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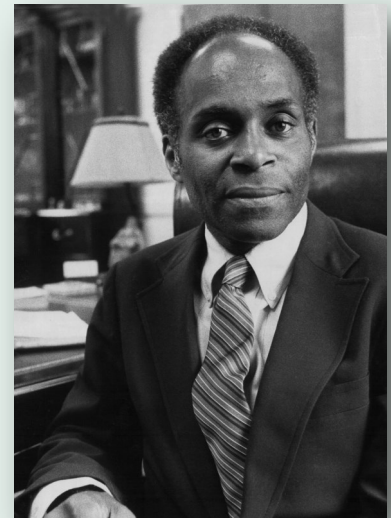
2024 Reginald C. Lindsay & David S. Nelson Fellowship



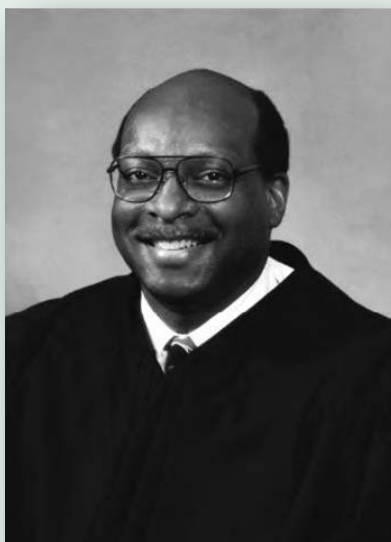
*AUGUST 2024
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"No matter what path we all decide to follow, this fellowship will have a long-lasting impact on all of us fellows"

Maryjane Bitar,
2024 Nelson Fellow



**Judge
David S. Nelson**



**Judge
Reginald C. Lindsay**

"I loved being a member of this cohort because we supported one another and challenged each other to continue learning everyday. We moved throughout the courthouse as a unit and ensured we created safe and inclusive spaces to share our thoughts and experiences."

Brian B. Leon, *2024 Lindsay Fellow*



MEET THE COORDINATORS

Jurianny Guerrero

Jurianny is the program's Lead Coordinator and was a former Nelson Fellow during the summer of 2021. In the fall of 2024, she will be studying abroad in Japan at Akita University.

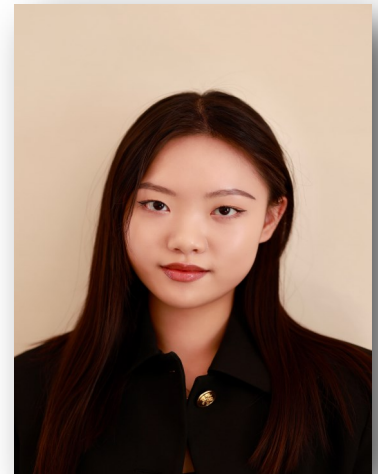
She is a rising junior at Centre College as a Posse scholar, pursuing a major in Political Science with a minor in Art Studio. Jurianny was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, and grew up in Roxbury. She aims to pursue a career as a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney, seeking insight into both sides of the legal system. Jurianny is also interested in policymaking.



Anna Zhao

Anna is the program's Deputy Coordinator and was previously a Nelson Fellow in the summer of 2020 and a Programming Intern at Discovering Justice in 2019.

She is a rising senior at Yale University majoring in Political Science and Environmental Studies with a certificate in advanced Chinese Studies. Anna was born in Guangzhou and raised in Boston, and she currently resides in Quincy. She aspires for a career in Environmental Law and Policy, bridging the gaps in climate innovations and implementation.



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.





Conversation with Mrs. Lindsay and Judge Casper *Astrid Hernandez*

Receiving my acceptance letter on a Friday afternoon was a pivotal moment, I was ecstatic to be a Judge Reginald C. Lindsay Fellow! I knew the weight of the honor that the Fellowship carried, but was unsure of what to expect and the impact it would leave on my life. As the summer concludes, I can confidently say that it has been an immense privilege to honor Judge Lindsay through this fellowship, and it is something I will not take for granted. Our conversation with Mrs. Lindsay and Judge Casper further instilled the pride that is to navigate the Moakley Courthouse as a Lindsay Fellow.

We met Mrs. Lindsay and Judge Casper when the Fellowship commenced. The love and respect they spoke of Judge Lindsay instilled the guiding principles and ideas we carried through the Fellowship and beyond. Judge Lindsay's dedication, and resilient outlook on life, even in the face of adversities, inspires me to reach for my aspirations. The insightful questions Judge Casper would ask Mrs. Lindsay allowed us to understand better the trajectory of Judge Lindsay's life from Birmingham, Alabama to the Federal Court of Massachusetts. Mrs. Lindsay discussed how Judge Lindsay, who was raised in the segregated South faced many obstacles and persevered. She discussed his journey from Morehouse College, and later at Harvard Law School, exhibiting great success in becoming an attorney. She mentioned his commitment to the community and being a support system to whoever needed help. Judge Lindsay's dedication to his community was not only heard in the conversation but was exhibited by many Lindsay Fellowship alumni who carry on his legacy. They discussed how Judge Lindsay's presence motivated them to achieve their current success.

Mrs. Lindsay further discussed Judge Lindsay's life, allowing us to reflect on how diverse backgrounds hold great significance in the legal world. Judge Lindsay demonstrated a spirit of gratefulness and commitment to overcoming challenges that might be unexpected. He was an example of the need for inclusion within a community and the importance of accessibility within the Courthouse. His role as a Judge exemplifies that anyone can achieve their aspirations with resilience and dedication. Once again, it was truly an honor to be a Lindsay Fellow this summer.



Lindsay Fellows, Judge Dein, Mrs. Lindsay, & Judge Casper



USAO & FPDO Panels

Ailin Sha

In a low-ceilinged, brightly-lit conference room on the ninth floor, we sat facing a panel of five people: three Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs), a paralegal, and the head of their unit. I was surprised and impressed by the variety of positions in the office. The panelists briefly introduced themselves and explained their roles, then shared stories of how they became involved in the legal field.

I was amazed by how diverse and non-traditional their journeys were. Jess, for example, shared that she used to be a public defender, which I found intriguing since her current position as an AUSA is in many ways the opposite of her previous job. Julia, a paralegal, shared the co-op opportunity at Northeastern University which enabled her to obtain her current position, and that she was also preparing for law school and studying for the upcoming LSAT.

Two days later, we gathered in the familiar environment of Courtroom 12, where we sat facing a panel of five people from the Federal Public Defender Office. After briefly introducing themselves, they welcomed our questions.

Caitlin, one of the panelist, explained to us her role as a Research and Writing Attorney, a job which perfectly aligns with her interests and is also rather rare in the federal court system. Jessica, a federal defender, stressed the importance of zealous advocacy on behalf of all of their clients, expressing that the current prison system is not a helpful means of correction. We could tell that they were all passionate about their jobs and dedicated to the pursuit of justice.

Both offices, the USAO and the FPDO, face many misconceptions about their jobs. People tend to think of prosecutors as harsh, unfeeling, and ruthless. Others believe that public defenders are amoral because they defend all their clients indiscriminately, regardless of the crime they are accused of. Yet both offices are indispensable to the integrity of our judicial system. It was incredibly enlightening to speak with representatives from both

offices and learn more about their responsibilities and values. Though the panelists expressed that their work cannot be 100% perfect all the time, their constant efforts in striving for justice have left strong impressions on us all. Speaking with them dispelled any previous misconceptions about their roles that we held.



Nelson Fellows & USAO Panel

FELLOWS & JUDGES



Lindsay Fellows & Taisha with Judge Dein & Judge Kelley



Judge Guzman & Judge Hennessy



Lindsay Fellows & Judge Ham



Lindsay & Nelson Fellows with Judge Saris



Time in Chambers

Brian Leon

This summer I was assigned to Judge Casper's chambers. I immediately felt welcomed and supported on the first day when I met Iris, one of Judge Casper's law clerks. Iris knew that I was soon set to start at Boston College Law School, and she provided the resources that taught me how to brief cases and accompanied me to court proceedings. Her support extended outside of the courthouse too. We shared a Dominican heritage, and she introduced me to a lawyer who was both from the DR and my hometown of Lynn, MA! For the first time in my life, I met attorneys who look like me and share similar stories, which showed me that I too can become an attorney through hard work and dedication.

There were additional staff within Judge Casper's chambers, ranging from current law students to experienced attorneys. This gave me the unique opportunity to get answers to any questions I had before beginning my 1L year. I learned about legalese, what to expect during my first year, best practices to ensure that I excel both academically and personally, and the responsibilities of law clerks. Each person reassured me that I would be able to reach my goals and aspirations through perseverance and diligence. It was especially helpful to speak to Amy and Bianca the law clerks, who are both members of the BC Law family. They informed me of the unique opportunities at BC and encouraged me to pursue the path that is best suited for me. It has been a privilege to learn from all the chambers staff and help me feel more confident about attending law school.

I also had opportunities to speak with Judge Casper about her career path and job responsibilities. Upon meeting Judge Casper, I told her my most important goals are to establish generational wealth for my family and leave behind a powerful legacy. Judge Casper's wisdom left a lasting impression on me, she reminded me that I'm already building a legacy; having graduated college and pursuing a J.D., my family will undoubtedly view me as a role model and living proof that they too can achieve their educational and career goals. I am very thankful for all the knowledge I've gained through spending time with Judge Casper and her chambers staff. This summer was truly unforgettable!



Brian & Chambers



WilmerHale
Rianny Castillo

Throughout the Nelson Fellowship, we had the opportunity to meet and learn from many people involved in different sectors of the law. Before the Nelson Fellowship, I had set opinions on the roles of lawyers and the type of law they practiced. My opinion of corporate lawyers was very nearsighted because of how they were portrayed on television. I loved watching shows like *Suits*, and thought corporate lawyers were only driven monetarily, drawing me away from wanting to work in “big law”. I always had a big interest in helping people, and before the Fellowship, I had thought that corporate lawyers would do anything else but this. When we visited WilmerHale, the guest speakers changed my mind and I was blown away. They told us about the opportunity for big firms to do Pro Bono work and help people who cannot afford adequate representation.

The first speaker, Kevin Prussia, shared his experience with racism in the justice system. He explained how his experience dealing with prejudice inspired him to switch his major and begin his path toward a legal career. This reminded me of the experiences that inspired my interest in the law. Kevin continued to share how he became a patent attorney. His story intrigued me because people who share similar experiences with prejudice in the justice system often went on to become defense attorneys or have similar roles. He told us how he uses his job to make impactful change referencing his work litigating the Moderna v. Pfizer case. Kevin’s and the other attorneys’ explanation of how Pro Bono work is done at their firm completely changed my perspective on big law. It displayed a different side of corporate law and the people who work in these offices.

As a Nelson Fellow working at the John J. Moakley Federal Courthouse, I have met many different lawyers with unique experiences that gave me a new outlook on the types of law I am interested in. I loved my time at the Fellowship because it gave me lots of exposure and a wider view of what I could do to pursue a job in the legal field.



Kevin Prussia & Nelson Fellows at WilmerHale



Meeting Rob Farrell *Bahar Abbassy*

Meeting Rob Farrell was a truly inspiring experience. As one of the pillars of judicial support, his dedication to his role as the Clerk of Court for the District of Massachusetts left a lasting impression on me and my Lindsay Fellow cohort. I deeply appreciate and am grateful for the opportunity to learn about his extraordinary work and commitment to the judicial system.

Rob's passion for his work at the courthouse is evident in everything he does. He ensures that the services provided to the judges, staff, and the public are of the highest standards. From filing cases to overseeing finance, IT functions, administrative operations, and the appeals process, he performs all his duties with dedication. He spoke passionately about supervising major cases like the Boston Marathon bombing and shared how he worked closely with the US Marshals and Boston Police to ensure the safety and security of all parties involved. His strategic planning and execution during such high-risk situations were impressive and inspiring.

Rob also talked about the importance of work-life balance and how he manages to perform such a demanding job while being there for his growing family. This aspect of his life resonated with me deeply. It highlighted the human side of someone in such a critical role. Additionally, he shared stories from his childhood and the events that inspired him to pursue a career in the judicial field. I was most inspired by his personal stories and humble beginnings from opening mail and making copies to building a distinguished career at the courthouse. Despite financial struggles during his upbringing, he demonstrated remarkable strength and willpower to overcome challenges.

Finally, I would like to add that Rob's commitment to serving the public and supporting the judicial Court is truly honorable. My encounter with him was a reminder that hard work and dedication are important in building a career. His passion, dedication, and kindness have inspired me in many ways, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to learn from his experiences.



Judge Joun, Rob, & Chief Judge Saylor

LINDSAY FELLOWS



Lindsay Fellows @ Boston University School of Law



Lindsay Fellows @ the Federal Public Defender Office



Lindsay Fellows @ the Massachusetts State House



Lindsay Fellows @ Suffolk University School of Law



Mock Trial Class with Jerry Howland

Maryjane Bitar

Mock Trial Prep with Mr. Howland was like no other. Three times a week, he and his intern from the Boston Judicial Youth Corp, Yelitza, would enter courtroom twelve to prepare us for success. Mr. Howland would begin every class by telling us about the court proceedings he saw at the Suffolk County Courthouse, which always intrigued us and stirred up many questions in our minds. I specifically recall one class where he told us about the JYC's visit to the Suffolk County Jail. He explained an incredibly hilarious encounter with an inmate. Mr. Howland described how the inmates tend to yell out at the students during their visits, more often to the female students. He heard an inmate shout, "*Beautiful,*" and assumed the inmate was referring to Yelitza, but he was referring to Mr. Howland. We all laughed plenty after that, but this was only one of the many amazing stories told by Mr. Howland. When it came to the bulk of our Mock Trial Prep class, Mr. Howland and Yelitza would find ways to work with each of us efficiently. We often split into two groups to allow for everyone to be prepared individually. I enjoyed our preparation time for the mini Mock Trial during the first week of the Fellowship for the case of the Commonwealth v. Goldilocks. Seeing as I had the part of cross-examining the defendant, Goldilocks, I had to be beyond prepared--which is why I give my sincerest gratitude to Yelitza for playing a disruptive yet compelling Goldilocks to help prepare me for the Mock Trial. Mr. Howland always made sure to assist both teams leading up to our final Mock Trial. His drive to see us succeed motivates us to keep working and pushing forward, even in those moments of doubt and confusion. Mr. Howland has always reminded us of our intelligence and ability to succeed when we persevere. It is because of Mr. Howland that we consistently continue to work together outside of class to prepare as a team for our final Mock Trial. He has pushed us to be the best we can be while learning about the legal system. On behalf of the Nelson Fellows Class of 2024, thank you, Mr. Howland.



Goldilocks Case



Legal Research and Writing with Taisha Sturdivant *Xavier Aparicio*

I have always loved school, learning is fun and interesting to me. Out of all the classes I have taken however, Taisha Sturdivant's Legal Research and Writing class was one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling classes I have ever been in. At the outset, Taisha explained two things: 1) there were no dumb questions, and 2) she was going to lay a foundation of legal knowledge for us - without assuming that anyone had any prior knowledge about the courts or the law. This set the stage not only for a healthy learning environment but also a space where all of us Lindsay Fellows could feel included, respected, and empowered to speak our minds.

Taking on the Herculean task of packing a semester's worth of material into a 4-week course, Taisha delivered. We learned about the state and federal court systems, stare decisis, how to write objective memos and persuasive briefs, how to brief cases and efficiently conduct legal research, and SO much more. Despite the accelerated nature of the class, Taisha never hesitated to take our questions and adapt the flow of the class to what we needed the most. The knowledge that we gained in this class will no doubt be very useful for us, particularly as many of us will begin our first year of law school soon.

The content of the class was not all we learned, however. We often had questions about her law school and career experiences, and natural doubts about ourselves when we were facing difficulty - particularly when we were learning organizational paradigms like IRAC and CREAC. Taisha was more than happy to oblige and share her stories and struggles throughout her legal education and career giving us invaluable insights on how to succeed and to navigate the legal industry as people of color. When we had our doubts, listening to Taisha's stories and advice gave us the confidence we needed to keep going. I include this to say that in Taisha's class, we learned substantive content about the law and legal research, while also gaining honest life advice and faith in ourselves.

I believe I can speak for the whole cohort that Taisha's class was an invaluable experience and an integral part of our developmental journey as Lindsay Fellows this summer.



Lindsay Fellows, Judges, Mrs. Lindsay, & Taisha



Behind the Robe: Building Meaningful Connections in Chambers *Jayhla Sanchez*

The Nelson Fellowship has given me the opportunity to build a relationship with Judge Sorokin and his chamber's staff. This experience has been enjoyable and enlightening. Our chats brought out the human side of legal professionals revealing they are approachable and kind despite the intimidating appearance they may give off to someone my age (17). One of the most memorable experiences this summer was seeing Judge Sorokin in action during court sessions. It was incredible to see his ability to command the court with authority. The live demonstration of the law in action is far beyond what textbooks could ever convey. What stood out the most was how Judge Sorokin balanced his professional responsibilities while mentoring everyone in his chambers.

Inside chambers, discussions were not limited to legal issues. We covered a wide range of topics, including current events and personal interests. These informal conversations made the workplace more pleasant and demonstrated that everyone has diverse interests, a sense of humor, and a story to tell. Judge Sorokin played an important role in my college application process. He provided excellent support on my Common Applications and SAT preparation, providing recommendations and insights I would not have discovered otherwise. His help went beyond professional guidance, including personalized encouragements.

The occasional praise and constructive feedback from Judge Sorokin and his chamber's staff boosted my confidence and inspired me to strive for perfection. A particularly memorable experience was meeting Judge Sorokin's wife. She shared with me words that I will cherish. She told me that I am a testament to the helpful and encouraging environment created by Judge and his staff. Chambers frequently complimented and encouraged me, making me feel respected and valued. My takeaways from chambers extend beyond legal knowledge. I learned the importance of developing relationships, the value of mentorship, and the impact of a positive work environment. These lessons will stay with me for the rest of my life. My experience as a Nelson Fellow in Judge Sorokin's chambers has contributed to my educational, professional, and personal development. It has de-mystified the legal profession and revealed the human side of people who work within it. These experiences have played an important role in laying a firm basis for my future goals.

NELSON FELLOWS



Nelson Fellows @ Suffolk University



Nelson Fellows & City Council President



Nelson Fellows & First Justice for the Boston Juvenile Court



Value of the Lindsay Fellowship for First-Generation College Students

Gabrielle Baker

Many of us come from families who immigrated here to give us the best lives possible. They've been our support systems, encouraging us to aim for the stars no matter how hard it may seem. Our parents have instilled in us the importance of education, encouraging us to attend college and learn as much as we possibly can. However, the higher we begin to aim, the harder it becomes for our parents to help us. Despite their best efforts to empower us to strive forward, entering spaces that traditionally underserve us is difficult. We find ourselves refraining from asking questions for fear of looking ill-prepared or dumb. Eventually, we back ourselves into corners by trying to be the version of ourselves that our parents are the most proud of, all while still struggling to stifle the ever-persistent feeling that we're imposters hiding in plain sight.

Being selected for the Lindsay Fellowship proves that our hard work is more impactful than any self-doubts we may have. From the beginning, we've shown up as our authentic selves and were welcomed with open arms by our coordinators, Judges, Attorneys, and of course, Caleb. The courthouse has become our haven, allowing us to dive head first into professional spaces many have dreamt of being in. Taisha and Alexis allowed us to start from the ground and work our way up, building the skills that many students rich in both generational wealth and knowledge have already learned so well.

We're encouraged to ask questions, laugh, and learn from the mistakes we might make. We've met many people who look like us and are trailblazers in their fields. They've known, first hand, what it's like to feel out of place or unwanted and have shared with us the tools they've used to counteract those feelings. The Lindsay Fellowship has not only taught us how to get a seat at the table but has made us a new table with friendly faces and welcoming smiles. I will forever be grateful to my Lindsay Fellow cohort for showing me it is not shameful or weak to ask for help, and that our versions of success are more impactful than the version society wants us to be.



Lindsay Fellows, Judge Dein, & Judge Kelley



Public Speaking & Debate with Jamele Adams

Anabelle St. Paul

I had never liked public speaking and was practically vibrating in my chair waiting for Jamele to walk into Courtroom 12. I was expecting to be forced to stand up and speak for hours. But when he walked in, he started reciting a poem. After the poem, he told us to write our reaction or a response to his poetry. We had a few minutes to think then had to share our responses. But before I could even start to worry he said, “An invitation to stand is an opportunity to reclaim all that should have been it is taking agency to share your voice.” At first, this didn’t make sense, but this class has taught and gave me the space to share my opinions on various topics building my confidence to stand up and speak. We learned how to prepare for a speech and speak on the spot without any preparation. I remember one class where we had to get up one by one and make a 20-second speech on a topic we were given seconds prior. It was encouraging watching everyone give a speech on their either funny or serious topic, but also very nerve-wracking to have to get up and speak with no preparation. However, Jamele and the Fellows created a safe space allowing me to make mistakes with no fear of laughter.

We also had many debates where we had to argue in groups against each other on topics like, “What’s stronger love or hate.” My team, “The Unicorns” argued hate is stronger than love and brought up how hate is persistent and has been the cause of many wars and genocides. These debates allowed me to have fun with articulation and word play. Through the class, we became more confident and learned to think more creatively with public speaking methods. We read poems like “Ain’t a Woman” by Sojourner Truth who was trying to bring attention to black women’s voting rights. One of my favorite things about Jamele’s class was how understanding he was. He encouraged us to respect each other’s boundaries, understanding and learning to ask if people did not want to take pictures. He taught us to respect everyone’s writing and allowed us to be vulnerable. I will make sure to not diminish my presence and acknowledge that my words matter.



Northeastern University School of Law Visit

Lesley Martinez

Throughout the Lindsay Fellowship, we visited many law schools but none of them seemed to call out to me, that was until we visited Northeastern Law. I come from a family of first-generation immigrants from Mexico, a family with no lawyers or college graduates—just like many other Fellows. We were treated to a tour of their gorgeous law building, filled with a library, study spaces, a nice cafeteria, and—my favorite—an enormous mock courtroom. Our lovely tour guide who is a current Northeastern Law student answered all of our questions and carried so much knowledge about campus life and their clinics. It was hard not to be drawn in with their co-op program and the opportunity to scope out different law firms off-season on their own time.

This visit did not disappoint with its panel of current law students of varying years, faculty, professors, and Deans! As Professor Williams spoke of her classes I was fully entranced by her passion for human rights and advocacy. Paired with Professor Ramirez's work in their Center for Law, Equity, and Race, I realized that these people have so much care for those outside the school. They did not shy away from sharing their newspaper-worthy work or educating us about the Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline. This work makes an impact in the world we live in—and I loved the idea that I could be a part of that change. All the students who spoke to us not only took time out of their days to share their experience at Northeastern Law, but also of their journey to law school (whether a straight line or a zig-zag), their struggles, and their triumphs. They also shared valuable advice for young scholars wishing to enter the profession. It was inspiring to see people I've never met show this support. I'm sure I speak for all fellows when I say our time at Northeastern Law was eye-opening.

The Fellowship guided me in realizing my passion for advocacy and helping those who don't have a voice similar to my family. Though I do not see myself applying to law school, the visit left a lasting impression on me to stay in the legal field. Whether lobbying or going into nonprofit work, Northeastern Law has shown me that the possibilities are endless.



Lindsay Fellows @ NUSL



Improv Session *Elias Mejia*

When the Improv session was brought up in our schedule, I honestly thought it was another activity to fill up time. However, going into the session, it felt really comforting seeing all the Fellows in one space. We were mixed in one group with the Lindsay's and Coordinators. In the groups we would do activities that were very fun but helped to bring the team together.

There was an activity where we had to name five things of a certain subject, if the subject was colors you would say "Red, Blue, Yellow, etc." This activity helped me think quickly on my feet and I also got to hear how knowledgeable my peers are. In another activity we were asked to name body parts with three letters. My group got five and another group got twelve, which the instructor used to prove that we have certain limits in our minds that hold us back from "expanding our knowledge." I really agreed with her statement that we can underestimate our own potential and limit our abilities.

For another activity we would pretend to pass around a red ball, red bull, dead bolt and a bread bowl. We were all scrambling trying to remember what we were holding while trying to enunciate our words correctly. I think this activity was my favorite because it helped me engage my memorization skill.

Lastly, we got into groups of five or six to create a project which could help tackle an issue of a made-up town. The issue my group took on was people who chewed loudly. We collaborated and discussed how to implement each part of the project. For our presentation, we created a little song that went with our topic, which received a huge applause from everyone.

I believe that the Improv session was beneficial to our experience because it allowed us to improve our abilities to think quickly and effectively. Additionally, the improv session broke the ice and brought our groups together.



Lindsay & Nelson Fellows @ IMPROV



Law Firms & Networking *Chris Wong*

One important piece of advice stressed throughout our time in the Lindsay Fellowship was to network and form meaningful connections. I can speak for all of us: initially, it was incredibly intimidating to introduce ourselves to well-accomplished professionals. I can remember six months ago at my school's career fairs wanting nothing else but to leave. My time as a Lindsay Fellow has completely shifted my attitude towards networking.

We have had the opportunity to visit four law firms: WilmerHale, Holland & Knight LLP, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and Goodwin Procter. We were blown away by the high-rise views, professional settings, and the exceptional people who worked at each firm. At each visit a panel of speakers, including paralegals, summer associates, management, and lawyers, took the time to answer our questions.

I was amazed at how approachable and kind everyone I interacted with was. No question was off limits. Our speakers were patient and encouraging and always emphasized that they would be willing to speak more in the future. We also appreciated the variety of people we met beyond lawyers. Paralegals and summer associates also gave us insight into finding these positions and how to stand out in applications.

It is rewarding to reflect on how much better I have become at speaking with new people. Being extroverted is an acquired skill and not something I am always comfortable with. I noticed that we were all getting better at asking questions and getting to know people in a way that felt genuine. Throughout the summer, I became less nervous and more excited to reach out to people we have met. Boston has a small legal community, and I already recognize and say hello to new connections on my commute.



Most importantly, we have built our network while working as a team. If there were lawyers who came from specific schools or worked in a certain field, a Fellow would connect with another who might be interested in hearing more. This extended beyond our law firm visits, whether it was our annual alumni potluck or our office placements. As Lindsay Fellows, it is amazing to see how we always have each others' backs.

Goodwin Procter



Trip to Worcester

Euniss Yoyo

This year our group of Nelson Fellows took a field trip to Worcester, in central Massachusetts. Our trip centered on how the criminal justice and legal systems contribute to public service. Seeing so many people committed to improving our communities by providing legal services was inspiring. Our day consisted of visiting the Central West Justice Center and the Community Justice Support Center at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

After hopping off the commuter rail at Union Station, we took a short walk to the Central West Justice Center, where we met Nancy Ramirez a Lindsay Fellowship Alumna. We had a Question and Answer session with the staff at the center and were able to learn more about their work with the community and their mission. We also learned about their legal journeys, and why they continue to work for and contribute to the work of the Justice Center. They are dedicated to providing equal access to justice for everyone, regardless of their immigration status, financial position, or background. Their work in housing, probate/family, immigration litigation, and more makes a positive impact on their community. While they try their best to help everyone, for those that they can't help, they make sure to give that person referrals or access to other sources to seek justice.

Across the street, we stopped into the Community Justice Support Center at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office to learn how they bring equal opportunity to provide justice in their community. They do more work on the criminal side by creating diversion, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs for people who have had run-ins with the law. Their goal is to minimize the number of people returning to prison, especially amongst those who, rather than being detained, would benefit more from some form of education, therapy, or rehab. These programs help to give people deemed "criminals" a chance at reintegrating back into society, equipped with the tools they need for a successful fresh start.

Visiting these public service centers helped open our eyes and contextualized that the justice system is changing for the better by ensuring that everyone is given equity, justice, and a chance to make it in our great country.



Nelson Fellows @ CWJC



Suffolk University
Joshua Mejia

The David S. Nelson Fellowship has given me great opportunities and has shown me many different perspectives on people who work in the Law. Participating in this program has introduced me to many members of the U.S District Court of Massachusetts including Judges, Attorneys, Nelson Fellowship Alumni, Probation Officers and U.S. Marshals. In addition to meeting all these amazing people inside the courthouse we also had the opportunity to visit many colleges in Boston. One of the schools we visited was Suffolk University in Downtown Boston. The student tour guides answered all the questions that me and my cohort had about Suffolk University. One of the first stops that the students took us to was the Suffolk University Law School building. The tour guides explained that the Law School can help students answer any questions they have about Law and the Justice System. Suffolk University has a big campus with buildings that hold many different classes and even a big dining hall for students to get lunch breakfast and dinner.

We then went to another stop at the freshman dorms. The dorms are perfect for incoming students with bathrooms nearby and a 24/7 phone line where students can reach campus authorities if needed. Another stop on our tour was the library, there are many spaces for students to go and work in. You had the option of working at a table or in a study room. Students are allowed to do what was most comfortable for them, and there was always a space for that. Our visit to Suffolk University was amazing and I thank the Nelson Fellowship for giving me the opportunity to visit the school and get more information and insight on what it is like to attend Suffolk University. This is a college I see myself attending. At Suffolk, I will be able to learn more about the Criminal Justice major that I want to pursue.

MOCK TRIAL



Jayhla—Opening Argument



Josh—Cross Examination



Ailin—Witness



Euniss—Direct Examination



Mazie—Witness



Rianny—Closing Argument



Meeting Stacey Borden *Mazie Loayza*

Going into the Nelson fellowship, we were all prepared to meet inspiring people from all backgrounds who worked in the court system. We met with many intelligent guest speakers who have overcome barriers to get where they are today. One of the most memorable speakers we met was Stacey Borden. With my limited knowledge of the law, I wasn't aware that someone without their bar certification could be so active in court proceedings helping with cases. Stacey showed us a different side to those who work in the courts, someone who is able to sit past the bar advocating on behalf of the supporters in the gallery. She showed us that with determination and an unwillingness to back down, you can make change anywhere. One of the inspiring stories Stacey told us was about her time with a friend that she met during her incarceration. Stacey informed us how the judge failed to regard her friend's circumstances before sentencing her to life in prison. The extreme abuse from her husband and daughter were not taken into consideration before an extremely harsh sentence was imposed on her. Stacey informed us about how after working through her trauma, she was able to get her sentence reduced because of the factors that weren't considered at the time of her trial.

Stacey also created an organization, New Beginnings, to help women convicted of felonies re-enter society. She also informed us of the work she did with someone who was wrongly convicted of murder solely based on circumstantial evidence. She talked about how she spent countless hours investigating their case to figure out who had committed the crime. She brought all this forward and ended up helping the individual get out of jail. Stacey also helped them readjust to society through her organization. Stacey was a great inspiration to all of us fellows. She helped me see that no barriers can stop you from doing the right thing. It also sparked an interest in me to help those who have received unfair sentences and have been wrongfully convicted. Stacey was a highlight of the wonderful array of guest speakers we had throughout the Nelson Fellowship.



Fellows & Stacey Borden



Thanking Our Presiding Judges

Ayan Mohamed

Some of my favorite memories from the Nelson Fellowship were our interactions with the Judges, particularly with Judge Kelley and Judge Dein. Coming into the Nelson Fellowship I was nervous that I would not be able to keep up with the legal language and methods. In my first week of the Fellowship, I sat in on one of Judge Kelley's court proceedings. It was fast-paced filled with terminology I didn't understand, and a moment of self-consciousness hit me. I was scared of not being as capable as my peers. Typically I would shy away from asking questions out of fear of being judged, but luckily Judge Kelley took the time to talk to me after the proceeding asking if I had any questions. I had initially said no and Judge started asking questions and what had stood out to me. In the moment she comforted me and reassured that it was fine that I could not understand everything because it was only the beginning of my first week. This gave me confidence and I began asking her questions like "what is a deposition" to "what goes into sentencing after trial." The conversation lasted more than 20 minutes and she never dismissed or acted disinterested in my questions, she was honest and encouraging. This moment was deeply impactful because it encouraged me to speak up during our civics, and speech and debate classes.

Our conversation taught me that asking questions and participating would not only teach me more knowledge but also make me more confident and less conscious of what others thought. Another impactful moment during my time as a Nelson Fellow was at the potluck where I had the opportunity to talk with Judge Dein. It was one of the first conversations aside from introductions, she was kind, welcoming, and generous. She is one of the first Judges I had talked to in addition to Judge Kelley and Judge Sterns, and I felt nervous. She asked me about how the fellowship was going, and what I had brought to the potluck, talking to me as an adult rather than a high school student. This was impactful because it taught me to reach out and socialize with people that I may not know or be intimidated by, and to not shy away.



Judge Dein & Ayan & Judge Kelley

LINDSAY GRADUATION



Lindsay Fellows, Judge Dein & Judge Kelley



Lesley & Judge Levenson & Chambers



Enely & Judge Boal



Bahar & Judge Stearns



Gabi & Chambers

NELSON GRADUATION



Josh & Judge Talwani



Euniss & Chambers



Elias & Judge Levenson & Chambers



MJ & Judge Gorton



Nelson Fellows, Judge Dein & Judge Kelley



MEET THE 2024 LINDSAY FELLOWS



Astrid C. Hernandez

is a rising senior at Bridgewater State University, where she majors in Political Science. Astrid was assigned to the Honorable Leo T. Sorokin and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.



Bahar Abbassy

is a rising senior at Tufts University where she majors in International Relations with a focus on International Security. Bahar was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns and was placed in the Federal Probation Office.



Brian B. Leon

is a rising 1L at Boston College School of Law, and a recent graduate of Centre College. Brian was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper and was placed in the Federal Defender's Office.



Christopher C. Wong

Is a rising senior at University of Massachusetts—Amherst. Where he double majors in Political Science and Economics. Chris was assigned to the Honorable Myong J. Juon and the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.



MEET THE 2024 LINDSAY FELLOWS



Enely M. Turbi Alvarez

is a recent graduate from Amherst College, where she studied Political Science & Religion. Enely was assigned to the Honorable Jennifer C. Boal and was placed in the Federal Probation Office.



Gabrielle Baker

is a rising senior at Union College, where she majors in Political Science and minors in Psychology and Sociology. Gabi was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris and was placed in the Federal Public Defender's Office.



Lesley Gomez

is a recent graduate from Simmons University where she studied Political Science and Economics with a minor in International Relations. Lesley was assigned to the Honorable Paul G. Levenson and was placed in the Federal Defender's Office.



Xavier Aparicio

is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, where he majors in Legal Studies and Political Science with a specialization in Law and Social Justice. Xavier was assigned to the Honorable William J. Young and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.



MEET THE 2024 NELSON FELLOWS



Ailin Sha

is a rising senior at Boston Latin School. Ailin was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris



Anabelle St. Paul

is a rising senior at Boston Latin Academy. Anabelle was assigned to the Honorable Allison D. Burroughs.



Ayan Mohamed

is a rising senior at John. D. O'Bryant. Ayan was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns



Elias Mejia

is a rising junior at John. D. O'Bryant. Elias was assigned to the Honorable Paul G. Levenson



MEET THE 2024 NELSON FELLOWS



Euniss Yoyo

is a rising junior at Canton High School. Euniss was assigned to the Honorable Julia E. Kobick.



Jayhla Sanchez

is a rising senior at University Park Campus School. Jayhla was assigned to the Honorable Leo T. Sorokin.



Joshua Mejia

is a rising senior at the Margarita Muniz Academy. Josh was assigned to the Honorable Indira Talwani.



Maryjane Bitar

is a rising senior at Worcester Technical High School. MJ was assigned to the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton.



MEET THE 2024 NELSON FELLOWS



Mazie Loayza

is a recent graduate from Newton North High School and a rising first-year at Spelman College. Mazie was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper.



Rianny Castillo

is a rising senior at Boston Latin Academy. Rianny was assigned to the Honorable William G. Young.



Sulfide Pean

is a recent graduate from Another Course to College and a rising first-year at Brigham Young University. Sulfide was assigned to the Honorable Donald L. Cabell.