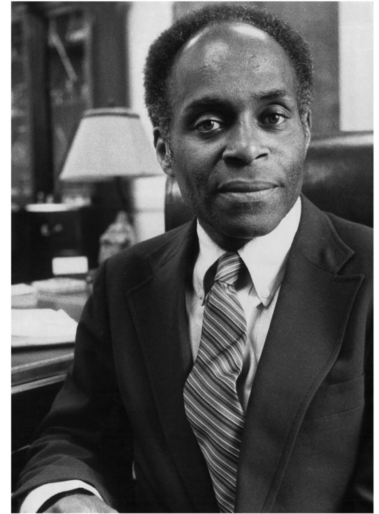




**Judge
Reginald C. Lindsay**



**30th Issue
Summer 2026**



**Judge
David S. Nelson**

2026 Reginald C. Lindsay & David S. Nelson Fellowship Programs

**Celebrating 30 years of the Nelson Fellowship
and 16 years of the Lindsay Fellowship**



2026 Lindsay and Nelson Fellows



MEET THE COORDINATORS

Daisy Ogbesoyen

Daisy is the program's Lead Coordinator, after being the Deputy Coordinator in 2025, and was a Nelson Fellow in 2021.

Daisy is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Arabic. Born and raised in Boston, she is passionate about the intersections of law, policy, and community empowerment. On campus, Daisy works as an Office Assistant in the International Students & Scholars Office. She also serves as an editor for the school newspaper and supports faculty-led research projects in the political science department.

Nicholas Davis

Nick is the program's Deputy Coordinator and was a Nelson Fellow in the summer of 2023.

Nick is a rising Junior at the University of Notre Dame, majoring in Political Science, with minors in the Hesburgh Program in Public Service and Business Economics. He is also a member of the Glynn Family Honors Program. Nick was born in Chicago, IL, but has resided in Leominster, MA for most of his life. On campus, Nick is involved with student government, as his dorm's Vice President, and conducts policy research for the Notre Dame Student Policy Network.



Daisy (left), Caleb (center), Nick (right)

Caleb Houston

Caleb Houston is our 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 in Boston for four 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.

2026 Diversity Award

The Federal Magistrate Judges Association recognized the Fellowships with the Diversity Award at their annual conference in Milwaukee, WI. On its website, the FMJA recognizes that “[a] diverse federal bench promotes public confidence in the courts, ensures the judiciary reaps the benefits of judges with wide experience and perspective, and demonstrate the judiciary’s commitment to equal access and justice for all.”

2026 Fellowship Celebration

The Nelson and Lindsay Fellowships were fortunate to celebrate the 30 year Anniversary of the Nelson Fellowship and 16 year anniversary of the Lindsay Fellowship with a ceremony on July 23. At the event, former U.S. Attorney Wayne Budd, former Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Roderick Ireland, and former Governor Deval Patrick gave remarks. We thank all those who were in attendance and celebrated with us on this special day.



2026 Diversity Award presented to Magistrate Judge Dein



2026 Fellows with Wayne Budd



Fellowship Alumni with Jerry Howland

The Value of Judge David S. Nelson Fellowship—*Reva Upadhayay*

This fellowship bridges the gap between high achieving high school students and their respective career path. It has provided a space to learn, collaborate, and meet with people from many different fields, and provides resources you can't find elsewhere. As a first-generation student, you are tasked with having to figure things out on your own and navigate education with a lack of professional support. This is the greatest struggle anyone can face in their path. Throughout the fellowship, I was able to connect with eleven other fierce students around the state who face these similar challenges and grow alongside them.

Listening to impactful stories from guest speakers, spending time with our judges in chambers, shadowing their work in the court, learning about the court systems, visiting law firms, attending curated classes, colleges, different courts, and more, this experience was more than any ordinary summer, this fellowship has shifted the way I think analytically. The Judge David S. Nelson Fellowship has opened the doors of the courthouse to individuals and provided a steppingstone for a future in the legal field. Judge Nelson's impact has reached many generations, with more to come. The most important thing we did this summer was honor the legacy of Judge Nelson.

Meeting and connecting with people who insist on helping you, guiding you, and mentoring you is an opportunity I wouldn't have had if not for the fellowship. As I wrap up my summer, I'm leaving with valuable knowledge that will serve me well in my future endeavors in the legal world. I'm truly grateful to have spent six weeks in the Moakley Courthouse.



2026 Nelson Fellows

RISE Session—*Joshua Rodriguez Ortiz*

The RISE (Repair, Invest, Succeed, Emerge) Program is a voluntary specialty court program through the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. It is designed for defendants who have plead guilty and are under pretrial supervision before their sentencing. Individuals who are accepted into the program have a history of substance abuse or a history of significant deficiencies in full-time productive activity, decision-making, or prosocial peer networks, which would prove full participation in RISE to be extremely beneficial. Goals of the program include promoting rehabilitation and productive behavior, participants' accepting responsibility for offense(s) of conviction and their consequences, reducing recidivism, and managing taxpayer funds/resources wisely. Participants who make significant strides toward becoming sober, law-abiding, and employed citizens who can contribute to their communities will have their participation in the Program taken into consideration at sentencing by a judge.

The Lindsay Fellows had the privilege of viewing a RISE session. We witnessed Magistrate Judge Hedges preside over a session that included 5 individuals. Each one was asked to share updates about their lives and the progress they had made since the last time they met. Many spoke about learning to gain professional licenses, experience with cognitive behavioral therapy, participation in the Fatherhood program, and more. As someone who had an incarcerated father, it moved me to tears. What was particularly striking was the care Magistrate Judge Hedges showed to the defendants. It highlighted the humanity that the District Court of Massachusetts has for its constituents, and the importance and value of a restorative approach to justice. The session demonstrated the importance of empathy and care and left me inspired to make an impact on the lives of others, ones like my father's.



2026 Lindsay Fellows

Mrs. Lindsay and Chief Judge Casper—*Brianna Codio*

We had the honor of meeting Mrs. Lindsay and Chief Judge Casper during the first week of our fellowship. Mrs. Lindsay is a trailblazer and a role model, and the way she spoke about Judge Lindsay resonated with all the Fellows. She and Judge Casper spoke of him with so much love and respect that it felt like he was in the room with us.

We learned how much Judge Lindsay looked up to the Honorable Thurgood Marshall. Learning that Justice Marshall had attended a HBCU inspired Judge Lindsay to do the same, and he went on to attend Morehouse College and later Harvard Law School. He was an amazing attorney, and Mrs. Lindsay spoke about how she was by his side through it all. She helped complete the extensive paperwork when he applied to be a judge, and she joined him at events. She spoke with so much love about how she enjoyed watching everyone come to greet him.

Judge Casper and Mrs. Lindsay shared how Judge Lindsay, who was raised in the segregated South, faced many obstacles but persevered, all the way from Birmingham, AL to the bench in the Federal Court of Massachusetts. That is why the Lindsay Fellowship is what it is, created in his honor to support and educate students from traditionally disadvantaged groups in the law so that they can do what Judge Lindsay did and give back.



Mrs. Lindsay, Chief Judge Casper, Judge Dein, and Lindsay Fellows

Time with District Judge Nathaniel Gorton—*Shaya Birnkrant*

A highlight of the Nelson Fellowship was meeting with judges, as well as spending time inside our own assigned chambers. My time with Judge Gorton consisted of real-world exposure, intellectual growth, and personal connection; all of which were fostered not only by Judge Gorton, but by his law clerks Sam and Natasha, judicial assistant Rachel, and interns Rosie and Ben. Each time I interacted with Judge Gorton, he smiled while firmly shaking my hand, making me feel more important than a nosey high school intern. Whenever the Judge had a break in his schedule, he would take valuable time to speak to me and answer any questions that I had. I tend to possess an abundance of questions when introduced to new material. Judge Gorton did not shy away from thoroughly answering each one. I am truly grateful for his willingness to help me grow as a student. Judge Gorton granted me the opportunity to gain the very thing that drew me into this program: observational experience. He gave me special approval to sit past the bar with the other



Judge Gorton with the Nelson Fellows

chamber's staff during hearings and trials. Witnessing legal disputes up close and personal made me feel more comfortable inside the courtroom. I realized that I would very much enjoy spending my future career in court, as an attorney. This epiphany would not have been brought forth without Judge Gorton's guidance.

Overall, my time with Judge Gorton exceeded my expectations in every way. I possess more knowledge, experience, and insight into the legal field than I originally thought was possible when first applying to the program. I owe the Honorable Judge Gorton, as well as his chamber's staff, a warm and sincere thank you for their constant mentorship and kindness they expressed toward me.

Law Firm Visits— *Katie McNair*

One of my favorite parts of the Lindsay Fellowship was the opportunity to visit four Boston law firms: Goodwin Proctor, WilmerHale, Cetrulo, and Holland & Knight. Before these visits, I had heard many assumptions about what working in Big Law was like. Spending time in each office and hearing directly from attorneys challenged those assumptions and showed me that every firm has its own unique culture and approach to practicing law.

At WilmerHale, I was especially impressed by the firm's investment in its summer associate program. Seeing how much value the firm places on providing law students with meaningful opportunities gave me confidence that there are spaces to gain hands-on experience while in law school and explore different practice areas. Our visit to Cetrulo offered a different perspective. The attorneys demonstrated a close-knit, collaborative environment where everyone genuinely enjoyed working together. It showed me that a supportive workplace culture can be just as important as the work itself. Our visits to Holland & Knight and Goodwin also left a lasting impression. At Holland & Knight, hearing from the Boston office recruiter about what makes an application stand out provided practical advice that I will carry with me as I prepare for future internships and, eventually, law firm recruiting. At Goodwin, one attorney shared how he chose to build a career in Big Law while remaining committed to serving the community through pro bono work and other outreach efforts. As someone who was raised in Roxbury and hopes to use my legal career to give back to my community, his story reinforced that I do not have to choose between private practice and public service. These visits expanded my perspective on the legal profession and gave me a better understanding of the many ways attorneys can build meaningful and impactful careers.



Lindsay Fellows at Goodwin Proctor



Nelson Fellows at the Fellowship Celebration

Suffolk County Juvenile Court Visit— *Fathia Shodeyi*

Throughout our summer as Nelson Fellows, we had the opportunity to visit a variety of legal workplaces and learn about the various environments in which lawyers practice, from our very own federal courthouse to the private sector. A trip that particularly stuck out to me; however, was when we went to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and learned about the Office's juvenile unit.

When we visited the Boston Juvenile Courthouse, we met a Juvenile Correction Officer (JCO), and he took us to a cell that would usually hold kids in custody. Our discussion with the JCO was truly eye-opening. He explained that some kids who are in and out of jail get either numb to it or attached to it. Teens in custody may feel a sense of relief because it guarantees them a warm meal, shelter, and even friends they've developed during their time there. Through this conversation, I was enlightened on a specific area of our juvenile justice system that still needs improvement.

To end our visit, we had a conversation with a Juvenile Judge. This experience was especially meaningful to me because she was a black woman. She highlighted that one of her favorite parts of her job is the graduation ceremonies from the Court's rehabilitation programs. She told us that kids often invite the judges who managed their cases to celebrate their achievement with them. Overall, each person's dedication to their job gave me hope and further inspired me to try to heal my part of the world the best way I can.

FELLOWS & JUDGES



Judge White, MA Superior Court & Lindsay Fellows



Judge Grant, Roxbury Municipal Court & Lindsay Fellows



Judge Ham, Suffolk County Superior Court & Nelson Fellows

Getting to Know Kiara Batista—*Brooke Blackwood*

Throughout the Nelson Fellowship, we have had many wonderful guest speakers, all of whom told us their unique life stories and presented us with wonderful advice. However, I found myself most touched and inspired by a particular guest speaker, Kiara Batista. Her life story, meaningful advice, and the bright promise of her future, kept me intrigued throughout the entire conversation. From a young age, she was the designated translator for her family, following their move from Cape Verde to the United States of America. Although Kiara shared her love for speaking up for others, especially those she cares about, she did express the frustration of being so heavily relied on at such a young age. Nonetheless, something positive came out of this experience. This sparked something in her—the need to translate and advocate for the public, especially for people who looked, and spoke the same, or similar languages as her. Kiara pursued her undergrad degree at UMass Amherst. She received a Fulbright scholarship, and went to study abroad in Brazil, post-graduation. Getting the opportunity to go to Brazil, for free, was a lifelong dream. It was there she was able to fully be immersed in the Brazilian culture and language. The way Kiara described her time there, it was obvious that to her, Brazil was a home away from home.



Nelson Fellows and Kiara Batista

Talking to Kiara opened my eyes to the possibility of combining my personal love and interest in language learning and traveling and applying it to my passion of law and advocating for others. Her conversation with us increased my confidence in pursuing the field of law and let me know that I too am capable of such amazing, fulfilling work.

Legal Research & Writing Course—*Will Tutwiler*

Stephen Piotrkowski's legal research and writing course was the most intellectually engaging part of the fellowship. Meeting three times a week for a month sounded daunting, but looking back, I wish we had even more time. The lessons we learned and the skills we developed reinforced my motivation to one day pursue a career in law.



Will with Prof. Stephen

We began the course by taking an in-depth look at the American legal system, looking specifically at how cases move through the federal courts and how precedent shapes the way judges rule in cases. We then transitioned to the legal writing portion of the course. We consistently practiced making sharp, concise, but also well-defined arguments, a challenge that I believe made me a much stronger writer. The final portion was dedicated to preparing for the moot court. We read and briefed 17 federal cases and then relied on many of them to support our arguments around a very convoluted and complex fact pattern.

I would be remiss not to mention our amazing instructor, Stephen Piotrkowski. Stephen brought a combination of kindness, care, humor, and intelligence to every class, every question asked, and every discussion we had. He also made every effort to make the course as engaging as possible, constantly promoting discussion and debate around the subject matter we were learning. Stephen currently works as a public defender at the Federal Defenders Office but will also be teaching at Suffolk Law School in the fall. I'm more than confident that he will have just as strong an impact on his students there as he did on all of us this summer. Thank you, Stephen!



Nelson Fellows at U.S. Attorney's Office Panel

Federal Defender's and United States Attorney's Office Panels—*Reychelle Wright*

I only had a vague idea of what the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Federal Public Defender Office did prior to this program, since I only heard of them occasionally through the news or big publicized cases. I did not know exactly what their jobs were so when I learned we were going to not only meet one of each but have a panel of them I was intrigued. We met the USAO in their press room, the U.S. attorneys were all sitting at the front and we sat where the press usually would. I remember walking in feeling like I was a part of a news broadcast, like we would be live any second, but I was supposed to be the one asking questions now. The panel was led by Lindsay Fellows who asked questions that guided the conversation. We learned a lot about their roles, how they became U.S. attorneys, and how they serve their communities and fight for justice.

The Nelsons then met the FPDO in a courtroom, we were in the jury box while the panelists sat in front of us. There were eight panelists, and each person had a unique perspective and experience that set them apart. I remember listening to their stories and being in awe. They humanize their clients and fight for them in any way they can. It was truly inspiring to hear how they try again and again until finally something gave way. After meeting members of both the USAO and the FPDO I have come to learn the differences and similarities between the two and their importance. They both serve justice in their own way, one defends the accused and one represents the victim, both vital parts of the judicial system.



Nelson Fellows at the Federal Public Defender Panel

LINDSAY FELLOWS



Stephanie Marzouk, Magistrate Judge Kelley & the Lindsay Fellows



SJC Clerk Cartwright & the Lindsay Fellows



USAO Supervisors & Lindsay Fellows



Federal Defender Tara Allen & the Lindsay Fellows



Judge Joun, chambers staff & Lindsay Fellows

Time in Judge Sorokin's Chambers —*Jakayla Leary*

One of the most meaningful parts of my Lindsay Fellowship experience was the time I spent in Judge Leo Sorokin's chambers. From my first day, everyone made me feel like I belonged. Judge Sorokin, his two law clerks, Sunah and Kristin, and his two law school interns welcomed me and quickly became mentors for me throughout the summer. I learned just as much from talking with them as I did from observing the work happening in court.

They always made an effort to include me. Whether it was inviting me to lunch, Tuesday trivia, grabbing coffee, or texting me whenever an interesting criminal case was coming up on the court calendar, they made sure I got the most out of my experience. They knew how interested I was in criminal law, so they always encouraged me to sit in on hearings they thought I would enjoy. After almost every court proceeding, Judge Sorokin would ask what I thought about the hearing. He genuinely valued my opinion and always explained legal terms and courtroom procedures I did not understand. Judge Sorokin also made sure my experience was meaningful. When I told him I was unsure whether to go straight to law school or take a gap year, he asked me to speak with everyone in chambers about the path they took. Hearing all the different experiences helped me realize there is not one right answer.

Chambers became my favorite part of the fellowship. Whenever I had free time during my placements, I found myself back in chambers or sitting in Judge Sorokin's courtroom. It became a place where I felt welcomed, supported, and excited to learn every day without any hesitation.

Time in Judge Joun's Chambers —*Chanel Jimenez*

My time in chambers has been transformative. Since day one, everyone has welcomed me with open arms. Judge Joun, along with his clerks and interns, encouraged me to ask questions and I believe that made all the difference. Not only did I learn a lot from speaking to everyone in Chambers, but I also learned a great deal from observing court proceedings. Watching everyone's work ethic was really inspiring. Their dedication and drive to make the legal system fair for everyone is what cemented my passion for law.

One of my favorite parts of Chambers was talking to Judge Joun. Being able to sit down in front of a Federal District Judge and have a conversation was definitely not what I expected coming into this program. The many conversations I had in Chambers were fruitful and have been pivotal in ensuring my overall success in this program.

Being able to hear arguments in court helped me become better at thinking through and creating my own arguments, especially for the Mock Trial at the end of the program. Watching trials also taught me the pace and pressure of a courtroom, which is hard to describe on paper. Overall, my time in Chambers has been meaningful and I believe I can walk away from this experience having had each and every person in my Chamber teach me something valuable that will help me achieve long term success. Thank you to Judge Myong J. Joun and his Chambers for making this summer an unforgettable experience!

Civil Rights Course—*Hanniah Zangar*

Engaging, eye-opening, and motivating; all adjectives that encompass the civil rights class taught by Jason Wise during the Nelson Fellowship. We were taught the importance of our values and how they inform our thoughts and decisions. This class simplified the complexity of race in America, entailed how previous generations fought to end race-based discrimination, and how it affects us all.

The knowledge we obtained in this class culminated in our learning about the experiences of the Little Rock Nine. These were African American students who integrated into an all White high school after the ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ended race-based segregation in schools. The students and their families were subject to fierce Southern resistance. However, those students braved their high school and neighborhoods with their heads held high. As a Nelson Fellow, learning how these children sacrificed themselves for a better America reminded me of the importance of speaking out against discrimination.

Jason Wise as a teacher was amazing. He posed thought-provoking questions and led us to not only reflect on ourselves, but the people and world around us. Moreover, he gave us space to express ourselves, emphasizing the importance of our perspectives. Without him, I would not have taken away as much from this class as I did. The class reminded the Nelson Fellows of the sacrifices that our predecessors made so that we could be here. We owe it to our ancestors to make the most out of our experience as Nelson Fellows.



Jason Wise & Nelson Fellows

Professional Development Course—*Jainaba Conteh*

One of the most valuable sessions of the Lindsay Fellowship was led by Sarah Schendel, a Professor at Suffolk University Law School. Her class focused on professionalism in the workplace, delivering practical advice that I know will benefit me well beyond this summer.

One of the biggest takeaways from the class was that being professional is about much more than dressing appropriately or arriving on time. Professor Schendel reinforced the importance of maintaining healthy professional boundaries while still meeting the high standards expected in a legal workplace. She reminded us that professional conduct includes how we communicate, how we manage our responsibilities, and how we interact with colleagues and supervisors. We also discussed professional interaction, including how to write thoughtful emails, prepare for meetings, and communicate respectfully and effectively in a professional domain. One point that really connected with me was her encouragement to ask questions without hesitation. As interns and future legal professionals, we are within environments designed for learning, and asking for help demonstrates a devotion to growth rather than a lack of ability. Another lesson that was most notable was the importance of time management. Professor Schendel encouraged us to realistically evaluate how we spend our time and give priority to the responsibilities that matter most. Simultaneously, she reminded us that success isn't evaluated solely by productivity. Making time for family, hobbies, rest, and activities that allow us to recharge is just as important to preserve sustained well-being and prevent burnout.



Prof. Schendel & Lindsay Fellows

I left the class with strategies that I can apply throughout law school and my legal career, along with a recognition of the importance of managing ambition with individual well-being. Her advice has given me confidence while I continue developing into the legal professional I hope to become.

Naturalization Ceremony—*Mia Cano Amaya*

Walking into the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, you could feel the magnitude of the day. Loved ones filled up the room with anticipation as they waited for their family to become citizens. Attending the naturalization ceremony wasn't just an opportunity to observe a civic tradition; it was a chance to witness a closing of one chapter- of endless court proceedings and piles of paperwork- and the beginning of a chapter of civic rights and opportunity.

The Honorable Judge Allison D. Burroughs presided and opened with a quote by Rev. Jesse Jackson, a reminder of the different backgrounds and communities making up the American population. "America is not like a blanket, one piece of unbroken cloth, the same color, the same texture, the same size. America is more like a quilt: many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven and held together by a common thread."

The moment came as 170 people from countries including India, Canada, Cape Verde, Vietnam, and the Dominican Republic stood together, raised their right hands, and took the Oath of Allegiance. Judge Burroughs welcomed America's newest citizens, then announced the next step, reciting The Pledge of Allegiance. It was led by two young girls whose father was naturalized that day.

I witnessed not just a legal step but the fulfillment of years of perseverance and hope. America's story is continuously being written. Each person brought unique experiences, backgrounds, and dreams, reinforcing the idea that immigrants do not just join America; they are the backbone to help shape and strengthen it.



Naturalization Ceremony at JFK Library



Nelson Fellows at Northeastern University

College Visits—*Lauren Bennett Kindle*

We were given the opportunity to visit four colleges this summer: Brandeis, Northeastern, Suffolk, and Boston University. During our first tour, at Brandeis, we had a short panel with two rising seniors who gave us insight into their past 3 years. We learned about different clubs and experiences as well as educational opportunities and different paths you can take while attending Brandeis. We were later given a tour, and we got to see first-year student dorms, the café, and the three main chapels. At Northeastern, we had a very similar experience; they told us about the four education styles: co-op, global experience, research, and service-learning. Next, we visited Suffolk University and Suffolk Law; they gave us an in-depth tour of their academic facilities and information on Suffolk life. We learned that most classes at Suffolk only have around 30 students each, which creates an inviting and intimate classroom setting. Similarly, the dorms are also very intimate; most students only have one roommate. Student engagement is very important for the students at Suffolk; they have several free opportunities for students to bond and connect. Lastly, at Boston University, they also have intimate class sizes with a 10:1 student to faculty ratio. During our tour we saw different academic facilities for a variety of majors and were impressed by the ability to have many different majors and concentrations in one degree. As a first-year student, you're required to live on campus, but afterward you can live off campus or in apartment-like dorms. Despite this, 75% of students live on campus for all four years, a testament to the community created in the dorms. All four tours gave us a glimpse of what our futures could be like, and we are all grateful for that.

NELSON MOCK TRIAL



Hannah & Deandrey—Opening



Reva—Cross Examination



Shaya—Witness



Prisha—Direct Examination



Fathia—Witness



Chanel—Closing

Spending the Day in Worcester—*Prisha Bhavsar*

The Worcester visit was eye-opening because it enabled us to expand our knowledge beyond the busy walls of the Moakley Federal Courthouse. After seeing the Worcester Superior Court in action that morning, working through case after case, with a combination of efficiency and carefulness, we were able to meet with the judges of that court. As we spoke with them and asked questions, we were provided a further insight into the inner workings of not only the state courts, but also the legal system and the symbiotic relationship of its many levels.



Lindsay and Nelson Fellows at Worcester Superior Court



Lindsay and Nelson Fellows with Judge Guzman

Meeting with Judge Margaret R. Guzman gave us a new perspective on the federal courts. Being the first Hispanic judge to serve on the federal bench for Massachusetts, she talked about the opposition she faced in her position, but also the way she moved past those obstacles, inspiring many of us to do the same. She emphasized the personal touch she and her staff provide each case, and is always generous with her time, having 56 interns in her chambers in just three years on the bench.

Judge David H. Hennessey is a Federal Magistrate Judge in Worcester. He talked about his prior experiences that led to his judgeship. Judge Hennessey was New York born and raised and worked in the New York District Attorney's Office before moving to Massachusetts. Judge Hennessey embodies all the characteristics one would expect of a judge; his attentiveness and thoughtful consideration of our questions outside of court modelled his presence inside the courtroom. Judge Hennessey is a figure that we all look up to as the type of person we should strive to be.



Lindsay and Nelson Fellows with Judge Hennessey

Public Speaking Course—*Mazie Loayza*

One of the highlights of my summer as a Lindsay Fellow was the Public Speaking and Debate class taught by Jamele Adams. At the beginning of the class, we were all caught off guard when Jamele launched into his spoken word before introducing himself to us. He then asked us to write a response to his spoken word and read it out to each other. I remember being extremely nervous about reading my personal thoughts to my Fellows, who at the time I didn't know very well. Although I was anxious, Jamele gave us the space to confidently share our thoughts and gave powerful feedback and affirmations to improve our writing and speaking.



Jamele Adams & Lindsay Fellows

By our second class we were all much more confident speaking in front of each other.

Jamele made us feel confident in our capabilities to deliver an effective message with a captivating opening, beautiful journey, and a gripping ending. Throughout the class, we were also assigned sides for debates that we had against each other. It taught us how to argue a position that we may not fully agree with well. Because of his class, not only did we Fellows grow closer with each other, but we also collectively gained the ability to speak in front of a crowd without second guessing ourselves. These skills will help us immensely as we begin our journey to law school and into our future legal careers.



Jamele Adams & Nelson Fellows

CSz Boston Improv—*Deandrey Alexandre*

When I walked into the Breyer Learning Center on July 17th, I didn't know what to expect. I saw chairs arranged in a large circle; I assumed we would simply be watching improv not performing it. Nonetheless, improv wasn't exactly what I thought either. Originally, I believed that improv was primarily meant to make people laugh spontaneously. Instead, I learned that it's about being able to think on your feet and communicate effectively.

The CSz Boston Improv speaker, Courtney Pong, spoke to us about her personal experience with improv and how it helped her excel careerwise. She discussed strategies with us on how to continue a conversation smoothly with as little anxiety as possible. Touching on how active listening is an important skill in. I learned that in conversation, the better you listen the easier it is to respond rather than waiting to talk.

Then Ms. Pong got us up on our feet, through an activity where we stood in a circle with 4-6 fellows having to maintain eye contact, clap, while saying the three words, "Zip, Zap, Zop". Although it felt like a simple game, it reinforced how vital eye contact and clear communication are when trying to work with a team.

The weeks following the improv workshop, I was able to use the skills and strategies I had acquired to present myself confidently, think quickly, and creatively.



CSz Boston Improv Session with Nelson & Lindsay Fellows

Working at the U.S. Attorneys Office —*Kassidi Thompson*

Three Lindsay Fellows, Brianna Codio, William Tutwiler, and I, had a phenomenal experience during our placement in the United States Attorney's Office. Our enthusiastic and inspiring supervisors (AUSA Jessica Soto and AUSA Julien Munde) made a holistic schedule that allowed us to see multiple areas of the law. For example, they assigned us tasks to further their respective investigations: one dealing with healthcare fraud and predatory insurance companies, and another dealing with beauty spas in the Massachusetts area that have been tied to rises in botulism cases. Alongside our projects, we got to speak 1-on-1 with multiple leaders in the office including the Chiefs of Appeals, Defensive Litigation, Major Crimes, and Securities Financial & Cyber Fraud Units. We also got to see many attorneys in practice, while viewing jury trial cases (ranging in topics such as illegal exports to foreign countries, intellectual property disputes, and medical malpractice) and through sitting in on witness preparation for two major upcoming criminal trials on the docket for this Fall.



Lindsay Fellows with USAO Supervisors

Beyond the trial level, we also observed the Appeals Unit moot court before their oral argument at the First Circuit Court of Appeals. We were then able to watch this preparation come to fruition by watching several appellate arguments. Outside of the courthouse, we were also able to tour and learn about the FBI field office in Chelsea, MA and the Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms (ATF) agency in Boston, MA. All in all, Brianna, Will, and I had a fantastic time in our placement and we're leaving the Lindsay Fellowship not only with many new professional connections, but a refined determination and passion for our future legal careers thanks to the United States Attorney's Office.

Mock Trial Course—*Kassandra Myers*

As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said, "A single conversation across the table with a wise man is better than ten years mere[ly] study[ing] books." This is why, when asked about our Mock Trial class, I would describe it not as a class but rather an experience.

I came into this fellowship having no experience in the courtroom, let alone a mock trial, and I was worried about how I would perform in the class. I realized early on that I was not the only one without experience, and that was reassuring. The Nelson Fellows and Jerry Howland met twice a week, for 90 minutes each. Each time we met, Mr. Howland would inquire about our weekends, trials attended in the courthouse, and our personal opinions of them. I was not just walking into the courtroom but rather the mind of an attorney. Mr. Howland would take our secondhand experiences that we shared in the beginning of our classes and explained the complicated legal processes to us.

Our first mock trial was *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* which made us think like attorneys. I started to realize how even outside of the courtroom every action may have an equal and opposite reaction. The intentions of such a harmless little girl were nothing of malicious intent, but when laid out in a trial, they were not so meaningless. In the terms of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and the Nelson Fellows, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to sit across from a wise man, such as our teacher Jerry Howland, for Mock Trial. Though I unfortunately just missed getting an opportunity to be taught by Mr. Howland at my own school, I am both fortunate and grateful to have gotten it here.



Nelson Fellows with Jerry Howland

LINDSAY GRADUATION



Jainaba, Judge Boal, & Chambers



Katie with Judges Kelley, Dein, & Saris



Josh & Brianna



Kassidi, Judge Gorton, & Chambers

2026 LINDSAY FELLOWS



Brianna Codio

is a rising senior at Howard University, where she majors in Criminology and Political Science, with a minor in Legal Communications. Brianna was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.



Jainaba Conteh

is a rising senior at Suffolk University, where she majors in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Political Science. Jainaba was assigned to the Honorable Jennifer C. Boal and was placed in the Federal Public Defender Office.



Jakayla Leary

is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, where she majors in Criminal Justice. Jakayla was assigned to the Honorable Leo T. Sorokin and was placed in the Federal Public Defender Office.



Mazie Loayza

is a rising junior at Spelman College, where she majors in Political Science, with a minor in Spanish. Mazie was assigned to the Honorable Indira Talwani and was placed in the Federal Public Defender Office.

2026 LINDSAY FELLOWS



Katie McNair

is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she double majors in Political Science & Legal Studies. Katie was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris and was placed in the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office.



Joshua Rodriguez Ortiz

is a rising junior at the Harvard College, where he majors in Social Studies and Spanish, Latin American, and Latinx Studies, with a citation in Portuguese. Joshua was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns and was placed in the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office.



Kassidi Thompson

is a rising senior at Bentley University, where she double majors in Public Policy and Finance with a concentration in Financial Planning. Kassidi was assigned to the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.



Will Tutwiler

is a rising junior at Tulane University, where he majors in Political Science and Spanish with a minor in History. Will was assigned to the Honorable William G. Young and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

NELSON GRADUATION



Judge Dein, Lauren, & Judge Kelley



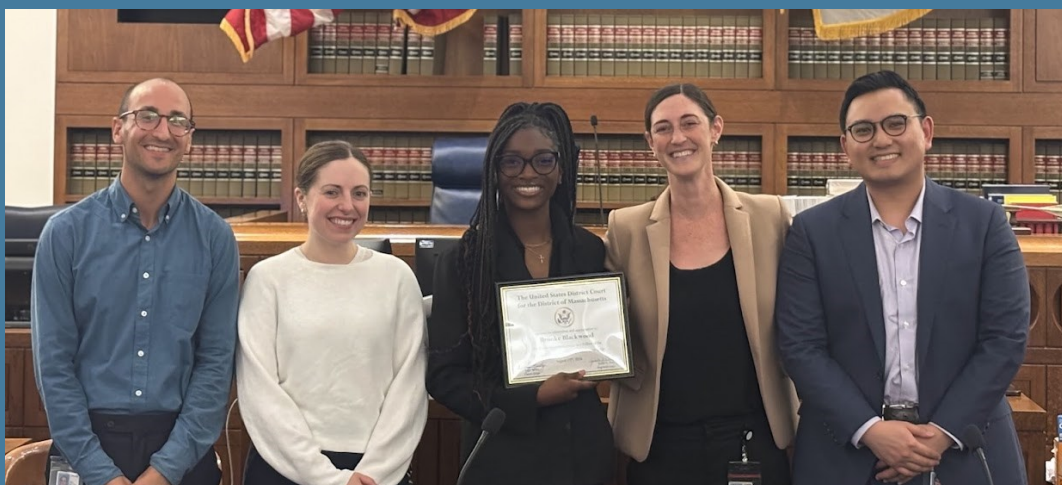
Kassandra, Judge Saris, & Chambers



Mia, Judge Murphy, & Chambers



Judge Dein, Reychelle, & Judge Kelley



Brooke, Judge Kobick, & Chambers



2026 NELSON FELLOWS



Deandrey Alexandre

is a rising senior at Norwood High School. He was assigned to the Honorable Donald L. Cabell.



Lauren Bennett Kindle

is a rising senior at the John D. O'Bryant School. She was assigned to the Honorable Jessica D. Hedges.



Prisha Bhavsar

is a rising junior at Abington High School. She was assigned to the Honorable Allison D. Burroughs.



Shaya Birnkrant

is a rising junior at the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science. He was assigned to the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton.

2026 NELSON FELLOWS



Brooke Blackwood

is a rising junior at Woodward School for Girls. She was assigned to the Honorable Julia E. Kobick.



Mia Cano Amaya

is a rising senior at North High School in Worcester. She was assigned to the Honorable Brian E. Murphy.



Chanel Jimenez Peña

is a rising senior at Abbott Lawrence Academy. She was assigned to the Honorable Myong J. Joun



Kasandra Myers

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



2026 NELSON FELLOWS



Fathia Shodeyi

is a rising senior at Boston Latin School. She was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns.



Reva Upadhyay

is a rising senior at Malden High School. She was assigned to the Honorable Paul G. Levenson.



Reychele Wright

is a rising junior at Ruth Batson Academy. She was assigned to the Honorable Jennifer C. Boal.



Hanniah Zangar

is a rising senior at Abby Kelly Foster. He was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper.