

# THE JUDGE DAVID S. NELSON FELLOWSHIP

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

## THE COURT EXPERIENCE

### THE 2009 NELSON FELLOWS

Melissa Aybar

Shakeeda Bartee

Karla Bonilla

Unique Bridges

Eduardo Chafoya

Raul E. Cruz

Detrone Lavar Hunter  
Young

Gladymir Joseph

Pierre Joseph

Julio Lanzo

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Jingwen Long

Jeanny Nicole Mejia

Lennon D. Johnson  
III - Richardson

Indhira Taveras

Michael Taylor

Mario Zepeda

By: Karla Bonilla

"The motion to suppress has been denied," were the first words the Nelson Fellow heard during her first time in a federal court room. In her mind, a million questions arose: "What is a motion? What is a motion to suppress? What does it mean if the motion is denied?" The fellow was confused, curious, and hungry to learn what all these new terms meant. She did not think she would have too much trouble understanding the language of the court, since she watched plenty of "Law and Order"; however, the reality is that "Law and Order" has little to do with what really occurs in a real courtroom. Although the fellow was tempted to ask, she waited for the hearing to finish so then she could ask her judge every question that baffled her.



Once the hearing was over, the judge, the court clerk, the law clerks, the interns, and the Nelson Fellow exited the court room together. A sense of pride, excitement, and accomplishment swarmed through the Fellow's wits as if she were on the pinnacle of a mountain, staring down at the strenuous journey she had just confronted. She thought to herself, "I can't believe I'm actually here with all these important people –it's like I'm one of them now!" Soon before the fellow could even say anything, the judge began to explain what the case was about to her judicial staff. It's almost as if the judge had super powers and could read the fellows questions merely by looking into her eyes. In addition, the judge was kind enough to reveal her own thoughts and feelings about the case –not something any judge would simply do. "That was a very difficult decision" the judge said, "but do you guys think it was a fair decision?" Speechless, the fellow continued to think, "Wow, she even asked us for our opinions!" The Fellow never thought a judge would care enough to take others' opinions into consideration.

The next morning, the Nelson Fellow decided to go to another trial, presided by a different judge. From a different perspective, she sat with the other fellows and public spectators. They were witnessing a child pornography case. The witness, who was non-receptive to the prosecution's repetitive questions, sat directly across the jury while they scrutinized everyone of her words and gestures. All, but the attorney and witness, were silent, making the tension in the courtroom high. It was difficult for the fellow to watch the defendant sit there, pensively, shamefully, with fear in his eyes while he listened to the witness testifying against him.

After the trial, the Nelson Fellow went to her chamber to engage in a friendly conversation with her judge. Eventually, they ended up talking about the child pornography case. "So what did you think should be done about the case?" the judge asked the fellow. "Well, rather than jail, I think the defendant should go through a rehabilitation program because even if he does go to jail for a few years, his inclination towards children is still going to be there; sure he may get a probation officer after he gets out, but what about after his term is over? What's going to be fixed in his mind?" They continued to talk and the judge listened carefully to every one of her words.

After several weeks of experiencing court trials, and hearings, the Nelson Fellow gained a vast amount of knowledge about how federal courts operate. She learned that a "motion" is a petition to the court and that a "motion to suppress" is a petition to exclude evidence. She learned that in order to sentence a person, the jury has to find the defendant guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." The Nelson Fellow came to understand that a judge is not only the decider of someone's fate, but is a human being as well, a human being who cares and considers what others, including herself, have to say. The fellow kindled relationships with everyone she worked with during her internship –the law clerks, her coordinator, her judge, and the rest of the fellows. No longer did she feel that she is "like" one of them, but she thought to herself, "I am one of them now and this is where I belong."

THE HONORABLE JUDGE DAVID S. NELSON

By: Shakeeda Bartee



Judge David S. Nelson was born in Boston Massachusetts In 1933 to two Jamaican immigrants. His parent's education was very limited; this propelled them to push their four sons to do well in school. Although they didn't have much of an education, they knew in order for their sons too do **well** they needed a good education. Judge Nelson Attended Boston College and graduated in 1957; then he attended Boston College Law School. In 1973 Nelson was appointed associate justice of the superior court by Governor Francis Sergeant. In 1979, Judge Nelson became the first African American appointed to the first circuit federal court by President Jimmy Carter.

Judge Nelson has positively affected many of the people he come across in his life. The Nelson Fellowship, a program erected in his honor, has also affected many people's lives. It gives the inner city youth of Boston, Springfield, and Worcester the chance to work federal court judges. The fellows get to go on many different trips, watch a variety of different trials, and are exposed to people in many different careers. Oneda Horne, from the 2003 Nelson Fellow class, once stated: "Judge Nelson was a man who was greatly concerned with second chances; he believed in serving his community by providing services to those who needed it". The Nelson Fellows perfectly exemplify these important values, which Judge Nelson cared for. After hearing the news of Judge Nelson's passing, Senator Kennedy, who nominate Judge Nelson for the federal position, stated: "Judge Nelson was an outstanding son of Boston who made remarkable contribution to our city, our state, and our country. He dedicated his great mind and his great heart to public service and the pursuit of equal justice for all." It didn't matter what walk of life you came from weather you were poor, rich, good, or evil, Judge Nelson always wanted things to be equal: "My province is small, but in that courtroom I can try like hell to make good and evil balance out."

Around the courthouse, Judge Nelson was known and is till known as a kid at heart. Joseph Oteri, who was Judge Nelson's close friend, recently met with the fellows to share a few stories about Judge Nelson. We learned that Mr. Oteri loved fountain pens so much that he owned one with his name engraved in it. After a month or so the pen disappeared from his office. One day, Mr. Oteri was in Judge Nelson's office and happened to see the pen. He said to Judge Nelson, "hey that's my pen", Judge Nelson replied, "No it isn't", and showed him that the pen had his name engraved on it. One day Mr. Oteri was in Judge Nelson's office, he saw the pen and picked it up; he saw that Judge Nelson's name engraved on it, but on the other side he saw his name engraved on it.

Judge Nelson was forced to retire from his full time judicial duties in 1991 due to complications from Alzheimer; he past way in 1999 from the disease. Although I did not have the chance to meet the Honorable Judge David S. Nelson, he has greatly affected my life. The Nelson Fellowship is the best program I have ever taken part of. We had a class of eighteen fellows, which includes scholars from Worcester and Springfield. It is amazing that this program reached this size because when the program started the classes had less than seven fellows and did not extended to Worcester or Springfield. It is my sincere hope that the program only expands and that more youth, like me and the other fellows, take full advantage of the opportunities that have been extended to us.

# UNCLE JOE

By: Melissa Aybar

Joseph Oteri, affectionately known as Uncle Joe, was coming to visit the Nelson Fellows. For months, we heard stories about this “firecracker” and how enthusiastic he would be when speaking to us. But we were very much used to the professionalism and seriousness of the courts, so needless to say, we were a little doubtful. Immediately we were proven wrong, as Mr. Oteri walked into the courtroom with more zeal than any other speaker we have ever had. Instantly, I knew we were in for a treat.



Uncle Joe sat and told us amazing stories of his closest friend, Judge David S. Nelson, and gave us a greater understanding of the man behind the robe. For weeks, no one was able to capture this amazing man’s character. But Joseph Oteri easily portrayed Judge Nelson in such a way that, for a while, we felt like we actually knew him. Uncle Joe shared stories of the trips he and Judge Nelson took to overseas to such places as England, Tokyo, and Italy. He also told about the many pranks that Judge David Nelson terrorized him with. But most of all, Mr. Oteri taught us about the wonderful person we never had the chance to meet.

Mr. Oteri is a husband, a father and a grandfather who is dedicated to family, friends and also his profession. As a defense lawyer, he has handled many cases, which has led to a very successful career, even with his crazy antics in court (Like singing to the jury during a case in front of Judge Saris). Although he never pictured himself, “the fat Sicilian kid from Southie,” and his friend “the black boy from Roxbury,” as he referred to himself and Judge Nelson, being so successful. But he never stopped working hard.

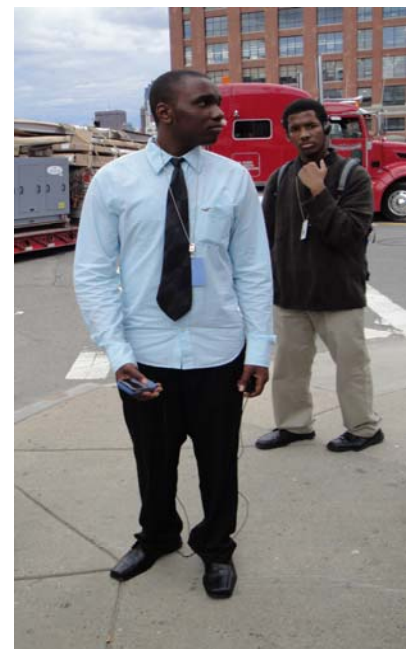
If Uncle Joe wanted all of us to remember one simple thing, it was this: “Although Judge David Nelson was a well respected and intelligent man, he was a person just like the rest of us”. This insight encouraged me to view judges in a different light; but not only the judges. Joseph Oteri was living proof that success and power does not need to change who you are; he is still just like us. He showed us that he was no different than us because he curses, jokes with his friends, and has a crazy sense of humor just like us! Hands down, Uncle Joe was one of the best speakers we were introduced to this summer.

## THOUGHTS FROM A FELLOW

By: Detrone Lavar Hunter Young

Carrying on the title of Nelson Fellow has been an excellent experience. There are many great opportunities that arise when you carry this title. Throughout the good times and the bad times, this program has given me a great amount of knowledge. The courthouse is not just a place of business; it is place where you connect with people to make a change. The Nelson Fellows have done many great things, such as visiting colleges, working with federal judges, and meeting with many important people who contribute to our community.

Throughout my years, I always wanted to be behind the scenes of the court system. With the Nelson Fellowship, the behind the scenes experience is possible: from seeing the holding cells, to sitting in mediation hearings with judges. One part of this program that I really took to heart, was being able to view cases and gaining the opportunity to understand how the law works. Witnessing different cases from time to time starts to affect one emotional and the way that they see the world. Seeing someone get sentenced to 5 years or more made me think to myself, "what are their families thinking?", "Do they have kids?". Leaving this program will be tough because it has been a great memory and I will never forget it. The class of 2009 is always going to have a place in my heart. LOVE YOU GUY 4 EVA!



## THE BOTTOM LINE

By : Unique Bridges

What is Bottom Line? Bottom Line is a program that was founded in 1997 to help disadvantaged scholars get into college. Bottom line guides high school seniors through the college application process and continues to support them until they graduate from college. Most of Bottom Line's students come from low-income families and are one of the first in their family to go to college.

My sister introduced me to Bottom Line. She was the first in my family to go to college and become a part of the Bottom Line program. Bottom Line helped her in many ways to become successful in academic career. She told me about the wonderful opportunities the program offers, which helped her greatly with her college application process. She also explained how great it is to have a Bottom Line counselor to give you one on one attention; it helps to build a strong and lasting relationship between the student and the counselor. After she told me about the program, I really did not have any questions, I just wanted to apply.

The Nelson Fellowship recognizes Bottom Line as one of the top organizations that help students find their way to college. Every year, the Nelson Fellows visit the Bottom Line office and are introduced to the many resources they offer. Many of past Nelson Fellows are recruited into the program. This year, Shakeeda Bartee, one of our Nelson fellows, was accepted into Suffolk University. Her counselor from Bottom Line helped her throughout her college application process and even after her acceptance into Suffolk University. Shakeeda continues to seek guidance from her Bottom Line counselor. When asked what she thought about the program, Shakeeda stated: "It's a great program, they work around your schedule, they help you out financially, and my counselor Jessenia is the best!"

Many feel that the Bottom Line program is an exceptional: "Bottom Line has helped thousands of disadvantaged students in Boston realize their dream of getting a college degree. They are changing lives and strengthening our community". Bottom Line makes sure that their students have all the support they need to get into college, graduate and become successful in life. If the Nelson Fellowship, which is a prestigious program, has chosen Bottom Line to help its fellow during their college application process, then without a doubt, The Bottom Line is where to start.

## FROM WORCESTER TO BOSTON

By: Eduardo Chafoya

The Nelson Fellowship is a great program that teaches teens about the federal court system. This year was the first year that the program branched out to the Worcester district court. But with anything that you try for the first time, problems do occur: the transportation was difficult to get use to. We had to take the train into Boston; it was a hassle in the beginning: waking up at five or six am to take the commuter rail was tough. But, in the end it was all worth it because we spent time with our colleagues in Boston.

The fellowship offered two courses: Writing and Speech and a Civil Rights class. The classes were an interesting part of the fellowship. Both classes were fun and kept us active. Although they sometimes forgot about us because we communicated via telephone, we still learned a lot. There were also times that we communicated through video conference, which was very interesting. Even though it was fun, I wish that I could have received more of the class material to keep me more active.

Despite some minor problems, the Nelson Fellowship is one of the greatest experiences ever. When it expanded to Worcester and Springfield it became even better. Even if they did have some problems with classes, it was because they have never done it before. After a while, I got use to getting up so early to get on the train because I got there on time. It was a wonderful experience to work as a Nelson Fellow and I would never give it up.



# THE POSSE FOUNDATION

By: Mario Zepeda

“Walk like your chasing a chicken<sup>1/4</sup>” yelled out. With a million thoughts crossing my mind, the first one was to leave this building. What did I just get myself into?

In a room surrounded by other of high school seniors, everyone was willing to do just about anything for an opportunity to get a scholarship that was worth over one hundred thousand dollars. Not that I did not want my college tuition paid for, but I was not sure to what extremes I was willing to go to. As I chewed on my ham and cheese sandwich, I observed the crowd of people that was around me. I was not sure what to expect of them. Everyone was chatting as if they knew each other for many years, like old friends talking about their past experiences. I was not prepared to be part of that, so I continued to look around the room hoping something would catch my interest. I then read the papers that the Posse staff gave us. Everything I read was about how great the Posse foundation was. Posse this, Posse that: just about everything in that room had a Posse logo. Then I looked at all the possible schools that I could go to if I was accepted into this program. As I read about the six different colleges that the foundation was partnered up with, I wondered why I did not know any of them. If this scholarship is so great, why are they giving students tuition to schools out in Ohio or New York? Why can't they just pick schools like Boston University or maybe Brandeis? I was at a loss for words and I kept watching the hands tick on my watch. I saw my Monday evening slowly slip away as I stayed inside that building for about three hours.

The interview would start with several ice breakers in order to break the tension between all the students. I looked around the hall and I saw about a hundred or more kids standing around. I kept asking myself, how is this an interview and who is looking at us? Then the workshops began and it started to get interesting. We spread out into groups and took part in activities. I did not know one soul in my group, but we had to work together. We had to perform a skit on how the “best day in the world” would look like. We also played a game on how to form a Lego shaped structure by going back and forth from one place and trying to explain to your group how it is formed. The Posse staff would try explaining to us what Posse actually meant and the purpose of it. As they played a quick video about Posse, I learned how this program started and how it was helping students survive through college. The video interviewed many Posse graduates. The people in the video expressed their feelings, several of them even cried. I didn't know what to say.

I went home that evening, not knowing what to expect: I had taken in so much information. Everything that I saw seemed magical and non-realistic. I heard that there were at least 1200 nominations for students and only about 60 of them would get it. My chances seemed extremely slim. I left the interview thinking that I was never going to be able to get into the program. In fact, I was a little depressed because thought that I did get it. But I learned to never to say never.

I am now a current first year student at Denison University in Ohio through the Posse. Even though I did not speak as much as I would like to in my interviews, Posse selected me out of hundreds of scholars. I was positive that I was not going to get it; but I had some hope that I would be chosen. Posse is not only about the scholarship, but the group that you are with. It is about the bond that you make with the other individuals that are in your posse. Having moral support from others is what makes the scholarship great. Knowing you will have friends on campus and knowing you will be able to relay on them is the best part. If I did not have my posse with me on campus, it would be a very strange experience for me. They are all like family to me, and I appreciate them all. Through thick and thin, I know they will be there for me.

# FORT DEVENS

By: Gladymir Joseph

Along acres of fresh green grass, stood tall, shiny fences, with blade like wires at the top, that stretched around the entire facility. Large brick buildings extended so far up, they cast shadows that prevented the sun from shining in certain areas. This was my first visual image as I glanced out the bus window. Just then, one of the interns said, “man, I already want to go back, how long are we here for?” The bus stopped and after an hour drive, we reached our destination: Fort Devens Federal Prison; the name itself was enough to send chills down your spine.

As I later discovered, prison is nothing like what is portrayed in movies. Often, criminals are depicted as sadistic, evil-minded people, with intentions to satisfy their own selfish ends. While this is true in some cases, it is not true in all cases. In fact, I have come to see criminals as regular people, whom were given choices and choose the wrong ones. As one of the prison managers pointed out: “these inmates are still human beings and still deserve to be treated like regular people”.

Mutual respect is one thing I find admirable about the Fort Devens staff; it is a necessity for cooperation. In a unit with 600 inmates and no form of protection other than a chain of keys and a radio, it is important that respect is established. For example, in the food department, I was surprised to see that the staff and inmates worked together to feed the whole prison population, including the staff. But even more surprising, is the fact that prison food is not as bad as the propaganda people perpetuate. In fact I would much prefer the prison food over, school lunch. Furthermore, the staff members also work with inmates in the health department. While the employees work to diagnose and treat inmates with physical, or mental health problems, inmates also assist in room service, the preparation of supplies, and cleaning of facilities. In other words, inmates serve as inmate companions, which are commonly referred to as CNA’s (certified nurse assistants) in usual hospitals. None of this would be possible without respect.

Perhaps the best thing I find fascinating about the Fort Devens prison is their rehabilitation methods. Before stepping foot into the federal prison, I went in there with the preconception that inmates are locked in a cell the whole day, and are only released during eating hours and minimum recreation time . However, it didn’t take long for those preconceptions to change because of my first hand experiences. The inmates have an obligations and incentives: Each inmate that did not complete grade school is obligated to achieve their GED. In addition, inmates are also able to achieve their Associate, Bachelors, and Masters Degrees if desired. Moreover, inmates have the opportunity to work jobs, such as a tutor, a chief, or an inmate companion. To me, these are great rehabilitation methods because most inmates become productive members of society when they are released.

All in all, my experience at Fort Devens is unforgettable. I have developed a better understanding of the federal penitentiary system. The best message I took away from this experience is that society defines us by the choices we make. Positive opportunities lead to better choices, and only through the outcomes can one be accurately defined.



# THE CAMBODIAN CAMP

By: Yunqi Lin

Have you ever lived in a dangerous neighborhood surrounded violence? Have you seen people dealing drugs, get shot, or deal drugs? There are children whose parents are not educated and not able to put food on the table; there are also children who have witnessed violence in their neighborhoods at a young age. These children need someone to guide them on to the right path, pulling them away from gang violence. The Cambodian Camp was created for these unfortunate children.

The Cambodian Camp is a summer camp set up for young children and teens that live in the city of Lowell. The city had a reputation of constant gang activity. Living in such violent neighborhoods and having uneducated immigrant parents, most of the children in Lowell have witnessed shootings and have older siblings that are involved with gang activity. Who could say that these children, who are surrounded by negative influences and have a lack of guidance, will be able to choose a right path instead of following their older siblings. Matt



Wolf noticed this problem within the city and proposed the idea of the Cambodian Camp, which is a summer camp directed towards keeping youth away from gang violence. Originally set up for Cambodian children, the camp later recruited Latinos who were rivals of Cambodian gangs. This was done in order to reduce the hostility between the two ethnic groups.

The camp divides the campers, who are seven to fifteen years old, into four age groups. The kids in the camp play sports, go on field trips, and have lunch together. They also hear from guest speakers, such as Bos-

ton Police Commissioner Ed Davis, who taught them about safety. Most of the staffs are from the Lowell area and have similar backgrounds with the campers; in most cases, they were campers themselves. This insight and experiences helps them to better relate to the campers.

I loved the experience of being with the kids in the camp; they are so energetic and friendly. They grabbed me by my hands to play volleyball with them and they were able to remember my name instantly. We, the Nelson Fellows, played dodge ball, drew, and talked with the kids. Towards the end of the day, the staff and older challenged the Nelson Fellows to have a basketball game. As skillful and energetic they were, the fellows could not match with them. Since this camp focused on sports, more and more campers started to get involved with sport teams after school, thus not wander on the street after school.

The Cambodian Camp provides young children and teens with a fulfilling summer experience by exposing them to a variety of interactive activities. The camp creates a positive environment for campers to, not only make friends with each other, but it also keeps





## WAYNE BUDD



By: Michael Taylor

Wayne Budd is a charismatic and admirable man. When the Nelson Fellows sat and spoke with Mr. Budd, I was amazed by his stories of working with federal judges. I was also amazed at how much Mr. Budd has accomplished in life. I chose to write about Mr. Budd because I knew he would have a lot to discuss. I set up a meeting with him so I could gather more facts about him. The meeting was successful: I received a lot of knowledge and information.

First off, Mr. Budd was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. He attended Boston College and afterwards decided to go to law school. Mr. Budd did not intentionally go to law school to become a lawyer; he went because he knew it would open doors for him. He attended Wayne State Law School in Detroit while working for Ford Motor Company. Mr. Budd managed to successfully graduate from Wayne State, while working at the same time. After completing law school, Mr. Budd left Detroit and returned to Boston, where he and a few friends started up the law firm, Budd, Riley and Wiley. Shortly after starting up this small law firm, Mr. Budd got a job as an adjunct faculty at BC law school and joined the Mass Civil Commission.

In 1989, Wayne Budd was appointed the United States Attorney for Massachusetts and was sworn in by his close friend, Judge David S. Nelson. He would remain the U.S. attorney until 1992, and then in that same year, he moved to Washington D.C. to become the Associate Attorney General of the United States. He held the position for a year and moved back to Massachusetts in 1993 to become a senior partner at the Goodwin Proctor law firm. He stayed with Goodwin Proctor until 1996, when he left to become the New England president of Verizon. After parting ways with Verizon, Mr. Budd became the Chief Lawyer of John Hancock. He held this position for a considerable amount of time, retired, and rejoined the Goodwin Proctor law firm. He is still with the law firm till this day.

In his free time, Mr. Budd enjoys giving back to the community and helping others. He is currently seated on multiple boards of directors for several charitable organizations. He states that David Nelson was his mentor and paved the way for him and others. David Nelson, like Wayne Budd, also gave back to the community and constantly helped others. When I asked Mr. Budd what is important to him he replied with a checklist. The most important to him is good family life, then mental and physical health, good friendships, contributing to the community, and the respect of community. Mr. Budd is a great man and has already accomplished a lot in his lifetime; I believe he will continue to do so.



# THE MOCK TRIAL

By: Jingwen Long



Mock Trial is an important component of the Nelson Fellowship program. Most of the fellows that gather in the courthouse have a passion for law or fields that are related to law. During the summer, we take different courses, such as a writing and speech class and a civil rights class, to prepare for the mock trial. The mock trial is when we demonstrate what we have learned: it is like our final exam.

The case that is being argued this year is about Terry King murdered her friend Elvis Presley because of her greed and desire to attain his estate. As the prosecution team, my teammates and I have to work together to prove, beyond a

reasonable doubt, that Terry King had murdered Elvis.

Terry King, the defendant in this case, was a singer in Elvis Presley's band. Terry King was a friend of Elvis since high school. Elvis helped Terry with her career and even included Terry in his will. The day before Elvis Presley died, he and Terry had a furious quarrel. Elvis Presley was mad at Terry because he heard from Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis's manager, that Terry had been stealing money from his company. Terry became mad at Elvis when he said he was going to remove her name from his will. That night, Terry wrote in her diary that she had to do something to prevent that from happening. She mentioned the usage of GHB to kill Elvis, which was later found to be a major cause of Elvis Presley's death. Terry was the last person who saw Elvis alive. However, the defendant also has a good argument. The defense will argue that Elvis died from "polypharmacy", the negative effects of combined drugs.

I am charged with delivering the first part of the closing argument for the prosecution team. I will argue Terry King had the motivation and opportunity to murder Elvis. I have a hard time



arguing this because I personally do not believe that Terry had murdered Elvis Presley. To convince myself, I put out all the evidences that is in favor of the prosecution. For instance, Terry wanted to get rid of Elvis for her personal gain and she was the only person that gave Elvis medication that night. However, it is hard to image that a person who intentionally committed a crime would be surprised with the result. In the message that Terry left to Janet, her sister, Terry wanted Janet to throw her diary away at Janet's house. It was true that Terry wanted to hide something, but if Terry did create a plan to murder Elvis, why would she still keep the diary and make a suspicious call like that? My mind was conflicted with the evidence. However, as a member of the prosecution team, I can not be indecisive.

A lawyer needs to be fair, they are not the people who make judgments. No one witnessed the moment when the crime was committed. The best thing that a lawyer can do is to make their case and argue till the extreme. Justice is like an equidistant from the extremes. Even though lawyers may act biased, they are making a path to approach the truth. When I finally put a period at the end of my closing, I feel that I will be one step closer to the truth.



## WORDS OF INSPIRATION

By: Lennon D. Johnson III- Richardson

“Olympians of bigotry compete wherever a race lives / Racetracks run around Saturn /because races shouldn’t compete around earth” – Jamele Adams -

Sitting at the table in courtroom 11 with the rest of the Nelson Fellows, a look of anxiety took over my face when our speech and writing course began. A tall African-American male walked into the courtroom. He introduced himself: “Hello, My Name is Jamele Adams. I am the Dean of students at Brandies University”. His voice demanded 100% attention in order to comprehend the magnificent words that he spoke: “The genius of Dr. King would never conclude / the goal of his dream to be a Black President / Thomas Jefferson had already been elected, /And had slave mistress”. Dean Adam’s awesome public speaking skills blew me away and any doubt I had was cleansed from my thoughts. I knew this was going to be an excellent class.



I started each day with hope and curiosity: I hoped that I would grow and surpass previous expectations, but I was curious about the knowledge that would be bestowed to upon me. Using very few words, Dean Adams gave the Nelson Fellows a guide to making terrific works of literature: “This, ladies and gentlemen, this is your tool. Use it. Captivate, Beautiful-journey and be gripping in your conclusion”. These words produced utter silence, as if the Fellows had been engulfed by a philosophical cloud. Every word that came from Dean Adams mouth was golden, and inspired me. It seemed as if his motto “was practice makes perfect”, which was his expectation for us. He had a magical plan to charge us, one quarter for every unnecessary word or pauses we uttered, such as “um”, “like”, or “ah”. I saw his actions as some sort of promise: one quarter for discipline. The idea of giving him a quarter for each “um”, “like”, or “ah” seemed absurd, but I took on this challenge and gave it shot. Following his rules gave me even more confidence to speak in front of any audience. I know this specific lesson would carry me far into my future.

His artistic expressions would also stay with me. Dean Adams delivered another amazing line from a poem of his: “Ralph Lauren tongues Swell / at the taste of black hoodies / Nigger joins hips together like family / Still yielding a killing capacity / Retreat from epithet bullets / And master the slang of equality”. Silence echoed through the courtroom after his performance. Each fellow’s mind analyzed his quotes to the point where one could almost see their thought bubbles. Many judgments and emotions were racing through our minds. A feeling of inspiration was the first thought my mind created. I thought that this man encompassed everything that I strive for as a writer and speaker.

Public speaking and profound writing are vital skills that should be mastered. They will give you advantages against any opposition. The famous line, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt”, is a faulty statement because words can start and end wars, build and corrupt the largest of empires, and mentally scar someone for life. Each quarter spent on an “um” was an investment towards my discipline as a



more profound speaker. With this discipline I know that I can acquire unfathomable amounts of assets. Every moment spent in the presence of Dean Adam was an inspirational and productive one because I have obtained abilities that have made me grow as a writer and a person; for that, I am very thankful. As Mr. Adams would say: “We live sleeping with our eyes open / fail to be pointless / sleep is a waste of time if you don’t dream”



## RACE: THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTED MYTH

By: Julio Lanzo

Throughout my life, I have always wondered, do believe in race. Does the color of one's skin make them less or more inferior to someone else that was of a different color. History has taught me that blacks were treated as if the lesser race that could not succeed. But I would learn that was not true at all when I joined the Nelson Fellowship program and starting taking civil rights classes. The instructor of the civil right course, Jason Wise (nicknamed Jwise), was an eighth grade teacher from the Lewis middle school in Dorchester. His civil right lessons opened my eyes to see that race is just a myth. Jwise once stated: "myth upon which the reality of racism is based, the wild card the racist always keeps up his sleeve". Hearing that line meant a lot to me because I also thought that race is not factor in life. Every person is the same, despite the color of their skin. Jwise told the class "that all humans are incredibly similar in fact, we are 99.9% genetically identical, and we are all the members of one species". This means I have the same opportunity as anyone else, despite the color of their skin because race is a social invention man made to keep other men disheartened. Between the 1800's to the late 1960's, people believed that race was real and that one race was superior to the other one. Throughout the class, we learned the method that people used to show that no race was superior to any other. We saw a documentary call the "Eyes of the Storm" by Jane Eliot.



Jane Eliot tried to teach her students about the impact of discrimination. In the beginning of the documentary, Ms. Eliot began the class with a new lesson. She told her student that the students who were blue eyed were smarter than those who had brown eyes. She then instructed her class treat the blue eyed students better then the brown eyed students. When a brown eyed student challenged her method she said she was right because she was a blue eyed, which meant she was more superior to him. What happened next was amazing. Initially, all the students were friends, but all that changed when Ms. Eliot said that blue eyed people were superior. During the next day of class, Ms. Eliot told her student that she lied and that the brown eyed people were the real superior beings. At first, I was confused because I saw a shift in power, but as the documentary progressed, I quickly learned that the teacher use discrimination to teach her students not to discriminate. At the end of the documentary, Ms. Eliot told her students that they were all equal and that seemed relieve the students. What she said next caught my attention; she said that no one is better than one else, despite being blue eyed or brown eyed, white or black. She demanded that her kids say every morning that they were no better than black people.



In the past, whites argued that eugenics, genetic defects, afflicted blacks, which caused to have many health issues or die at a young age. People believed that if blacks and whites were to come into contact, the white race to go extinct from all the illnesses that plagued blacks. Because of this theory, blacks could not get the proper treatment or equal treatment that whites received. However, during the 1936 World Olympics in Berlin, Jessie Owens ran against Hitler's so called supermen and won four gold medals against them. This proved the theory eugenics to be faulty. Discrimination would arise again, but this time people believed that blacks had an extra bone in their legs, which helped them run away from wild animals when they were Africa. Ideas like this and the eugenics theory was meant to segregate blacks and whites, so that whites could have the best resources, while blacks lived in poverty. The lack of resources is what led to a lower life span for blacks, not eugenics.



## THE FORBIDDEN MESSAGE

By: Jeanny Nicole Mejia

Everyone loves texting. It is a great way to stay in contact with loved ones, such as family and friends. But now texting has evolved into one of the most outrageous issues in the 21st century. Why? Today teenagers and young children are sending inappropriate messages to one another, such as nude pictures and explicit phrases. Sadly, these poor children suffer and live with the consequences of their negative actions. Children, ages twelve and up, are being charged with child pornography, or in this case sexting. Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos to other people. It is not clear when a person under the age of eighteen should be charged with possessing a text of an under aged child.

In one case of sexting (Hamill, Sean D. "Students Sue Prosecutor in Cell phone Photos Case." The New York Times 03/26/ 2009), two girls, who currently attend High School, met with their parents and principal because they were found with a nude picture of the 15 year old girl. Their principal threatened the young girls by demanding them to attend classes for pornography and sexual violence, or he would file a sexual abuse charge against them. If these girls were to become convicted of this crime, they would serve time in prison and would have to register as sex offenders. Under aged people should not be charged with an offence like this because they are not mature enough to make proper decisions.

The actions of under aged children, sixteen and below, should be protected by the laws of the Constitution. But for these under aged children, who do not know the consequences of their actions, should be taught the legal implications of sexting. Educating children about sexting is better than convicting them of a crime at an older age because they were negligent.

According to the Fourth amendment all, citizens are given "The right to be secured in their persons....and effects against unreasonable searches and shall not be violated."(Hamill, Sean D. "Students Sue Prosecutor in Cell phone Photos Case" The New York Times 03/26/ 2009). If teens at the age of sixteen want to send nude pictures to whomever, it should not be a problem. But when it comes to people under the age of sixteen, then something should be done. If a person gives permission to receive a text, then they should be penalized for their actions. Once one party accepts a text they become responsible for what they have received. The person who decided to send someone else a sexual text should not be charged if that picture is posted on the internet. They are protected by the First and Fourth Amendment, which guarantees citizens the right to freedom of speech and more. But this issue is difficult because not every state has given teenagers the legal authority regarding sexual behavior.

Sexting should be legal at the age of sixteen. At the age of sixteen, people can legally have sex with a partner in the state of Massachusetts and the majority of states in the U.S. (Cool, Nurse. Age of Consensual Sex. <http://www.livestrong.com/article/12483-age-consensual-sex/>). Due to the fact that it is legal to have sex at the age of sixteen, it should be legal to sext. Sexting is almost the same concept of having sexual relations; therefore it should not be illegal. But if the law does not apply to both circumstances, then sexting and sexual relationships should be illegal for people under the age of eighteen. Sexting becomes harmful and hurtful when a picture is put on the internet; it is difficult to take texts off the web because people will share the pictures with others. That is why I believe that everyone, teenagers, adults and seniors, should be educated about this issue. Even within schools, there should be classes teaching students what is right and wrong about things like sexting.

In today's society, many adults, teens, and children are convicted of crimes without having of knowledge of their rights. People under the age of sixteen should not get penalized for their negative actions, especially when they are unaware of the consequences. Citizen should be educated about their rights.

## COLLEGE TOURS

By: Raul E. Cruz

The Nelson Fellowship has exposed me to many new experiences, such as college tours. I believed that I would not have the time to visit colleges, so it was great that the program provided that opportunity. We visited a hand-full of colleges, such as Harvard University, MIT, Wheaton College, Brown University, Brandeis, and Boston College. We were also introduced to Dorothy Street from the Colby College admissions office. Each of these colleges are special in their own way, but I am going to talk about each of these schools and tell you what I think of them.

Let us first talk about one of the most prestigious university in the world: Harvard University. This institution is has many buildings threw out the Cambridge area. My first impression was that Harvard is the school where all the smart people go, which is true most of the students there who have good grades and high SAT/ACT scores. But this amazing school has its flaws like every other school. However, they still believe that they are the best and they are not afraid to say it. I think this school is not an eye catcher for those who are looking for a college with a great campus. Also, the price tag is high, at \$52,000 per year.

The second on my list is also a world renowned school: MIT. This school is another big school located in the Cambridge area. MIT has a very strong math and science department, but that is not the only great feature of this university. They also have a variety of other departments, such as business, that lead the nation. During MIT's info session, I learned of many interesting facts; for example, they recently accepted a 13 year old student, who is a prodigy. I also learned that MIT would support any student who was working on an invention. In terms of visuals, MIT has a nice campus with indoor pools, tennis courts, fitness center, a baseball field, and etc. The student body is fun too. They have people in the school that come up with ideas for pranks. Like Harvard though, MIT has a price tag of \$52, 000 per year.

The next College trip was to Wheaton College, located in Norton, Massachusetts. This school was smaller than the last two and not as fancy, but looked appealing because environment seemed very comfortable and well manicured. Wheaton is a liberal arts school, which has a variety of great departments, such as English, econ, and other science programs. This school has a nice, big basketball court, but does not have a football team. Wheaton had a very high price at \$53,000 per year.

After visiting Wheaton, we visited Brown University, which I found to be very attractive. Located in Providence, Rhode Island, Brown had one of the best campus environments. During the info session, the staff talked about the college process and gave us tips; that made them seem sincere, which really impressed me. I love the fact that you can shop around for class the first week of school if you are not sure which classes you want to take. Brown has a great undergrad program, but their graduate schools are even better.

We also visited the well know Boston based institution: Boston College. BC, like Harvard and MIT, seek some of the strongest students in the world; but it is a school that appealed more to the fellows. During the info session, the admissions officer was very good about explaining our opportunities for college. This school, in my opinion, is better than Harvard. It had beautiful landscaping, with attractive buildings. I found everything about this school to be good. Boston College is a private Jesuit University, with a price tag of \$53, 000.

Brandeis University, located in Waltham, Massachusetts, was the last school we visited this summer. Brandeis is another big college, with many buildings, such as a temple for religious people, and has an attractive view of Boston. But it did have some weird buildings, such as the castle that was built from the outside in. Brandeis is priced at about 53,000 a year.

Although we did not visit it, Colby College, located in Waterville, Maine, was also great liberal arts school. When we were introduced to the school by Dorothy Streett, I found it to be a better school than any of the schools in Boston. But what really caught my attention was their great financial aid program. Not only does Colby give a lot of aid to those who need it, but they also do not include loans into their financial packages. For person like myself, money is an issue when thinking of college; but I willing to do what is necessary to receive a better education.

If I did not join the Nelson Fellowship, I would have never learned about schools like Brandeis University, Brown University, Colby, and even Wheaton College. Although these schools are very expensive, they are some of the best schools in our nation. When applying to colleges, do not sell yourself short, pick the right school that fits you.

COMMENTS ON THE COORDINATOR

By: Indhira Taveras

What can one say about Mavrick Afonso? Would Mavrick be a good coordinator for the fellows? Some had their doubts about dear old Mav taking on the role: "You're too selfish", they would say. Fortunately, that is not the Mavrick we all came to know . . . well, at least not until he's off the clock. Mavrick Afonso is an alum from the 2006 David S. Nelson Fellowship class, who interned under Judge Reginald Lindsay. Judge Lindsay cared deeply about the Nelson Fellows and was always glad to see a new batch of kids come around each year. Although he would see so many new faces each year, Mavrick was an old face he would always remember. Even after the summer of 2006, Judge Lindsay and Mavrick developed a beautiful bond, like father & son. Sadly, Judge Lindsay passed in March of 2009, before he could see Mavrick take on the important role of the coordinator for the fellowship. His passing affected Mavrick greatly; he was one of Mavrick's greatest mentors. But despite losing such an influential figure, Mavrick decided to devote himself to a cause that was close to Judge Lindsay's heart: the David S. Nelson Fellowship.



As a Nelson Fellow, I feel that Mavrick really wants us to make the most of our opportunities. He advises us on very important issues we face, and teaches us valuable skills, such as networking. Mavrick has even taken upon himself to be my mentor, so he can ensure that I can receive essential advice outside of the workplace. I am not the only student that feels strongly about Mavrick thought; many students share my sentiments:

*"Mavrick is a very laid back person. One can learn so many things from him, for example how to network. He's a perfect role model because he comes from place where a lot of us come from. Mavrick is making something of himself, setting the paradigm that if he could do it, we could too."*

-Karla Bonilla-

*"Mavrick Afonso is a hardworking, intelligent man that is extremely dedicated to his fellows and this program."*

-Unique Bridges-

*"Mavrick is a guy with many qualities: Not only is he intelligent and ambitious, he's goofy and a kid at heart. The fellowship would not be what it is without him."*

-Anonymous-

Not only is he devoted to his fellows, but he truly is one of us. He puts his foot down when necessary, but also kids around with us, constantly making us laugh: He connects with us on a whole different level. He has been in our shoes and uses that knowledge to guide us. This summer may have been one of the busiest summers the fellows ever experienced, with all the hard work Mavrick put into preparing meetings and events.



Being one of the first Worcester Fellows, I can truly say that Mavrick has done his best to accommodate everyone in the fellowship. This has been an amazing opportunity for all of us and it would not have happened without the 2009 David S. Nelson Fellowship coordinator: Mavrick (*Mr. I'm going to dock your pay*) Afonso.



# THE CONTRIBUTORS



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MESSAGE FROM THE  
COORDINATOR

Dear 2009 Nelson Fellows,

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the coordinator of your class. I never really expressed this to you often enough, but you all are a distinguished group of scholars who are dynamic and enjoyable to be around. Since the first day that you walked into courtroom 11, you have grown tremendously. I remember the look of curiosity on each of your faces, due to my first impression; I could understand why, I introduced myself as a very peculiar person. But sooner or later you would learn that I loved to be a goof-ball. Throughout the summer, I witness each of you take challenges on and fight through them to be come victorious. Some of you struggled, but myself and other loyal supports were there for you to help you get back on your feet. Towards the end of the program, I was impressed how you all evolved. Some of you came in very shy , but as soon as the stage was offered to you, you preformed strongly and became leaders of the pack; others always impressed my with their leadership skills.

My happiest day was the day that I saw all of you take charge in the courtroom during the annual mock trial. Whether you were a lawyer, witness, or a docket clerk, you stood strong and confident and played your role well. To see you graduate and receive your certificate was the greatest, but also the saddest moment for me. You successfully complete your summer fellowship, but I would no longer help to cultivate your minds: it was time to let you go. As the first class I had the pleasure of guiding, I will never forget you. For you rewarded my time and effort with your presence.

Many have said that I did a great job guiding you all this summer; but I could not take all the credit: you made my job easy by being wonderful people. You all deserve the greater things in life, so it is my sincere hope that you all find the passion and joy in your life. As I said to you all the first time I met you: “My success depends on your success”. Those words still stand true till this day: I am now an advocator at your service. If you are ever need, please do not hesitate to call on a friend.

Sincerely yours,

Mavrick Afonso

