

August 2018  
Issue 22

## 2018 REGINALD C. LINDSAY AND DAVID S. NELSON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS



*“The Nelson Fellowship has shown me that I actually have the power to go out in the world, pursue an education in law, and use that to help people. To say this program has changed my life for the better would be to say the least.”*

**-Cheryl Aikins, 2018 Nelson Fellow**



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***And more!***

*“This experience completely changed my life. When I started this program, I was really quiet and afraid of sharing my opinions but during my time, I learned to be more confident.”*

***-Angel Castillo Pineda,  
2018 Nelson Fellow***



## Federal Defender Office Visit *Sydney Bussiere*

### Meet the Coordinators



#### Véronique

Véronique Similien is a rising senior at Centre College in Kentucky where she majors in Sociology and minors in Social Justice. Véronique was a Nelson Fellow in 2014 and she interned in Judge Casper's chambers. She was Deputy Coordinator last summer and was the Coordinator this summer. She is interested in law and education and will be spending the next semester interning in Senator Elizabeth Warren's Washington D.C office.

#### Adonis

Adonis Pitts is a rising Junior at the College of the Holy Cross where he studies Political Science with a concentration in Africana Studies. He will be working as a Legislative Assistant at the NAACP in Washington DC next semester. He was the Deputy Coordinator this summer and is excited to return as Coordinator next summer.



Upon walking into the Federal Defenders Office one begins to question, "How can they do what they do?" Federal defenders acknowledge that all humans are entitled to certain rights. People with all sorts of backgrounds come across the Federal Defenders Office and yet at the end of the day, all of them emphasize the same thing, their clients are human.

At times, it can be difficult to be a defender because people do not put themselves in their shoes, they do not understand or see the work defenders do on a daily basis. After meeting with several of the attorneys who work at the Federal Defenders office, it has become clear to me that they intend to do good through their work and impact people on a daily basis, despite their difficulties due to the lack of resources they receive compared to federal prosecutors. Federal defenders want to make sure their clients know their voice is being heard in the courtroom, they refuse to let anyone dehumanize their clients through biases or stereotypes. Many of the people who pass through the Federal Defenders Office are often deemed less than human and the attorneys make it one of their goals to humanize their clients as much as possible. Federal defenders work hard to ensure the people standing beside them are treated with dignity by working closely with them and simply listening to their needs and wants. Virtually, the defenders make sure that their clients stay at ease throughout the whole trial process.

Each person who comes to work in the Federal Defenders Office is a dedicated individual who wants to serve the public, whether it is by getting their clients minimal sentences or working their hardest to prove their client's innocence: the federal defenders have an immense amount of passion for their work. The attorneys have admitted to loving their work because of their fondness for their clients. Overall, defenders are just as important as prosecutors, they have empathy for their clients and try to make sure the system stays fair to their clients throughout the trial.



## Civil Rights Class with Jason Wise

### Cheryl Aikins

This summer, the Nelson Fellowship took 3 classes, one of those classes was the Civil Rights class with Jason Wise. I personally did not know what to expect to learn before taking this class because civil rights is a topic that I have researched and come to know very well over the past few years. However, from the very first day of class I realized that this class was going to change my entire perception on civil rights, race, and how American society marginalizes certain groups of people and how this all came to be.

The first day was perhaps one of my favorite days, we started by talking about identity and about the definition of identity. We learned that there is a strong difference between what people see on the outside (race, gender, facial features, etc.) and the traits on the inside of a person. Although the latter is more important, society often judges by what is seen on the outside instead of seeking to learn more about inner traits. We learned that these “outside traits” are often perpetuated by stereotypes and discussed at length how and why stereotypes are dangerous in society.



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After we wrapped up our discussions on identity, we turned our focus to the complex topic of race. We began by trying to define race but ultimately defining race as something that does not exist, an illusion or mirage that society insists on trying to make real. From race stems the idea of racism, which is very real and has always been present in American society. So from race, something that isn’t real, stems racism, a system that has shrouded American society for centuries, from the day the first Africans were captured on their homelands and brought to this country to be made into slaves. In our discussion of race we also talked about how racism was justified and was able to spread so widely because of bad science, science that had been in itself extremely flawed; because of white scientists who stated that black and brown people were inherently inferior based on our outward features. In this “science” many white people found their justification for the horrible and unjust ways they treated black and brown people.



Furthermore, in the last few days of Jason Wise’s Civil Rights class, we began talking about civil rights leaders of the 50’s and 60’s such as Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall, who challenged rigid “separate but equal” laws in education, transportation, and general life. All in all the experience I had in Jason Wise’s class and the things I learned were extremely valuable. I will definitely use this new information in the future and cherish it.



## Law Class and Mock Trial Prep with Mr. Howland *Gloria Bouquet*

With so many of the Nelson Fellows aspiring to have future careers in the legal field, it was a tremendous opportunity to be able to participate in a law class and mock trial. Essentially, Mr. Howland not only taught us about the disciplines of the law but also trained us to think like real lawyers. In our law class we learned about specific cases, legal terminology, and discussed the law with each other. We were prepared and given insight into what real trial law looks like.

Leading up to the mock trial each Fellow picked a role to fill and engage in when the trial day came. Each of us held a responsibility, whether as an attorney or a witness, and we all understood the importance of each person. Through this mock trial experience, we were able to write like real lawyers and prove a side of a case to the best of our ability.

This summer, a very fascinating case fell upon us. We have the great opportunity of being prosecutors in the case of Tennessee v. Terry King. As prosecutors we were accountable for proving beyond a reasonable doubt that Terry King murdered Elvis Presley.

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*“Each of us held a responsibility, whether as an attorney or a witness, and we all understood the importance of each person.”*

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Everyone knows for a fact that Elvis Presley died from a drug overdose. However, there are many facts to this case. One includes Terry King (the defendant), Elvis’s former friend and business partner stealing Elvis’s money which ascends the two into a hostile fight. Consequentially, Elvis threatens to take Terry King out of his will and later Mr. King writes in his diary about potentially killing Elvis by slipping the drug Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) into his drink and causing an overdose that looks like a heart attack.



It was a lovely fortuity to discuss, prepare, and prosecute this engrossing case with the help of Mr. Howland. There are so many facts and nuances to this specific case which we have worked on. This class and this mock trial preparation has taught me and all the other Fellows that every case is grey. Nothing in the law is strictly black and white. Everything is nuanced but as lawyers, whether prosecutor or defense, one is held accountable for finding the truth in it all. I am thankful for Mr. Howland and this lesson that is applicable not only to the law but to life. His charismatic nature, love for the law and education transferred well to us in this class and we are all immensely grateful.

## U.S. Attorney's Panel *Victor Del Carmen*

The U.S. Attorney's Panel was undoubtedly one of the most intriguing experiences and talks that we had the pleasure of attending while being Fellows at the courthouse. While attending this panel, we were exposed to the many distinct careers that we would hopefully have the opportunity of taking as we choose our law career paths. This office is one that is very distinguished for its work protecting and prosecuting federal crimes committed in the state of Massachusetts. While speaking to the panel, we learned that there are essentially two units or divisions for which the U.S. Attorney's Office is split up and that is the criminal and civil divisions. The panel mainly constituted individuals from the criminal division. We learned that one of the most brutal realities that occur in our neighborhoods and city can be child exploitation and also distribution of drugs. Cases like such have created a large impact in our communities and are subjects that attorneys within this office hold very dearly. The attorneys spoke with so much passion in their voices when we asked about drug and child exploitation cases and what they do in certain situations. The other which we spoke about was the civil division and we saw how they are attempting to protect those who are discriminated against or feel that the odds are against them and that can always be seen as a step in the right direction.

The attorneys who work for this office are passionate individuals who no matter the pay or sacrifice that needs to be made, they stay true to themselves and to the people that they serve to assure that justice can be served. These individuals wake up everyday determined to serve what they believe is right and that is a passion well translated by them when we spoke to them. They made us all laugh, giggle and even frown but all with the realism of their jobs and the descriptions of how important their work is and why others should join as well. An opportunity like this for us Fellows was well appreciated because not many young people such as ourselves have the chance to sit down with U.S. Attorneys and actually speak about their day to day or even receive advice on our future law careers. I wouldn't trade any of that for anything in the world and for such, I know that me and the rest of the Fellows are forever thankful.



## Public Speaking Class with Jamele Adams *Jason Nunez*

In the days leading up to the first day of the fellowship, the first thing we were to do that stood out the most to me and stirred mixed feelings within me was, of course, Public Speaking with Jamele Adams. When day one finally arrived, there I sat in a courtroom jury box whilst still relatively unfamiliar with the environment and setting; the formal and righteous connotation of the courtroom ate at me. As the other 11 Fellows and I anxiously waited in silence for class to commence, I speculated what would occur in the following moments once Jamele arrived. But what did occur, was far from what I anticipated. Breaking the ominous silence of the courtroom is a man, wearing a T-shirt, shorts and Air Jordan sneakers with a large and untamed beard. We all stared at him before he engaged into a powerful spoken word piece that left us baffled. This is how we were introduced into the amazing and personable character that is Jamele Adams and his Public Speaking class.

We quickly got the gist of how Jamele functioned. We were immediately forced and encouraged to break out of our comfort zones and speak in front of our peers whom we were still unacquainted with. Emphasizing that his class would be a judgement free zone, we were constantly timed in producing our own quality reflections and spoken word pieces after hearing Jamele perform one of his. It was through this that us Fellows started to become more comfortable with each other and open up through speaking more in front of each other.

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Once Jamele established a more comfortable environment that everyone felt they could participate in, he threw us into a debate, the first of many. We were expected to utilize the speaking tools that Jamele had briefly introduced to us. Our first debate was sloppy. But it was quickly followed by preparation for a second debate which would take place the next day. When the time came, it was significantly more impressive than our first one. The same principle applied for every debate leading up until our last one. We were told that our last class would take place at Brandeis University, where Jamele is the Dean of Students. Therefore we knew we would be stepping into territory he was more familiar with. As we walked in with our street clothes, we were met by Jamele, who was dressed in elegant wear down to the socks. This was contrary to the Jamele we were used to that would wear casual attire. At Brandeis we had class in a smart room where we sat down and addressed many sociocultural issues occurring in our society and followed up with our last spoken word about “Black Girl

Magic” and shortly after concluded with our last debate on “Love vs Hate: Which is more powerful?” Our two weeks with Jamele was so intuitive and condensed that I will certainly take away every last bit of it. There are so many things I will do differently after being a part of Jamele’s class. I significantly reduced the amount of filler language I use in everyday conversation such as “like” or “um”. I learned the flaws within the observable scope of my public speaking habits and how to correct them. I was able to ever so slightly broaden my vocabulary along with learning key values and characteristics that are essential to improving on your writing and speaking abilities and how to incorporate them into every day matters. This was truly an experience that I can say changed my approach to public speaking and eliminated a negative stigma I had attached to it. Not only did Jamele’s class improve individual qualities within each respective Fellow, but it brought us all closer together and set the tone for the rest of the amazing program we had just begun.



## Black Women's Radical Exhibit at the ICA

### Royal Harrison

This year as a 2018 Nelson Fellow, I've personally met a lot of people and had so many great life changing experiences.

My second day, I was introduced to the ICA, which stands for "Institute of Contemporary Art" located in the Seaport. Contemporary art is the art of today, produced by artists who work in a globally influenced culturally diverse and technologically advancing world.

During our time at the ICA, we got to see the "Black Women's Radical Exhibit", which was amazing and truly inspiring to me. "We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85" examines the political, social, cultural, and aesthetic priorities of women of color during the emergence of second wave feminism.



What I found to be the most interesting and significant piece of art work was "Ubi girl from Malibu Jones." Lois Mailous Jones was an influential artist and teacher during her seven-decade career.

Jones was one of the most notable figures to attain notoriety for her art while living as a black expat in Paris during the 1930s and 1940s. The "Ubi Girl from Tai Region" painting, depicts a young girl from the Tail Region of Siberia whose face is painted for the initiation into womanhood.

The Institute of Contemporary Art really caught my interest because the exhibit has been made to show the art created by black women that society tries to shut out and disregard.

Favoring radical transformation over reformist gestures, these activist artists wanted more than just recognition within the existing professional art world. Instead their aim was to revolutionize the art world itself, making space for women and varied communities of people it had largely ignored.



## Judge's Chambers *Yvette Oriakhi*

The Nelson Fellows were each assigned an individual judge where we had the opportunity to spend time in our judge's chambers. There are two types of judges, magistrate and district court judges. Magistrate judges are appointed by district court judges who are appointed by the President. I was assigned to a magistrate judge's chambers. In my judge's chambers there is a judge, a career law clerk who works as a law clerk for life or as long as they want to, a clerk, who runs the show in the courtroom, and a term law clerk who works at the judge's chamber for one year. There are also law students who normally take night classes and summer law clerks who work as interns for the summer.



While in my judge's chambers, I had the chance to meet six incredibly hard-working people who taught me to always look at things from different perspectives. I also got to see my judge in action in the courtroom as she managed a program called C.A.R.E. C.A.R.E. is for people who have served time in prison and are out on supervised release. Most of the people in the C.A.R.E. program have "serious addiction issues" and the chances of them getting back in prison, statistically, are very high. The individuals in the C.A.R.E. program are drug tested regularly and the probation officers keep a close eye on them to see that they are progressing forward. The goal of C.A.R.E is to keep the individuals sober, not only so they can get off the hook but because they want to

be sober, and to help them get employment and to be law abiding.

Attending a gathering myself, I saw a man who came to give a speech to others who were going through the program about his experience. He admitted that it was not easy for him, he admitted that he had relapsed and that he lost his remaining family because he relapsed, but in the end he persevered and became sober for himself and for his family. Although it might be hard for people not to fall into old patterns, there are others who know what they have to lose and are willing to make an effort not to fall into old patterns. In the session, I witnessed people who were really progressing and trying hard to be better for themselves. I noticed that they wanted a better life for themselves because they acknowledged their wrong decisions were affecting the people around them. In attending that session, I realized that even judges and probation officers care about people who have made the wrong decisions and are willing to help and support them as much as they can.

If I could start all over from day one of this program just to relive the experience again, I would. Spending time in my judge's chamber was a very exciting and fun learning experience for me.



## Probation and Pre-Trial Services *Libby Jollotta*

In my time with Probation and Pre-Trial Services, I had the pleasure of spending a full week with each of the three units in the office. In my first week I was with Field Services. I learned about location monitoring and things officers have to do out in the field like visits to probationers' homes. As you may be able to guess by the title "Field Services", these officers are not always in the office, but they are always working hard. In my time with these officers, their phones were constantly buzzing with their probationers checking in, asking questions, or coming to them with their concerns. It was great to see that these officers were not just checked in with when it was required, they were also who the probationers would go to in tough times because they really trusted them and had a good relationship with them. While this might not be the situation 100% of the time, most officers had good relationships with their probationers. Even if there was a level of distrust in the beginning, the probationers grew to trust their officer because they are great people

*"It was great to see that these officers were not just checked in with when it was required, they were also who the probationers would go to in tough times because they really trusted them..."*



In the Hybrid Unit, one of the things that really stood out to me was when I had the opportunity to write a bail report. The bail report gives some background information on the defendant and assesses whether they are a risk of flight or danger to the community. I was given an example of a bail report, some information, and sent on my way to try it out. Once I had finished, the officer I was working with did some editing and followed up with me. She showed me what I did well and what needed improvement. It was really cool that she took the time to help me learn and do meaningful work instead of just doing it herself and not trusting the intern with it. It was rewarding to see that something I wrote (with a few edits, of course) will be going to a judge.

In my time in Court Services, I also had the opportunity to do real, meaningful work. I sat in on a presentence interview and tried to follow along with the questions the probation officer asked. The presentence report not only sometimes recommends a sentence to the judge, but it also has a lot of the defendant's personal information. It can help a judge to understand why someone may have committed a crime, address any help the offender may need, and can help to make the offender seem more human instead of just a criminal. After the interview was conducted, I actually wrote up the report. The report contains really personal and confidential information so it felt good that I was trusted with it. This report is again something that will have a meaningful impact on a defendant's case.

I really had the opportunity to learn that so much more goes into the behind the scenes of a criminal case than what the public sees. Probation helps defendants with substance abuse treatment, mental health, housing, and so much more. Criminals are humans and they need support to assimilate back into the community and in order to not recidivate. The Probation Office works to help offenders better themselves and to make our communities safer.



## C.A.R.E. Session with Judge Kelley *Layth Hert*

The Court Assisted Recovery Effort is a one-year program separated into four, three-month phases. It is designed so that people on supervised release or probation maintain sobriety, stay employed and law-abiding. The supervisees are presided over by a magistrate judge, with whom they meet on a weekly basis. They are rewarded for their efforts and commitment to the C.A.R.E. program, and those who complete it are rewarded with a year off of their supervised release term. The program is set to promote public safety and the supervisees' rehabilitation. C.A.R.E. is very intensive since the participants tend to meet weekly and devote a lot of time and effort in order to comfortably lead their lives once they are supervision-free. It is a wonderful way for people struggling with drug addiction or who are anxious about employment to stay in control to lead the best lives that they possibly can – it really humanizes the participants, rather than treating them as criminals or convicts. I think that the program is very important because it shows that courthouse employees, such as the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Probation Office, and the various judges, care a tremendous amount, and want to help the participants improve their quality of life.



*“It is a wonderful way for people struggling with drug addiction or who are anxious about employment to stay in control to lead the best lives that they possibly can – it really humanizes the participants, rather than treating them as criminals or convicts.”*

The Lindsay Fellows had the chance to sit through and watch a C.A.R.E. session with Judge Kelley. It was such a great opportunity to see the participants in person, and really observe how each person involved in the program has a different story. Prior to the session, Judge Kelley gave us a brief explanation and some background of the program and some information on the various supervisees that are involved in this session. Through watching the C.A.R.E. session, I noticed that the people in the program do want to get better and lead the best lives that they possibly can, but it can sometimes be difficult, especially with people who have struggled with drug addiction; it was reassuring to see them putting in the maximum effort, and trying their best and hardest. There were quite a few participants that have found a steady job and/or are drug-free after a lot of hard work. It was nice to see some of the improvements and efforts that these people have been through – it was definitely inspiring. The C.A.R.E. session really opened my eyes to the support system that these supervisees are a part of, and how much the judges and various offices around the courthouse genuinely care about self-improvement.



## Legal Research & Writing Class *An Nguyen*

If anyone ever asks me about the toughest challenges I've enjoyed the most as a Lindsay Fellow, I would say taking Legal Research & Writing class with Alexis Hamdan without thinking twice.

When the other Lindsay Fellows and I first met Alexis during our orientation, she had already challenged us by telling us how hard the class might be, and told us some of the class policies she expected us to know. In addition, Alexis gave us two heavy piles of two criminal and civil cases to read. She also assigned us chapters from the book to prepare for the first few days of classes.

Despite Alexis's intensity, I was very impressed and already knew that her teaching would significantly contribute to my learning experience, and I was right! Alexis is tough, strict, and straightforward. But to be fair, she is also very intelligent, open-minded, and always wants her students to succeed. During the three-and-a-half-hour class (sometimes six), Alexis tried to make it more interesting by bringing us candy, and asked us complex questions to make us think critically.

Occasionally, she also used Socratic method to have us define some "must-know" legal terms. Alexis always made sure all concepts were clear to everyone, and she would repeat over and over again until everyone understood. Additionally, Alexis always responded to us with counter-arguments for any issues that we came up with to make us think like a lawyer and be able to see both sides of an issue.

Despite her tough exterior, Alexis is thoughtful, caring and genuinely wanted us to excel.

I particularly recall the one-on-one meeting with Alexis to review my writing sample. It was intimidating at first to see all the red markings on my paper. However, I really appreciated her for pointing out my mistakes and advising me what I should do to improve my writing skills for future papers. Along with that, Alexis also gave me an Aspen Handbook for Legal Writers for those whose first language is not English. All the skills and knowledge Alexis has given to me provides me with a strong foundation that could be beneficial with any career path I choose in the future.

I admire Alexis's willingness to never give up, her determination to achieve what she wants, and the way she forced her students to think reflectively. She taught me a great deal of discipline, motivated me to work harder, and inspired me to pursue a career in the legal field.

Taking this class confirmed my decision to go to law school after college. I know this unique opportunity plays a huge role in my learning experience, and I am forever grateful for that!





## The Federal Public Defender's Office

### Brianna Samuels

The Federal Defender's Office was an interesting change of pace from my time spent in the courthouse. A public defender is assigned to clients who have financial struggles that would make it impossible for them to afford their own attorney. This means that they only take on criminal cases. Contrary to the mainstream belief that public defenders do not actually care about the clients they represent, the attorneys in this office have proved to be quite the opposite. They are some of the most caring, dedicated, and hard-working individuals I have ever met.



Our supervisor, Jessica Thrall, is one of the trial attorneys in the Federal Defender's Office. Upon our arrival, she took us to meet everyone in the office. She made sure we got the chance to speak to trial attorneys, investigators, legal research attorneys, and paralegals. It was especially interesting to be able to see each of the different parts that make up the office and how they interact with each other for the greater good of the client.

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*“The work that is being done in the Public Defender's Office is the work that helps the community. When I envisioned myself taking on a career in law, this is the kind of work I hope to be doing.”*

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As a public defender, you have to be personable. This is important as a public defender because it is crucial that your client trusts you, and trusts that you have their best interest at heart. When we would go to court with our supervisor, we would often get the opportunity to have genuine conversations with the clients. One of the clients we got to speak to has been working with the Federal Public Defender's Office since 2004. Although he had worked with different attorneys throughout this time, he agrees that they are all just as hard-working, dedicated, and caring as the last.

I also had the opportunity to see just how much work goes into supporting a client even after their case has been closed. One of the projects I worked on specifically focused on the “after care” of a client. After-care is taking care of the needs of your client and their family even after the case has closed. This was especially interesting for me because I had not realized how much of an obligation an attorney still had to their client after the court proceedings had ended. Some of my tasks included reaching out to a client's loved ones by phone, putting together packages of documents to be shipped out, and keeping track of clients as they are moved to different detention facilities.

The job of a federal defender is not easy, and it does not help when most of the cases they take seem to be stacked against them. But that has never discouraged any of these attorneys. The work that is being done in the Public Defender's Office is the work that helps the community. When I envisioned myself taking on a career in law, this is the kind of work I hope to be doing. I am grateful for the experience I had working with clients and the attorneys in the Public Defender's Office.



## My Life, My Choice Presentation *Gamael Chalvire*

Most of us that live in today's society know about sex trafficking and other ways that people can take control of somebody's life. However, I can say for myself and some Nelson fellows that I've talked to, we never got to learn about victims of commercial sexual exploitation before the My Life, My Choice presentation. On July 11, 2018, a lady name Nicki Valila completely opened my eyes to a serious topic that is being completely ignored by most people.

My Life, My Choice is a survivor-led program that helps empower, train, and advocate for victims/survivors and allies of sexual exploitation.

When I learned that the presentation was going to happen earlier, I did not know what to expect. However, when I got to the courtroom, I learned information that impacted the way I will act and speak to people in the future when it comes to sex trafficking. Before, when I thought about sex trafficking, I thought about it as big illegal organizations kidnapping women in the streets and bringing men underground and selling them at an auction or something of that sort. I learned that sex trafficking could be happening in my own community without anyone even noticing. It can happen in schools, on public transportation, on social media and much more...

Let's say for instance that there is one girl at a high school. She does not have a job, but always comes to school with really expensive clothing or accessories that you know she cannot afford or she is coming to school with bruises all over her body or weird tattoos. When people ask her about it, she gets nervous and gives explanations that don't add up and also misses a lot of days of school. That person could be a victim of commercial sexual exploitation/human trafficking. I learned from My Life, My Choice that there are some ways to help that person such as talking to an adult that they trust and encouraging them to seek help. You can also call 1-888-373-788 or DCF anonymously and there will be someone available 24/7 to help that person in whatever they might be going through.

If you are a victim of commercial sexual exploitation/ human trafficking, you are NOT alone, there are people/organizations like My Life, My Choice out there that are willing to do whatever they can to help fight back. The great thing about My Life, My Choice is that the people helping are also victims of sex trafficking themselves, which means they most likely can relate to your experiences. Don't stay silent, look for help.



## Dorchester Courthouse Visit *Nazadeen Knight*

Being in the Moakley courthouse alongside district and magistrate judges, even though you know the judges are serving our communities, it may not feel like that because they have such high positions. When we went to the Dorchester Courthouse, that sense of serving and integration into the community was very present. We had the opportunity to speak to many different people with different roles in the courthouse, but one of the things that really stuck with me is that everyone was either from Dorchester or had some connection to the neighborhood. Each had come back to that particular courthouse to work with the community that impacted them in some way. As someone who is interested in law because of the desire to work with underrepresented or underserved populations, this really stood out to me.

While at the courthouse, we had the opportunity to speak with Judge Georges and Judge Tynes, who were both Boston natives. Being able to talk to two successful judges with similar background stories to mine made the idea of going to law school and having a successful legal career more realistic. We were also able to sit through court procedures for both judges. Judge Tynes was presiding over a restraining order case involving a teenage girl. The girl was obviously nervous and worried about possible situations in the future. Judge Tynes looked the young girl in her eyes and told her if anything happened, she needed to tell her mother and the school administration. In addition, he told her if necessary she was to report anything to the police, no matter how small the issue may be. That she was not a bother to the police and that she had a large support system available to her.

This moment was very powerful to me. Judge Tynes didn't give her a generic answer about reporting any incidents. He spoke to the young lady directly and clearly while maintaining genuine concern for her safety. Even though he was talking with the young lady, that small moment of authenticity and connection made me feel as though he was talking to me. Seeing Judge Tynes interact with the young lady made me realize how important it is to connect and understand the people/communities that one serves. It also reminded me that no matter how high a position a person may hold, if they are not personable and are unable to connect with people, their messages will not be received properly.

In addition, the visit helped me to understand the importance of community courts. Many people and communities as a whole have some animosity towards the criminal justice system. While it may seem small or even expected, there is a sense of comfortability and lessened anxiety about reporting to court when it's located in a familiar place. I believe that the accessibility of community courts are a key component to creating a better relationship between our communities and the criminal justice system. The work that community court leaders are doing is not going unnoticed and I am incredibly grateful that they have dedicated themselves to serving our beloved city this way.





## Meeting Boston Police Commissioner William Gross *Meicail Constant*



I remember walking into the police station and being very surprised because we didn't see any donuts on the desk or police officers running up and down the building doing paperwork. Basically, all the misconceptions that people would think of a police station were disproved. We met with someone from the Crime Scene Investigation unit and she taught us all the different techniques on how to detect someone by fingerprint or DNA. Also, she taught us that DNA fingerprints can come in three different ways such as loops, swirl, and curves. Furthermore, we learned that there are different terms for weapons depending on the crimes they are used for—like invading a home or doing criminal acts. For example, when a screwdriver is used to break inside a house, it is called a burglarious tool.

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*“Gross seems like a leader who is going to change the community and will hopefully change the BPD’s approach to the community.”*

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Additionally, we went to see the FIRST African American Commissioner of Boston Police Headquarters, William Gross, who spoke to us about his journey from working in a farm with his grandmother in Maryland to being the very first African American Police Commissioner in Boston. He described to us how his persistence and perseverance got him to where he is today. Gross started as a young trainee and joined the force as a patrolman in 1985. Over the next decade, he patrolled in the Downtown, East Boston, Dorchester, South Boston, and Charlestown areas. He had additional shifts in the gang and drug control units, as well as the department’s training academy, before being promoted as a sergeant in 2004. Gross became a Deputy Superintendent in 2008 and did a citywide night commander duties in 2012, where he worked closely with the community members and groups to address violence in Boston’s neighborhoods. Gross told us that he has a very strong background in youth violence prevention and is committed to diversity and has been working to make sure that the Police Department reflects the community that it serves. Additionally, Gross said he went to many community events in his role as Superintendent, talking with young people and engaging in conversations about police-community relations and community policing.

Gross gave us words of wisdom and inspiration. He gave us his support and insight of never giving up no matter what life throws at you. Gross seems like a leader who is going to change the community and will hopefully change the BPD’s approach to the community. He will hopefully make sure that he treats the community and his workplace fairly within Boston. I believe that Gross will be a great example to the youth and change the community misconceptions about how the police force works. He finished by telling us, “You guys will be leaders in the future and will change the world.” Our meeting with him was inspiring overall.

## Juvenile Court Visit *Jennie Chang*

White floors, white walls, and white light are the first things you notice about the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse, otherwise known as the juvenile court in Boston. It was a lot quieter than expected. There seemed to be an unspoken agreement to speak softly. The building sobered me up from the sweltering heat the Nelson Fellows had to endure. However, what was most striking was going down to the basement, to lock up.

The place immediately reminded me of a zoo. It was completely grey. An officer had showed us around lock up. He showed us where people were dropped off and explained the procedure of how people were shackled and how they were checked for items. We were quickly taken to the other side of the area, where a cell was opened and another was occupied.

I went into the open cell and I immediately said, "I will go insane in here." The lights were bright yellow and that made you question whether it was day or night outside. The high ceilings made your voice echo all around you. The room was no bigger than a small bathroom. It was isolating and cramped. I had imagined myself in that cell locked up and just thought, "All I would do is cry."

The Fellows were chatting and observing the cells around us. We had asked questions to the officer. "How many people can be in a cell?" Up to six. "Can the people in cells have books?" They're not supposed to, but if they have one, we'll let them keep it. And so on and so forth. Watching the officer answer questions made me realize how detached the officers were in lock up. He was unbothered by the person in the cell near us. The interaction I had with the officer made me realized this is his normal. To see grey walls and see kids locked up every day.

In hindsight, I wished I had questioned his decision to bring us near the cells with a kid in one of them. I wondered why he had brought us to that little corner of cells instead of the ones down the hall with no one in them. I also wondered why he bothered to bring us down at all, when he knew there were still people in the cells.

Quickly, we were ushered upstairs to speak with Migdalia Nalls. She is a former Nelson Fellow, who became a juvenile prosecutor, then later became a juvenile defense lawyer. She is an inspiring woman, who truly shows how much she cares about her clients. Her story was so moving as she spoke about her childhood and why she decided to go into juvenile court.

Leaving the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse, I think back about the different kids that have to go to court. I think about their futures and how uneasy life can be. The trip solidified my desire to work in public service and help as many people as I can.



## Meeting Former U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz *Phoebe Normandia*



Carmen Ortiz, the former U.S. Attorney for the state of Massachusetts has prosecuted the likes of Whitey Bulger and the Boston Marathon bombers. When she was a kid she wanted to be a lawyer because of the TV show, Perry Mason. Then as she got older, she saw that the law could be used to help people. She grew up with Puerto Rican parents who didn't speak English. Ortiz says that they taught her that if you work hard you can get what you want. After she graduated from law school she took care of her high school aged sister when her parents got sick. She says that she is trying to fix the problems with the criminal justice system from the inside. That's one of the reasons Ortiz became a prosecutor, she wanted the victims to see that there was someone like them that was fighting for them.

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She moved from a private practice to the U.S. Attorney's office. There she applied to be the U.S. Attorney. She was confirmed unanimously and served for 7 years. Ortiz knows what it's like to be discriminated against. She remembers instances earlier in her career at law firms where she had to deal with sexism. She also has had to deal with the negative perceptions people tend to have because she is Puerto Rican. She says she's often had to work twice as hard because of stereotypes. When asked how she dealt with instances like this she says that you can't be limited by stereotypes or by people's perceptions of you.

Ortiz believes that being a lawyer is a tough job, but one of the ways she gets through that is by remembering that she is helping people every day. That makes it easier to not bring the emotional aspect of work home, and to stay positive about the job. The only thing she wishes she knew before becoming a lawyer and the U.S. Attorney was how public the job would be. She wasn't a hundred percent ready for the amount of publicity she would have, but she has managed to grow accustomed to it and to the job. She takes care of herself by helping others. She says she thrives on taking care of others, especially family and friends. That's one of the ways that she deals with the trials and tribulations that accompanied the job. Another thing she wished she'd done differently was not take things so personally. She says that it's just the job, and sometimes people will say things about things she had to do as the U.S. Attorney. If she had taken the things they had said less personally the job would have been a lot easier. One reason Ortiz made the switch from the public sector to the private sector was for the freedom. She had more freedom to do what she wants and work on the cases she wants. Carmen Ortiz is a formidable lawyer and an inspiration to every little girl who wants to grow up to be a lawyer.



## Community Dispute Settlement Center *Angel Castillo Pineda*

The goal of mediation is to find a solution together so as to not make the problem bigger. That is what mediation is for, mediation helps people solve their problems and differences.

I did not know this kind of place existed until I went there with the Nelson and Lindsay Fellows. I did not know we could have skills to learn how to deal with conflict. When I have a conflict with anyone, I usually get really angry and start expressing my anger in negative ways. However, when I went to the CDSC, they taught us that there are a lot of tools to express your emotions without causing harm.

We went to the CDSC for two days and the instructors gave us a better understanding of what conflict meant and how to deal with it in many positive ways instead of fighting. First, we introduced ourselves to get to know each other more. Then, we reviewed Conflict Escalation and how aggressive a conflict can get if you don't have the right tool for it. The main four tools to deal with problem are: avoid, collaborate, accommodate and assert. By using these tools, one can be in less trouble and be more focused on making important decisions.

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One example of this would be one's grades. Knowing that there are skills to help deal with conflict helps us concentrate on important things such as studying for better grades. With those skills, one is more likely to not have conflict and be able to have more time to study. We do not want to be thinking about a conflict while we are preparing for a test. With these skills, we are better able to achieve our goals.

In session two, we learned about mediation and its main goals. Some of these goals are: solving conflict, making both sides happy, and the satisfaction of parties. The mediation process is: setting the stage and making both parties comfortable so they can share how they feel, then, as a team, they have to find the issues and process it. Then both parties have to resolve the issue and make a deal.

Something to consider is that we all have different backgrounds and family styles and it is important to know that there's a great deal of skills to use with any conflict you are going through.

At the end, the Nelson and Lindsay Fellows came in a group to work together. We realized that there are many ways to have a happy life and deal with conflict. Conflict is extremely hard to avoid sometimes, but with the right skills it can be easy to solve. Without a doubt, this was one of the best experiences we as Nelson and Lindsay Fellows had.



## Working in Chief Judge Saris' Chambers

*Lornex Rono*

Orientation day was finally upon us and I was both nervous and excited to meet other fellows and to get introduced to my chambers. After orientation, all the Fellows were given an opportunity to go to our respective chambers, to meet the Judge and the law clerks that we would be working with for the summer. Upon arrival at Judge Chief Saris' chambers, I immediately felt comfortable. Everyone was so eager to meet me and welcome me to the chambers. Judge Saris welcomed me to her office whereby we took some time to get to know one another. She was genuinely interested in making sure that I got the most out of my time in her chambers and she reminded me that she was a resource that I could always turn to. My placement with Judge Saris was both overwhelming and exciting. I acknowledged how privileged I was to have this opportunity to intern for such an amazing woman whose work is extremely admirable.

Sentencing is one of the major topics within the legal field that intrigues me and my placement with

Chief Judge Saris meant I had the opportunity to learn more about this subject. After watching different sentencing prior to being a Fellow, I often questioned what goes behind the reasoning of a Judge when making a decision that determines a person's life. One of the projects that I worked on during my time in chambers was evaluating a case and trying to determine what sentence I would give to the defendant if I was the Judge presiding over the case. This project challenged me intellectually and forced me to think about the different factors that can be considered when it comes to sentencing. It pushed me to really think about the balance between following the law, humanizing the defendant and putting their character into consideration. After this project, I had a very productive conversation with Judge Saris about the case and how even for her, a well experienced Judge in this area, the decision was extremely difficult. It was so insightful to learn the different reasons that play a role in a sentencing, it was even more meaningful coming from Judge Saris who is very knowledgeable in this field.



Everyone in the chambers was willing to teach me different things within the court system. I had several conversations with the law clerks; these conversations ranged from the way the American court system works to law school applications and to life advice. As a rising senior in college who is planning to take some time off, it was extremely helpful to learn about the different legal opportunities that I



have access to. On my last day at Judge Saris' chambers, she took time to discuss my career path with me and the different options that I should consider prior to applying to law school. She was looking forward to my success in the legal field and gave me great advice that I will carry with me to law school and beyond. Interning at Judge Saris' chambers was an amazing experience that I will forever be grateful for. It was great to be surrounded by positive and intelligent people who are so committed to see me succeed and are willing to help me every step of the way.

# Meet the 2018 Nelson Fellows:



**Angel Castillo Pineda** is a rising junior at East Boston High School and interned in Judge O'Toole's chambers.



**Cheryl Aikins** is a rising senior at South High Community School and interned in Judge Zobel's chambers.



**Gamaël Chalviré** is a rising senior at Excel High School in South Boston and interned in Judge Sorokin's chambers.



**Gloria Bouquet** is a rising senior at Boston Latin Academy and interned in Judge Saylor's chambers.



**Jason Nunez** is a rising senior at Worcester North High School and interned in Judge Gorton's chambers.



**Jennie Chang** is a rising senior at Boston Latin Academy and interned in Judge Burrough's chambers.





**Meicail Constant** is a rising senior at Dearborn STEM Academy and interned in Judge Casper's chambers.



**Phoebe Normandia** is a rising junior at Boston Latin Academy and interned in Chief Judge Saris' chambers.



**Royal Harrison** is a rising senior at West Roxbury Academy and interned in Judge Young's chambers.



**Sydney Bussiere** is a rising first year at Bowdoin College and interned in Judge Boal's chambers.



**Victor Del Carmen Pena** is a rising first year at University of Massachusetts Amherst and interned in Judge Cabell's chambers.



**Yvette Oriakhi** is a rising junior at Urban Science Academy and interned in Judge Kelley's chambers.

# Meet the 2018 Lindsay Fellows:



**An Nguyen** is a rising junior at Bridgewater State University where she majors in Political Science and minors in Psychology.



**Brianna Samuels** is a rising senior at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth where she majors in Crime and Justice Studies.



**Layth Hert** is a rising junior at Boston University where he majors in Psychology.



**Libby Jollotta** is a rising senior at Bentley University where she majors in Management and minors in Law.



**Lornex Rono** is a rising senior at Boston University where she majors in International Relations and African Studies.



**Nazadeen Knight** is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina Charlotte where she majors in Criminal Justice and Political Science and minors in American Studies.



## TO DONATE:

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

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

## Ginny Hurley Memorial Scholarship



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

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

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

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

A special thank you to teachers Alexis Hamdan, Jerry Howland, Jamele Adams, and Jason Wise who have consistently worked closely with both fellowships. We would like to thank them for their support and dedication. Thank you for a successful summer!

Thank you Judge Dein and Judge Casper for overseeing the fellowships, and Carolyn Meckbach for coordinating the programs. We appreciate your dedication and efforts!



## THANK YOU!

Cheryl Lindsay

Alexis Hamdan

Jamele Adams

Jason Wise

Gerald Howland

Nancy Hurley

Joyce Hurley

Gail Packer and staff at Community Dispute Settlement Center

Migdalia Nalls, Esq.

Taisha Sturdivant, Esq.

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

Bottom Line, Boston

The Posse Foundation

Summer Search, Boston

Lisa White, and Library Staff

Lissy Medvedow, Boston College Law Rappaport Center

Lon Povich, Governor Baker's Chief Legal Counsel, and Staff

Miriam Conrad, Federal Defender, and Staff

Christopher Maloney, Chief U.S. Probation Officer, and Staff

Andrew E. Lelling, US Attorney, and Staff

Chief Justice Melvin Hoffman, U.S. Bankruptcy Court

Carmen Ortiz, former U.S. Attorney

William Gross, Boston Police Department Commissioner

Maria D'Addieco, U.S. Probation Office

Nikki Valila, My Life My Choice

John Gibbons, U.S. Marshal, and Staff

Robert Farrell, USDC Clerk, and Staff

Jonathan Handler, and staff at Day Pitney LLC

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Vanessa O'Connor, Goodwin Proctor LLP

Sherin & Lodgen LLP

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Shawn McShay, Boston College School of Law

Adam Foss, Center for Prosecutor Integrity

Corey Saunders, WCVB-TV Channel 5 Boston, and Staff

Hon. David Barron

Shaneka Davis, Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association

Jermaine Kidd, Esq.

Chambers' Staff, Law Clerks, and Interns

Doris Fitzpatrick, Annabel Rodriguez, Esq., MJ Bastien, and

the numerous other Fellowship Alumni who shared their knowledge, experience and support.