019 Nelson Fellow**



In this issue:

Student experiences at the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office, and Federal Public Defender Office

Learning about Restorative Justice and the RISE Program

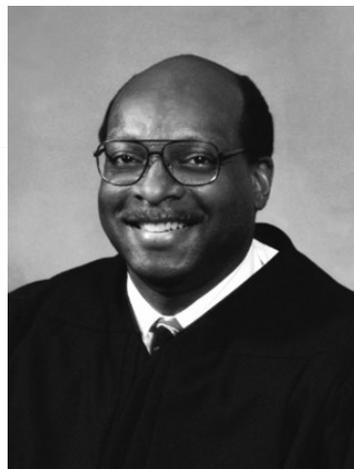
Meeting with former Nelson & Lindsay Fellow Taisha Sturdivant

Inside Scoop on Mock Trial Class

And more!

We learned loads of information that greatly benefited us during the Fellowship, especially in our Judge's chambers and during our respective placements, and that will continue to benefit us long after we leave Moakley — through strengthening of our arguments, strengthening of our writing, and most importantly, strengthening of our confidence in ourselves and our capabilities.

**-SHERLEY MUSCADE,
2019 Lindsay Fellow**



RISE Program *Alejandra Bonilla*

Meet the Coordinators



Lead Coordinator
Adonis Pitts

Adonis is a senior at the College of the Holy Cross where he majors in Political Science with a concentration in Africana Studies. He is interested in issues surrounding race, class, gender, and immigration. He hopes to pursue a career in public policy and law. This fall semester, he will be interning in Senator Ed Markey's Boston office.

Deputy Coordinator
Anna Stefanov

Anna Stefanov was a Nelson Fellow in 2016 and returned to the Court to be this year's Deputy Coordinator. She studies at UMass Lowell and double majors in History and Business with a concentration in Management. She is part of the International Relations club and will be returning to the Court next summer as Lead Coordinator.



When I was accepted as a Lindsay Fellow I did not know what to expect from the program. As I understood, the program would introduce different aspects of the legal world, such as the roles and jobs of judges, lawyers, and the jury in the courthouse. In all, I expected to only receive the institutionalized version of the legal world. However, the restorative justice program better known as RISE — Repair, Invest, Succeed, Emerge proved me wrong. RISE provides adult defendants convicted of serious federal crimes (usually drug-related crimes) an opportunity to avoid prison time and to make amends with themselves and others before reentering their communities. This program humanizes the individual and their experiences by focusing on personal accountability and reparations.

On June 25th, we, the Lindsay Fellows, attended a panel on restorative justice where we spoke and held conversations with folks involved in the creation and impact of the program such as: Judge Sorokin, Probation Officer Maria D'Addieco, defense attorney Jessica Hedges and an individual who has successfully gone through the RISE program. Each of these individuals spoke positively about the program's work in the courthouse and for the communities.

Judge Sorokin and D'Addieco gave us a brief run-down of the program and what the participants are required to fulfill. To be eligible for the program, defendants must have a history of hardships that would prevent them from being law-abiding citizens. They have to plead guilty and have their sentencing hearings postponed for twelve months. During those twelve months, they go through and accomplish RISE. The program asks those participating to refrain from drug use, go to school, get a job, and find a stable place to live. Participants receive support throughout this process from probation officers. Nonetheless, the main requirement of the program is a two-day restorative justice workshop where participants interact and converse with folks who have been directly impacted by the harm that the participants have caused others. D'Addieco further speaks about the core roots of restorative justice workshop circles originating from a Native American tribe in Canada. These teachings are meant to get participants to a place where they truly understand and process how their actions impact everyone including themselves.



Also in attendance to offer support during the restorative justice workshops could be judges, probation officers, prosecutors and defense attorneys who all play an important role in the defendant's participation in RISE. During the panel session, defense attorney Jessica Hedges assisted in presenting RISE as an important program to support her clients. She repeatedly stated that she must challenge whether the government can satisfy its burden of proof, and that to fight for her client she has to become their closest friend. Overall, Hedges reiterated the importance of the program for the people she works for. Finally, to speak for the program's validity and strengths, a former participant of the program came in and spoke from his own experiences and what he most appreciated about the program. He described the circles as the most impactful event of the program for him, even adding that he had recently become certified to lead circles. In addition, he explained the importance of accountability and how usually in cases like these defendants tend to say "I caught a case": making the situation seem random and eliminating all accountability from themselves. He emphasized that the program helped him understand and take accountability for his actions and work towards a better self. Today, he is involved in his community and is a motivational speaker.

"He emphasized that the program helped him understand and take accountability for his actions and work towards a better self."

As an undergraduate student at Brandeis University, I have been exposed to many political and philosophical concepts that would support different methods of organizing our government and most specifically, our prison systems. I have also attended workshops and have friends who strongly believe in the abolishment of the prison system and replacing them with rehabilitation programs. I have not found where I stand in these conversations but do agree that the prison system needs better methods to deal with prisoners and prepare them for their release. Therefore, understanding that most of law enforcement becomes systematic for certain communities, I did not expect such a program to exist in this courthouse. This is why I was in awe with the panelists' dedication to this program. More specifically, I was in awe with Judge Sorokin, an enforcer and representative of the law actively seeking to support and launch a program like this in a federal courthouse. I believe that this program needs to have a higher acceptance rate so that more folks can take advantage of it. I also believe that more programs like these need to exist across the country in order to have a less dehumanizing prison system.

In sum, it is leaders like the ones we met at the panel who reinforce the importance of the phrase "a government of the people, by the people, for the people." Sharing the justice system with local communities such as victims of crimes, Native American folks, and prisoners is the only way for justice to prevail. As one of the panelists stated, RISE "gives people an opportunity to right their wrongs. It is important to infiltrate the system to change it." Our communities need to be a part of the system for the system to work. I am very thankful for the work of the panelists and felt that the panel sent me off feeling motivated to continue my path within the legal world to change the system for the better.

Mock Trial Class with Mr. Jerry Howland *Kerri McManus*

Some Nelson Fellows entered this program confident that they wanted to be a lawyer. Other Nelson Fellows, such as myself, were not sure if law was the right career path to take in life. The opportunity to work alongside Mr. Howland through the mock trial definitely helped to clarify those doubts. From learning about prominent cases and general law, to specifically focusing on the content and strategies of our trial, the class provided an immense amount of knowledge and insight into the legal world.

We never found ourselves focusing on just one issue, it was always about thinking like actual lawyers and tackling various topics in a broad, truthful, and analytical sense. Through my time taking this course, there was an extremely influential lesson that I learned: there is no “winning” or “losing” in the courtroom, there is only one outcome: finding justice.

At the start of the program, each Fellow is provided with a copy of the case to read through and begin thinking about. It was important that we all dug deep into the case before jumping into our assigned roles because it gave us a thorough, very well-rounded outlook on the case as a whole. Even after beginning to hone in on our own jobs as either an attorney or a witness, we worked together to create a powerfully effective defense for our case.

“Without his leadership and guidance – and of course his teaching – we would not have been able to present ourselves so well at the trial.”



For the summer of 2019, we were provided with the opportunity to represent the defendant in the case of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Stephanie Hardee. As defense lawyers, there was nothing on us to prove in this case – all we had to do was effectively create enough reasonable doubt in the matter for the jury to deliver a verdict of “not guilty.”

Without going into too much detail, the case was brought in an attempt to determine whether 71-year-old Stephanie Hardee deliberately murdered her son-in-law, Harry Kumar, or if she was simply acting in self-defense as a result of her fear. I am happy to add that our Nelson Fellow team of attorneys and witnesses received a verdict of “not guilty,” just like we had hoped for.

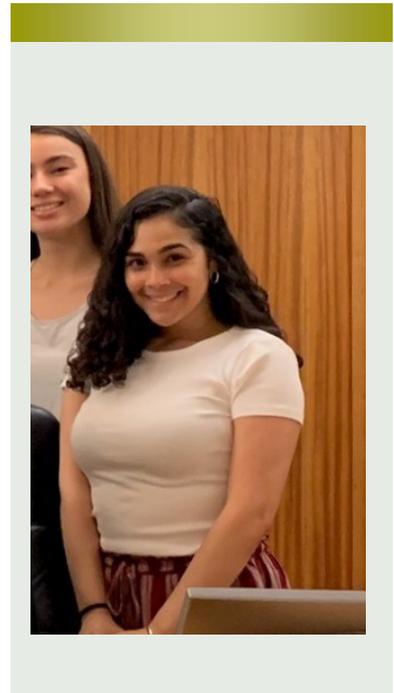
Every one of us immersed ourselves in an environment that promoted growth of knowledge and character whenever we entered Courtroom 7 to prepare for our upcoming case, and for that we all have Mr. Howland to thank. Without his leadership and guidance -- and of course his teaching -- we would not have been able to present ourselves so well at the trial. Some of our most important traits, like our ability to adapt and be confident in ourselves, were enhanced with his help. Mr. Howland always reminded us, there are three steps you need to follow to do a great job: 1) prepare 2) prepare and 3) *prepare*. Now, I just can't wait to prepare for what's to come after this program.

Federal Public Defender Placement *Daiana Inoa*

For the second half of the summer, myself and two other Fellows had the amazing opportunity to intern at the Federal Public Defender Office. Defenders there diligently worked to protect the rights of their clients and make sure they end up with the best possible outcome to their case. At the Federal Public Defender Office, everyone was super welcoming, especially attorneys Jessica Thrall and Miriam Conrad.

When shadowing Jessica Thrall, my co-fellows and I became enthralled with the amount of work she did and the way she worked attentively and relentlessly through each case. Attorney Jessica Thrall was super attentive to us all by assigning each of us a case and allowing us to do our own research for her clients. One of the most memorable phrases she kept reiterating to us was that if we are to be good lawyers in the future, we cannot look at every situation with a black-and-white lens. Even with the most disturbing cases, my co-fellows and I were taught to look at both perspectives and learn how to understand and empathize with people who are in terrifying situations. We left the Federal Public Defender Office with multiple realizations: these laws were not made by people who look like us and we need more exceptional public defenders, like Jessica Thrall and Miriam Conrad, in order to properly defend more people of color and ultimately eradicate the stigma against public attorneys.

Miriam Conrad runs the Federal Public Defender Office. My co-fellows and I were honored to continuously have insightful meetings and discussions about her ongoing cases. One of the most appealing elements of the office is the way Federal Public Defender Conrad implements a “community-based” office space. All the attorneys in the office gather around and discuss their open cases. They come together and share their own ideas of where they believe each case should go and how best to help their client. My co-fellows and I were always invited to these meetings and were appointed many tasks to take on, like listening to recorded jail phone calls and jotting down summaries of what we heard on an excel sheet. There was never a dull moment at the office. My experience interning at the Federal Public Defender Office was amazing and I would love to intern at the office again, only as a law school student.



United States Attorney's Office *Josh Rosa*

"You're working for the feds, bro?"
"Why are you working for them?"
"You're on the wrong side of the table."



My experiences throughout this summer have been some of the most rewarding, yet most challenging, experiences I have ever had. I was able to network. I was able to express myself. I was able to ask questions. I was able to learn. But, most importantly, I was able to grow – professionally, academically, and personally. Coming into this experience as a Lindsay Fellow, I needed something different. I needed something that really challenged me to think both creatively and critically, which is why prior to starting the Fellowship I requested to intern with the United States Attorney's Office (USAO). Upon learning that I would indeed be placed there, I was anxious. I told my friends, family, advisors and mentors. Though I received mixed reactions, what was consistent throughout was hesitation and confusion. I was questioned. I was told I was doing the wrong thing for working with a federal organization responsible for destroying my community. I've heard these criticisms of the U.S. Attorney's Office and other federal organizations under the Department of Justice by community members and activists – but were they right?

"I've heard these criticisms of the U.S. Attorney's Office and other federal organizations under the Department of Justice by community members and activists – but were they right?"

Upon my arrival to the 9th floor of the courthouse, my insides were turning. I made sure to wear the most professional gear I owned, the shiniest shoes I had, and slick my hair all the way back. Just hearing the name, "U.S. Attorney's Office," was intimidating, so I knew I had to look and be my best. Dress well, work well – right? Walking into the office, all of my preconceived notions were met. The USAO was a stereotypical governmental setting – very straightforward and strict. Most of the employees, from the secretary at the front desk to the Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs), seemed very official and private. In conjunction with the setting of the office, being only one of three interns of color made me feel restricted. I felt timid, small, and like I did not belong. Imposter syndrome took over me. I let my inherent biases and my community's opinions about the office influence my experience – especially on that first day. But things got better.





Supplementing my previous experience in criminal law by virtue of interning at the Guilford County Public Defender's Office in Greensboro, North Carolina last summer, the USAO taught me so much about the other side of the aisle: prosecution. The USAO is notorious for prosecuting high-profile defendants such as the Boston Marathon bomber and Whitey Bulger. The general public, including members of my community, knows that the office prosecutes gun, drug, gang and violent crimes because those are the crimes and stories prevalent in the media. When members of my community who are involved in crime, usually to support themselves and their family, are prosecuted and incarcerated, their absence is felt in the community – which is what community members are referring to when critiquing the USAO.

With that, one of my critiques of the USAO (and essentially every federal or state government agency) is that they seem to be *reactive* to crimes. For the most part, prosecuting crimes is a reaction to crimes being committed. But, why isn't there something in place that *prevents* such crimes from happening before they do? Why isn't there some *proactive* approach in dealing with the issues and crimes crippling different communities?

With that question in mind, I'll ask another, though: did you know that there is a Civil Rights Division or a Child Exploitation Unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office? Assistant U.S. Attorneys prosecute a variety of crimes and this summer I got to experience much of it. From working on an appeals case for the First Circuit Court of Appeals to working on investigations against the Massachusetts Department of Corrections, I was able to do so much in such little time. Working with AUSAs Anne Paruti and Anu Balakrishna, as well as Michelle Leung, showed me that there is more to the U.S. Attorney's Office than prosecuting drug or gang crimes.

My time in the Civil Rights Division and Child Exploitation Unit were some of the most interesting times in the office because it gave me more direct interaction with individuals and their stories – something that I am particularly interested in. The work done in the office is important, not only because they investigate civil and fundamental rights violations, but because the Assistant U.S. Attorneys hold so much discretion in what crimes to prosecute and how long sentences for those crimes should be within the limits of the law. Prosecutorial discretion showed me the more proactive nature of the USAO, especially within the Civil Rights Division. AUSAs, for the most part, have the power to decide what crimes are worth prosecuting. My time conducting doc reviews with AUSA Balakrishna showed me that there are instances where the USAO is more proactive in their approach to prosecuting crimes. Doc reviews in the Civil Rights Division give AUSAs critical information that aids them in deciding whether they should pursue investigations and ultimately prosecute state and local entities. My experience assisting with the doc review process demonstrated how much AUSAs care about protecting the constitutional rights of others. Because of this power, I believe being an AUSA is an extremely important position that people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives should consider pursuing because the decisions that come from said prosecutions have effects on the communities that we all live in and come from.

In the blink of an eye, my three weeks with the USAO were over. Three weeks became three days and three days became three seconds. That is precisely what happens when you are doing meaningful work. Though my time quickly came to an end, I left the United States Attorney's Office with an abundance of knowledge, memorable experiences, newfound perspectives, and an extended family in the form of Anne Paruti and Anu Balakrishna. For that, I am thankful.

Bankruptcy Court *Samantha Roszczenko*



Many Nelson Fellows could agree that at the start of the program we had little awareness on what jobs are attainable through a law degree. We assumed that you had to be either a defense lawyer or prosecutor. During the program, we were exposed to many lawyers, firms, and courts that opened our eyes to the possibilities available in the law field. One of these experiences was visiting the Bankruptcy Court in the financial district. Many of us were expecting just another visit, being spoken to and asking questions in return, but this time was different.

When we arrived at the Bankruptcy Court we were greeted by the generous volunteers who gave up some time to give us the bankruptcy experience. This was a big eye-opener for me because I didn't have much prior knowledge of the bankruptcy process and how these proceedings go on. We learned about the factors that contribute to a person considering the option of bankruptcy and how we as young adults can prevent ourselves from being in that situation. The entire experience consisted of a short presentation on how to be financially responsible and an opportunity to ask any questions we may have. After that, we had an opportunity to watch a mock 341 meeting and see the types of questions that are asked and discussions that are conducted while a person is filing for bankruptcy.

Following that, we watched a mock court proceeding that coincided with the mock meeting we had just watched. This was a really exciting experience because we were able to participate in the court proceeding by sitting in various spots in the courtroom. We were honored to have Judge Joan Feeney sit in and participate in our mock court proceeding. During this time we listened to how the lawyers would argue this case and what arguments were made.

After that, the Judge discussed with two of the Fellows who sat near her what the verdict should be. In the meantime, the rest of us, along with the lawyers, discussed what we thought the verdict would be. Then the Judge proceeded to announce the verdict and we had a discussion together. This experience showed me that the law is applied to many aspects of life and can potentially help an individual that is struggling financially to get placed on the right path.



Judge Young's Chambers *Manasseh Konadu*

During the course of the program every Lindsay Fellow had the great opportunity to be placed in one of the Judge's chambers. I was fortunate to be placed in the chambers of United States District Judge William Glover Young. Judge Young was appointed by President Ronald Reagan and assumed his office on April 4, 1985. Judge Young received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his law degree from Harvard Law School.

Spending time in the chambers of Judge Young was one of the best experiences in my life and only intensified my love for the law. The chance to sit in as Judge Young analyzed legal issues that came up in his cases with his staff showed me truly how much of a team effort it was.



The chance to see all the work it takes each staff member in order for the Judge to do his work was amazing. From Elizabeth – the first face you see – to the law clerks, there is a lot of buffer that goes on that I was not accustomed to, and quickly came to realize through this opportunity that a judge does not simply just get on the bench and make a decision promptly. The zealously of the entire staff showed greatly when I was given the chance to sit in Judge Young's chamber.

“Spending time in the chambers of Judge Young was one of the best experiences in my life and only intensified my love for the law.”

While in chambers I had the opportunity to sit in on a conference call to Puerto Rico with Judge Young and his staff where I learned the greatest lesson. During the course of the phone call, Judge Young told both parties that his goal was to help reach an agreement before trial. In seeing this I saw judgeship at its highest point, the ability to help people settle their disputes.

Overall my time in chambers was invaluable: the conversations and energy felt in that chamber is something I will keep with me the rest of my life and only enhanced my legal education as I start law school this fall. For that I want to thank the Lindsay Fellowship, Judge Young and his entire staff.



Legal Research & Writing with Alexis Hamdan *Sherley Muscade*

“I’m trying to fit a whole semester of law school into one month!”

I remember being skeptical when Alexis Hamdan, the Lindsay Fellowship’s Legal Research and Writing instructor, shared her objective on the first day of class. Would we *really* be learning that much? Would it *really* be like law school? Or would it be a watered-down version of a legal research and writing course made for undergraduates?

My initial expectations of the class included perusing legal texts and learning how to use fancy words in court. To my pleasant surprise, the knowledge I gained during our month with Alexis was abundant, crucial, and transcended research and writing. The class demystified the way that courts operate, informed us on what an attorney’s job entails, and prepared us to foray into hearings with a keener spatial and substantive understanding of the law and the legal concepts derived from it. My wrist would ache from all the valuable knowledge I hastily transcribed, and my head would ache from my efforts to visualize the terms and information being imparted on us, but what undergirded this intellectual bombardment was an appreciation of Alexis’ honesty.



“My wrist would ache from all the valuable knowledge I hastily transcribed, and my head would ache from my efforts to visualize the terms and information being imparted on us, but what undergirded this intellectual bombardment was an appreciation of Alexis’ honesty.”



On the first day of class, Alexis stated that there would be no secrets in our space, that we would be transparent with her and one another, and that we could say anything, as long as we were prepared to have our beliefs challenged and were willing to articulately back them up with cogent explanations of why we think the way that we do. Again, I was skeptical.

Did she *really* mean what she was saying? I was curious to see.

Later that first class, my facial expressions and body language revealed that I disagreed with something that Alexis had said, and she prompted me to express myself. Having just met her, I was unsure if she would actually allow for individual opinions that differed from hers, so I hesitated, willing to stay silent in order to prevent confrontation. Despite the fact that each minute of class was valuable, since there was so much content to get through in such a short period of time, Alexis still encouraged me to be honest, and allowed me to fully explain my point of view, launching us into an hour-long dialogue on racial identity, white privilege, and a range of other salient conversations on our experiences as people of color. This dialogue ultimately modeled what being a lawyer should encompass - the ability to: evaluate tenets of justice, critically think about not just the “what,” but the “why,” and the ability to employ relevant examples to reinforce our arguments.

Not only was Alexis generous with her time and knowledge, but she was just as eager to learn from us, as we were from her. She thanked us for sharing our perspectives and past experiences, especially in regards to being young students of color in a biased world, and returned to us with questions and comments regarding further research she had conducted, based on our conversations together. In those moments at the beginning of the summer, I felt a wall go down and an immediate comfortability permeate our class dynamic, allowing for an ease of questioning and discussion.

Alexis held us to an incredibly high standard, which pushed us Fellows to intellectually challenge ourselves in a way that we had not before. Though this was a brand new arena for us, Alexis presented information in a clear way, and indulged all our questions with helpful diagrams and directive resources. She oscillated between teaching and friendly conversation on current events, gave us helpful advice, and was sensitive to us burning out or becoming overwhelmed by giving us breaks and bringing us snacks, easing the three and a half hours we spent together. We learned loads of information that greatly benefited us during the Fellowship, especially in our Judge’s chambers and during our respective placements, and that will continue to benefit us long after we leave Moakley – through strengthening of our arguments, strengthening of our writing, and most importantly, strengthening of our confidence in ourselves and our capabilities.



U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office *Erika Cadena*

As a society, we generally assume that those incarcerated have made their bed and now they must sleep in it no matter the punishment. However, what we fail to realize is that most men and women who are or have been incarcerated might've not had anybody to lead them down the "right" path or might've not known or been presented with many options to lead a law-abiding life. At the end of the day, most incarcerated people get out and come home, and being in the U.S. Probation and Pre-trial Services Office really opens your eyes to the life story of what can make someone choose or be forced to break the law. Being able to understand the person as a whole helps to provide them with the right services so that when they are released, they can have the help and support they need to try and lead law-abiding lives.



Being a probation officer is totally different from what I expected. Everything I knew about probation officers was from TV, so I thought that all POs were out in the community checking in on their people. I've learned that field officers (the ones we're used to seeing on TV) are only one of the three "types" of officers. The other two branches would be bail and court services. Also, news flash, being a PO can involve a lot more paperwork than you think. This includes bail interview forms which are packets used to gather information about the client -- there are also pre-sentence reports that need to be written that put together the life history of a client (which vary in page length).

"At the end of the day, most incarcerated people get out and come home, and being in the U.S. Probation and Pre-trial Services Office really opens your eyes to the life story of what can make someone choose or be forced to break the law."



Many of the officers I met came from all different educational and work backgrounds. Some people went to law school, others were correctional officers beforehand, others had social work backgrounds and some even served time in the army. To have such a diverse group of people is amazing because it helped me as a Fellow learn about different career fields. It also importantly helped me to see how each experience can shape the approach of each officer and that really you can transition and become a PO from many different backgrounds.

The experience has been great because I was able to learn so much in a short time period. I was also able to really experience the type of work POs do by writing out “part Cs” which talk about the history of a client including family life, substance abuse issues, childhood, living situations now, etc. and are included in the pre-sentence report. I was able to observe many client interviews as well as make collateral calls, write out referrals, make calls to ICE in search of a client, attend court hearings and meet with judges and the officers to discuss a client before a court session and much more. I also learned about different jobs/specialties in the office like probation technicians or other individuals who are specialized in location monitoring or substance abuse treatment.

I want to thank everyone in the Probation Office and all the officers I was paired with throughout the three weeks because they were all amazing and always tried to make sure we were doing something, whether that was going to court sessions, helping them make phone calls, or taking time out of their day for us to ask questions. They were very busy with caseloads larger than I could even imagine handling, yet they still found the time to answer my questions and teach me how to do things. I can't imagine how difficult it was to have so much to do and also have someone shadowing you around for the day trying to learn, so I appreciate the time and effort they took out of their busy schedules to really make me feel included and keep me busy with learning. Through this experience I came to really love Probation and can see myself working as a PO in the future.



Jamele's Public Speaking Class *Nevaeh Howard*



First, a big thank you!

Jamele has not only helped me build my confidence but also did a great job of bringing me closer to my peers. In the beginning of the class, usually you would think a teacher would introduce themselves but not Jamele. He walked in and got straight to it. The beautiful, informative words that rolled off his tongue were shocking at first. I couldn't grasp how some guy with a shiny bald head just skipped the introductions and went straight into a powerful message. I was flabbergasted.

After transitioning into the writing segment of the public speaking class, Jamele has taught us not only to be confident in our writing but that our words alone are powerful. When reading our writing aloud, we learned to put emphasis on the words that were most important. We worked on posture, filler language and tone. We were told that our voices are crucial to society and no one should or can tell us any different.

When coming to the end of our classes with Jamele, I was forever grateful for his lessons, especially this one: "words are powerful, writing is how I exercise my freedom, and speaking delivers me."

"When coming to the end of our classes with Jamele, I was forever grateful for his lessons, especially this one: "words are powerful, writing is how I exercise my freedom, and speaking delivers me."

This particular lesson will stick with me, because being a Black African-American female, the system is made to oppress any person deemed a minority. Those shackles on my ancestors have been broken. I will not be silenced, and I will not be ignored. I have a voice. I have the vocabulary. I have knowledge. I have all my tools that I need to succeed and I embrace them all.

Lots of love,
Nevaeh



Juvenile Court Visit with Migdalia Nalls *Jailanny Pena*

“We will be visiting the juvenile court tomorrow,” Adonis had said to the group. Juvenile court: the location where young people go to battle for their freedom and rights. Walking in, I had no idea what to expect, I wasn’t exactly sure what we were going to see and I wasn’t aware of the impact that it would have on my life. We entered the courtroom and sat in the jury box where we were introduced to Migdalia Nalls, a former Nelson Fellow. Before hearing her story, a gracious courtroom officer volunteered to give us a tour of the holding facility for juveniles. She began by taking the front row of Fellows, which happened to be mine. I got up eagerly, knocking over my bag when getting up.

“Walking in, I had no idea what to expect, I wasn’t exactly sure what we were going to see and I wasn’t aware of the impact that it would have on my life.”

The courtroom officer led us down to the holding facility while making meaningful conversation with the Fellows around her. Before entering the holding facility, I was very excited to see the cells. That excitement quickly turned into a feeling of worry as I learned the conditions these young people my age were being held in. I asked the courtroom officer how many people are held in a cell at a time while they wait. To my surprise, she explained that up to twenty can be in a cell at a time for over 6 hours. That number caught me by surprise as I was looking at the cell that isn’t bigger than the average bedroom size.

Then we went back to the courtroom where Migdalia Nalls told us her inspirational story of becoming a lawyer. She spoke about her role as a defense lawyer and how she advocates for youth. She also spoke about how she had witnessed the transition of Massachusetts law regarding the age an individual can be charged change from 7 years old to 12 years old. Learning how she uses her voice to advocate for youth and represent those who are underrepresented was very motivational. The fact that we both come from similar backgrounds both being Latina was inspirational. I do not come from a background where I see many women who look like me in the legal field. Hearing her story provided me with a model of a future that is possible for me to reach and achieve. Therefore, the juvenile court had an impact that was unexpected and appreciated.



Judge Cabell's Chambers *Luis Monteiro*

No one would believe that a poor black immigrant raised by a single mother, who would presumably be failed by the system of racism and classism, would one day work alongside Judges and law clerks in federal court. As a black immigrant from the East Coast of Africa, English is not my first language but my third. The first day I met Judge Donald L. Cabell, I felt really impressed by his generosity, compassion and ability to fully comprehend my ideas and goals, especially those that apply to ending racial systematic oppression in this country. In addressing racial systemic oppression, Judge Cabell emphasized the importance of RISE, a restorative justice program, which has been fantastic and fundamentally helpful for many prisoners. Restorative justice is an approach to justice in which the response to a crime is to organize a meeting between the victim and the offender, giving them all opportunities to express their feelings and views regarding the crime. I still believe that restorative justice can be used to decrease the high incarceration rate of this country. In the United States, there are 2.3 million people imprisoned, due to a criminal justice system that criminalizes black and brown low-income people. Therefore, one of the most effective ways to slowly and fairly diminish the rate of incarceration in this country is for our government to actively apply restorative justice to our legal system.

“No one would believe that a poor black immigrant raised by a single mother, who would presumably be failed by the system of racism and classism, would one day work alongside judges and law clerks in federal court.”

Being surrounded by amazing law school students was always weighing on my mind. As a new English speaker, and a high school student, I did not think I would be able to speak with or socialize with, the mostly white law school students. I feared that due to my accent and my high school level education, I would not feel comfortable, or welcomed. Fortunately everything turned out differently, all of them were so helpful answering the questions regarding college applications, criminal case process and civil case process. Overall, I had a lot of fun with the law interns.

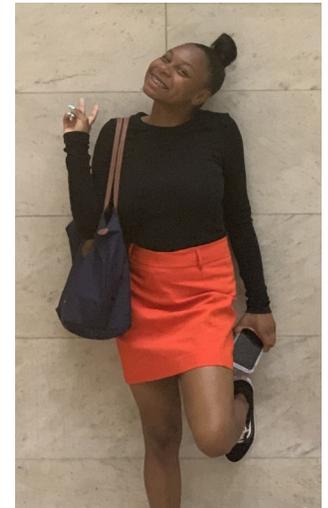
As a result, one of the great lessons that I have learned during this program is to only be scared of scare itself and strive to overcome it. In the beginning of the program, I was really afraid of asking questions and socializing with others students. Eventually, I overcame my fears and was able to be more social and friendly with others, and learn from their experiences.



Visit with Taisha Sturdivant at Klein Hornig *Kenisha Lamarre*

Being a part of the Nelson Fellowship program, you get the experience to go outside of the courthouse and see other aspects of the legal field, such as going to visit law firms. Prior to visiting Klein Hornig, I thought I'd learned everything about having a career in a private law firm. Although I had some ideal image, I was blown away by the experience I got from talking to Taisha Sturdivant.

“Prior to visiting Klein Hornig, I thought I’ve learned everything about having a career in a private law firm. Although I had some ideal image, I was blown away by the experience I got from talking to Taisha Sturdivant.”



Taisha is a lawyer who specializes in low-income housing for people who can't afford stable housing. You would imagine a speaker at a private law firm would be stern and you'd expect they had a great educational background that would intimidate you if you thought about following the same path. With Taisha, she shifted my thoughts completely. Personally, I was very comfortable with her and related to her experience. Taisha asked all of the Fellows to introduce ourselves – name, school, where in Massachusetts we were from, and the Judge we interned with. By her asking about every individual, I felt like she had an interest in everyone and didn't directly only talk about herself. Taisha and I had many similarities. We both attended the same high school, Another Course To College (ACC).

We then talked about how Jerry Howland, a teacher and mentor of the Nelson Fellows and former principal at ACC, has impacted us and everyone he has taught. Taisha was raised by a single mother and had many hardships throughout high school. I am also raised by a single mother and so when Taisha talked about her life, it was very relatable. Not only did I relate to Taisha but when a black woman speaks about any issue it goes a long way for someone who is a youth and is also a woman. Overall, having a speaker like Taisha made me realize that school is not going to be an easy path. And not having a clear mind on what you want to do is fine. After hearing that message, I now know, I don't need to know what kind of lawyer I want to be, but having a passion for whatever it is that I want to do in the future is okay. I also learned from Taisha that being a woman of color stands for something.



Dorchester District Court Visit *Amanda Brea*



Over the duration of the summer, we often talked about the distinguishable factors that exist between state and federal courts. We were able to visually contextualize these differences by visiting the Dorchester District Court.

We later compared state court structures and systems to those that exist at the John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse. We were able to speak with defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, court staff, and officers of the court at the state level about their role in the functionality of the courthouse. It was interesting to see how the judges in the Dorchester District Courthouse stayed true to their relationship with the community as a community court. It was evident in the manner in which they spoke to and about defendants that their interest was in sustaining the safety of the community but also in the success and rehabilitation of the defendant.

The judges we interacted with spoke in detail about their path towards becoming judges. We also talked about how their race and position in power are particularly symbolic in the state legal system. I found it incredibly impactful to see judges of color who were originally from Dorchester or inner city Boston presiding. Although judges are supposed to be unbiased, there is an intrinsic link between them and the community. This link is essential to the way the court operates.

The essence of “community” was visible in the way that prosecutors and defense attorneys interacted with each other. Both parties paid attention and worked to balance the needs of the victim and the accused. Their ability to work on deals that benefitted both sides and amicably presenting it to the judge was something that was astonishing to see. I always had this conception of there being tension between both sides, but to see how the prosecutors and defense attorneys respected each other and kept the spirit of “brother and sister” alive in their work was very interesting.

While taking a tour of the courthouse, we were able to watch hearings and proceedings. We sat in these proceedings in order to understand how litigation may differ in state court in comparison to federal court. Just from witnessing how these proceedings were carried out and from listening to court staff speak on the larger differences between state and federal court, I was able to notice that courts like Dorchester District Court are like emergency rooms. Fewer cases are funneled into the federal jurisdiction. A case falls under federal jurisdiction if: 1) the U.S. is a party; 2) a U.S. Constitutional or federal law has been violated; 3) the case is between citizens of different states and exceeds \$75,000 (diversity jurisdiction); or, 4) the case deals with bankruptcy, copyright, patent, or maritime law. Most of the other cases are under state court jurisdiction. As such, when new cases are brought in, it is up to courts like Dorchester District Court to triage them.



College Visit to Holy Cross *Jazmin Rodriguez*

My name is Jazmin Rodriguez. One of my favorite activities in the David S. Nelson Fellowship Program has been going on college tours. Visiting colleges helped me discover ideal aspects of my dream school. During my time in the program we visited three amazing colleges: Boston College, College of the Holy Cross and Brandeis University.

All these great schools were new to me, except for Holy Cross. I had already toured Holy Cross with my high school. My first visit to Holy Cross with my school was magical: I remember that when I went through the doors, I felt like that was the perfect school for me. After leaving, however, I started to ask myself if it was really a school I could go to. It offered great financial aid and looked like it had a diverse community. Yet, I felt like I was not good enough for the school considering the fact that it just looked way too perfect for me.

It came to be that I would once again tour Holy Cross thanks to this Fellowship this past July. Having a second visit there with my co-fellows reassured me that Holy Cross is the school that I want to attend, and that it will be my first priority now.



Public Defender Office *Yorsalem Brhane*

What do you think of when you hear the Public Defender Office or what comes to mind? The main definition of a public defender is an attorney/lawyer appointed to represent people who otherwise cannot financially and or reasonably afford to hire a lawyer. That means they only handle criminal cases.

Before visiting the Federal Public Defender Office, some of us heard the stereotype that since public defenders are up against so much and do not get paid enough, they become “public pretenders” who have already given into the system.

But after sitting and talking to the lawyers at the Federal Public Defender Office, I noticed what drove them to do the work they do today: all of those attorneys wanted greatly to make a difference in the community. They believe that just because the system says that you are guilty does not mean you are, because the system is not perfect or equal. I remember hearing about one case where the defendant was originally found guilty. However, one of the attorneys was able to get the case re-opened and through further research of the case, the public defender was able to bring the case back to court. This time, the defendant was found innocent. It took time, but all great work takes time.



At the Federal Public Defender Office, we got the chance to speak to trial attorneys, investigators, legal research attorneys, and paralegals. It was good to see the different job positions at the FDO because that would give us options if we were to go into public defense. That office has the most diverse and dedicated people I have met.

Being a public defender is not easy because they hear their client stories and need to figure out how to best help them. Sitting there and hearing all their achievements made me want to be a public defender and make a difference in the system and the community.

Visit to Brandeis University *Devon Lewis-Thompson*

My name is Devon Lewis-Thompson and I am a rising senior at Dearborn Stem Academy. I was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts and I am definitely a proud Boston sports fan. Last summer I worked at Santander Bank and got the experience of working in an office environment with a group of diverse individuals that ranged in age and ethnicity. In the past, I've volunteered at numerous summer camps. Now, I coach basketball in a self-made league called "Art of Ball." In the future, I hope to become a lawyer or go into policy in order to influence rules and regulations that create and maintain the broken system we have today.

If I am going to be honest, when the Nelson Fellows and I went on a field trip to visit Brandeis University, I was very skeptical. Everyone has their dream college, and in your mind that's the only college you ever truly want to attend. But, when I visited Brandeis my mind was opened to the fact that there are actually many other good schools that may fit my wants and needs. The college process has been difficult because I have not been able to find many colleges that I feel would be a good fit for me or meet all of my requirements. When we arrived at Brandeis my mindset almost immediately changed. The openness of the campus and amount of green space caught me by surprise: it was truly captivating. Then we entered a building, and I was caught off guard by everything within. Inside this building hung many banners posted by a variety of clubs and advocacy groups. One banner described a theatre performance by random students who would come together and perform a play with barely any rehearsal. From this, I was able to get the sense that Brandeis has a tight-knit community.

"The college process has been difficult because I have not been able to find many colleges that I feel would be a good fit for me or meet all of my requirements. When we arrived at Brandeis my mindset almost immediately changed."

This wasn't all that caught my attention. What truly caught my attention was how Brandeis sheltered their undocumented student immigrants from I.C.E. I do not know of any school, or many that protects their undocumented students in this way. To me, it is evident that Brandeis values morals and doing the right thing over rules and regulations. I loved that.

Brandeis has encouraged me to expand my college search. Now not only will I think about just one school, I will also think about and apply to many other schools. I have realized that not every school is perfect, but I should look at a school's values, morals, cultural atmosphere and how that will align with my wants and needs.

I am honestly so grateful for the Nelson Fellowship allowing me to get this opportunity. It has helped me realize that I want to experience more than just one college and broaden my horizons. I have been able to step outside of my comfort zone and experience so many other great things.



Brandeis Follow-Up *Joyce Adonteng Prempeh*

Brandeis University is one of the best colleges in the USA with a rank of 35. It is a private college in Waltham founded in 1948 as non-sectarian. Brandeis is comprised of the College of Arts and Sciences and four graduate schools. It was named after Louis Brandeis, who was the first Jewish Justice of the U.S Supreme Court. Debra Messing from Will and Grace graduated from this college in 1990 with a B.A in theatre arts. For every 100 applicants, 34 are admitted, which means the school is very selective. It has 7 different buildings on campus and no football team, but Brandeis has a strong quidditch team. (It is not a big sports school.)

From my personal experience at Brandeis University, I found it to have a welcoming environment, and they have small classes which also help students to have a very good relationship with their professors.

I am also a big fan of food and I can testify that they have good food.



United States Attorney's Office Panel *Sarah Ramirez*



The U.S. Attorney's Office panel was one of the most eye-opening experiences I have ever had when it comes to the legal field. While attending this panel, I realized how many different jobs I can be involved in, not only with a law degree, but within the U.S. Attorney's Office alone.

I had the opportunity to ask questions and listen to different U.S. Assistant Attorneys who work in different divisions of the office, which are criminal and civil divisions. I learned about what each person does within those divisions. Some worked in civil matters, trying to protect citizens' rights and prevent them from being discriminated against, or criminal matters, bringing people to justice and protecting the community through investigating and prosecuting those who commit crimes.

The attorneys who work in the criminal division prosecute federal crimes committed in the state of Massachusetts. Most of them face some of the cruelest crimes I could ever imagine. They work investigating and prosecuting child molestation cases, drug and gang cases, international relations cases, etc. They do this determined to do what is right, to protect the community and do justice.

One could really feel the passion in the voices of every one of these attorneys when speaking about their work. This shows how devoted they are to public safety and justice. I, as a young aspiring prosecutor and a Fellow, immensely appreciated the opportunity to see what it is really like to do the work that they do. They were very real and passionate, which gave me confidence in the legal system. I realize this is a rare opportunity, and for that I am very thankful.

Meet the 2019 Nelson Fellows:



Brady Marshall is a rising first-year student at Suffolk University where he will be majoring in Politics, Economics, and Philosophy. This summer, Brady had the opportunity to intern in Judge O'Toole's chambers.



Devon Lewis-Thompson is a rising senior at Dearborn Stem Academy and this summer he interned in Judge Burroughs' chambers. Devon plays on his high school's varsity football team and is a proud Boston sports fan.



Ismelle Noisette is a rising senior at Boston Day and Evening Academy. This summer, she interned in Judge Young's chambers. Ismelle loves music and dance.



Jailanny Pena is a rising senior at Boston Latin Academy (BLA). At BLA, Jailanny is the treasure of Student Council and a student ambassador. This summer, she interned in Judge Gorton's chambers.



Jazmin Rodriguez is a rising senior at Margarita Muniz Academy and this summer she interned in Judge Stearns' chambers. This past school year, Jazmin was on her high school's Spanish debate team. She hopes to pursue a career in forensic science.



Joyce Adonteng-Prempeh is a rising senior at North High School in Worcester. This summer, she interned in Judge Saylor's chambers. Joyce was originally born in Ghana, and has lived in the UK. Joyce also speaks five languages, and loves to dance.



Kenisha Lamarre is a rising senior at Another Course to College (ACC). At ACC, Kenisha is a senior representative on Student Council. This summer, she interned in Judge Zobel's chambers. Kenisha is also fluent in Haitian Creole, and hopes to attend an HBCU where she aspires to study political science.



Kerri McManus is a rising senior at South High School in Worcester. At South High School, Kerri is involved in a number of organizations. She is secretary of the National Honors Society, Vice President of the school Band, Captain of Mock Trial, Treasurer for South High's UNICEF chapter and Secretary of the Massachusetts Democratic Club. This summer, she interned in Chief Judge Saris' chambers.



Luis Alves Monteiro is a rising senior at Boston International High School. This summer, Luis interned in Judge Cabell's chambers. Luis is originally from Cape Verde and speaks four languages. Luis is also very interested in political theory and writings by John Locke.



Nevaeh Howard is a rising senior at Mary Lyon Pilot High School. This summer, she interned with Judge Casper, and hopes to one day be an attorney.



Samantha Roszczenko is a rising senior at Boston Latin Academy and interned in Judge Stearns' chambers. Sam is captain of her high school's swim team, and speaks and teaches Polish.



Sarah Ramirez is a rising senior at Fenway High School. At Fenway High School, Sarah is a student ambassador, and a member of the volleyball team. This summer, she interned in Judge Boal's chambers. Sarah knows all of the latest crime drama series on Netflix and is fluent in Spanish.



Yorsalem Brhane is a rising first-year student at the University of Massachusetts Boston. This summer, she interned in Judge Talwani's chambers. Yorsalem is originally from Sudan, and has been on the Boston Debate League Team for 4 years. She is passionate about law and coding!



This year, 3 Discovering Justice interns became "honorary Nelsons" by virtue of their time spent with the group. Discovering Justice is a civic education non-profit based from the Moakley Courthouse.

JP, Nevaeh, and Destiny: we appreciate you!

Meet the 2019 Lindsay Fellows:



Amanda Brea is a rising senior at Bates College where she majors in Politics, minors in Gender and Sexuality Studies, and has a concentration in Identity, Race, and Ethnicity. At Bates College, Amanda is a Bonner Leader in the Bonner Leadership program, which is a national civic-community engagement initiative. Amanda is also the Co-President of the Caribbean Students Association. This summer, she interned in Judge Sorokin's chambers.



Alejandra Tinoco Bonilla is a rising junior at Brandeis University where she triple majors in International Global Studies (IGS), Anthropology, and Latin American and Latino Studies, with a minor in Legal Studies. On campus, Alejandra is involved in clubs such as The Right to Immigration Institute, Brandeis Labor Coalition, Brandeis Pro-Choice and the WATCH Housing Clinic. This summer, Alejandra interned in Judge Burroughs' chambers.



Daiana Inoa is a rising senior at Brandeis University where she double majors in Political Science and Sociology. In the past, Daiana has worked at a small law firm and hopes to pursue a career in the legal field. This summer, she interned in Judge Gorton's chambers.



Dorothy Sherley Muscade (Sherley) is a rising junior at Georgetown University where she majors in English and is double minoring in African-American studies and Women and Gender Studies. On campus, Sherley is a mentor to first-generation, low-income freshman through a program called Georgetown Scholars. She is also a tutor for DC reads and served as a Transportation Co-Coordinator for Hoya Saxa weekend. This summer, Sherley interned in Judge Casper's chambers.



Erika Cadena is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth where she majors in Crime and Justice with a minor in Urban Studies. During the school year, Erika works at Boston Children's Hospital as a Patient Experience Representative. Erika hopes to pursue a career in criminal justice reform. This summer, Erika interned in Judge Stearns' chambers.



Josh Rosa is a rising senior at Centre College where he double majors in Politics and Spanish. At Centre College, Josh is the Co-President of the Diversity Student Union, and he is the Public Relations Chair for both the Latin American Student Organization and the Centre Democrats. This summer, Josh interned in Judge Boal's chambers.



Manasseh Konadu is a first-year law student at University of Massachusetts School of Law. Manasseh has interned at the Worcester District Attorney's Office and has clerked for Worcester County District Court Judge Michael Allard-Madaus. This summer, Manasseh interned in Judge Young's chambers.



2019 Coordinators Adonis Pitts, Anna Stefanov, and Carolyn Meckbach with Judge Dein.

TO DONATE:

Donations are welcome. Checks should be made out to Federal Bar Association - Massachusetts Chapter. Please include a note designating the funds for Ginny Hurley Memorial Scholarship.

Donations should be sent to FBA President Jonathan Handler at c/o Day Pitney, One International Place, Boston, MA 02110.

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.

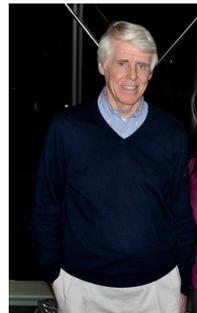
Ginny derived great satisfaction coordinating the Court's summer programs for high school and college students – the Lindsay and Nelson Fellowship programs. She helped nurture and train the next generation to appreciate and participate in the legal process.

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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

A special thank you to teachers Alexis Hamdan, Jerry Howland, Jamele Adams, and Jason Wise who have consistently worked closely with both Fellowships. We would like to thank them for their support and dedication. Also, we wish a happy retirement to Jolyne D'Ambrosio, who has provided essential support to our programs for *years*. Thank you all for a successful summer!

Thank you to Judge Dein and Judge Casper for overseeing the Fellowships, and Carolyn Meckbach for coordinating the programs year-round. We appreciate your dedication and efforts!



THANK YOU!

Hosting Judges, Chambers' Staff, Law Clerks, and Interns

Alexis Hamdan

Jamele Adams

Jason Wise

Gerald Howland

Jolyne D'Ambrosio

Cheryl Lindsay

Nancy & Joyce Hurley

Roselys Esteve & Cat Cote, Boston Private Industry Council, and team of PIC Career Specialists

Bottom Line, Boston

The Posse Foundation

Summer Search, Boston

Lisa White and Library Staff

Gail Packer and staff at Community Dispute Settlement Center

Miriam Conrad, Federal Defender, and Staff: Program Point Jessica Thrall

Christopher Maloney, Chief U.S. Probation Officer, and Staff: Program Point Allyson Lorimer Crews

Andrew E. Lelling, U.S. Attorney, and Staff: Program Points Anne Paruti Lohnes & Annapurna Balakrishna

Lissy Medvedow, Boston College Law Rappaport Center

Judge Joan Feeney, U.S. Bankruptcy Court

Hon. David Barron, U.S. Court of Appeals

Carmen Ortiz, former U.S. Attorney

William Gross, Boston Police Department Commissioner

Maria D'Addieco, U.S. Probation Office

John Gibbons, U.S. Marshal, and Staff

Robert Farrell, USDC-MA Clerk, and Staff

FBA President Jonathan Handler

Erika Reis, Esq., FBA Vice President

Staff at Day Pitney LLC

Anne Bowie, and staff at WilmerHale

Bob Ross, Governor Baker's Chief Legal Counsel, and Staff

Sherin & Lodgen LLP

Boston Bar Association

Federal Bar Association

Suffolk Law School

Northeastern University School of Law

Boston University School of Law

Shawn McShay, Boston College School of Law

Lily Devine, WCVB-TV Channel 5 Boston, and Staff

Taisha Sturdivant, and Klein Hornig LLP

Jermaine Kidd, Chumma Tum, Migdalia Nalls,

Rafael Feliciano Cumbas, James Dunn, Kevin Copson, Doris Fitzpatrick, and the numerous other Fellowship alumni who shared their knowledge, experience and support!