

# 2022 Reginald C. Lindsay & David S. Nelson Fellowship Programs

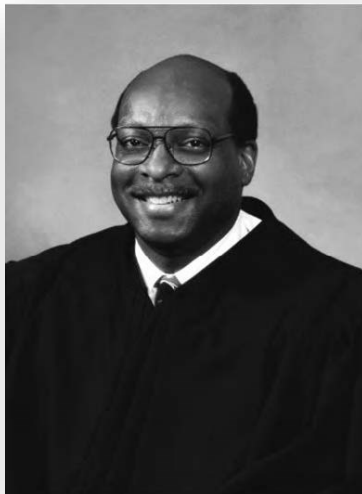
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Judge David S. Nelson

*"I wouldn't give up the experience I had in this Fellowship for anything. I learned, I observed, I spoke, and I wrote. Everything I did in this Fellowship changed me for the better: it inspired me. I felt like I grew so much, my younger self would not recognize me. This Fellowship provided me with insights on what it's like working in the legal field and it has motivated me even more to pursue my short-term and long-term goals. I can't thank everyone enough for believing in me and my abilities."*

- **Jamileisha Trejo**, 2022 Nelson Fellow



Judge Reginald C. Lindsay

*"What an experience this summer has provided for me. The Lindsay Fellowship has exceeded my expectations, these past nine weeks has been a jaw dropping, humbling experience."*

*There are so many words that can describe my experience as a Fellow, but one stands out the most. **Exposure.**"*

- **Samy Dubuisson**, 2022 Lindsay Fellow

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## Meet the Coordinators!



This year's Lead Coordinator is Cheryl Aikins (pictured on the left), a rising senior at Suffolk University studying Finance. Cheryl was a Nelson Fellow in 2018 and served as the program's Deputy Coordinator in the summer of 2021. This year's Deputy Coordinator is Samantha Roszczenko (pictured on the right), a rising junior at UMass Boston with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy/Public Policy and a minor in English. Samantha was a Nelson Fellow in 2019 and interned in the Clerk's Office in the summer of 2021.

Samantha and Cheryl's main goal this summer was to build upon their knowledge and experience with the Fellowship. They were truly intentional with the speakers and events they filled up the Fellowship calendars with and strived to create an experience this year's Nelson and Lindsay Fellows found both memorable and extremely useful. They are very proud of this year's program and Fellows, and Samantha looks forward to returning next summer as the Nelson and Lindsay Fellowship's Lead Coordinator!

### Clerk of Court Rob Farrell — *Marianna Jantzen (Lindsay Fellow)*

The guest speaker session with Clerk of Court Rob Farrell fell during the first week of the Lindsay Fellowship and certainly set the bar high for the remaining speakers. This session allowed us to view the Court from a unique vantage point. Mr. Farrell's humility, kindness, and authenticity was overwhelmingly evident in each piece of advice he gave to us Lindsay's. He explained to us the seemingly endless list of responsibilities the Clerk's Office is tasked with. Additionally, Mr. Farrell mentioned the other offices he oversees (and must commute to) in Springfield and Worcester.



Regarding the pandemic, Mr. Farrell spoke with us about the hardships the pandemic brought on to the Court and the ways in which the Clerk's Office had to adjust and respond. He outlined the ways in which the Clerk's Office faced and overcame technological challenges, while also dealing with an enormous backlog as the community began to reopen. Mr. Farrell even turned on the special technology in the Judge's Dining Room for us! Beyond Mr. Farrell's work duties, he opened up to us and shared his journey over the years.

It is abundantly clear that Mr. Farrell's ability to endure and overcome hard times has contributed to his caring nature and gentle demeanor. He is certainly an advocate, and his story and encouraging advice showed the way he truly cares for those around him. The guest speaker session with Mr. Farrell was both inspiring and motivating; it instilled in us a feeling of agency and optimism for our generation of aspiring attorneys to do the right thing and support each other.

## The Lindsay Fellowship — *Samy Dubuisson (Lindsay Fellow)*

What an experience this Fellowship has provided me with. The Lindsay Fellowship has exceeded my expectations, these past nine weeks have been jaw dropping and humbling. I can vividly remember six months ago on a Friday evening, filling out the application and questioning if I was worthy enough to send it in. I would never have imagined that two days after my interview, I would receive an email welcoming me to the Lindsay Fellowship Program. I was starstruck.

I was extremely excited to begin the Fellowship but did not truly know the magnitude of what I was about to walk into. There are so many words that can describe my experience as a fellow, but one stands out the most. Exposure. Six months ago, I would have never thought that in the span of nine weeks I would meet numerous federal judges, politicians, the U.S. Attorney, the Federal Public Defender, the Chief Judge of the First Circuit, attorneys, candidates for aspiring offices, and so many amazing people. All these people are not only passionate about their work, but they're also committed to making the field of law accessible to the average citizen.

I was fortunate enough to have Taisha Sturdivant as our Legal Research and Writing instructor. Although the course seemed intimidating at first glance, Taisha eased all our concerns. Taisha is a practicing attorney, and a past Nelson Fellow, Lindsay Fellow, and Coordinator. She gave me so much insight on the profession by detailing her first-hand experience.

This Fellowship has given young students like me, who come from the same background and neighborhood as me, a shot at getting our feet through a door where all dreams can become reality. As I am writing this newsletter, I am having a flashback to my application, where I stated that “my parents have told me all my life about the power of education and how knowledge is a right that can never be taken once obtained” and how this has been a repetitive notion that I have taken with me in everything I do. The Lindsay Fellowship for me is power and knowledge that can never be taken away once I have completed it. The Fellowship has given me tools and exposed me to resources and people who will now be part of my success and in my future endeavors and legal career.



## Legal Research & Writing — *Bettyna Elescar (Lindsay Fellow)*

During the program's first half, the Lindsay Fellows were scheduled to take legal research and writing course, taught by Taisha Sturdivant. We had just four weeks to be introduced to and learn to grasp an entirely foreign way of thinking, reading, and writing. Despite countless nerves and insecurities, we were lucky enough to have an instructor who came armed with boundless patience and a true understanding of the subject she came to teach. From the very first class, Taisha started us off with a “thousand-mile perspective” giving us a crash course on the “basics.” On that very first day we learned what case law is and where it is derived from. We learned about the three branches of government, the different court systems, and the types of authority they are held to. In a short period of time, we were able to grasp these concepts that were vital to our understanding of how to conduct legal research and writing. Taisha was prepared for everything we could have thrown at her; from personal questions to questions that asked her to explain complex legal concepts in layman terms.



Taisha made sure that every answer she gave came ripe with the knowledge she could pass on. Despite our many efforts to sidetrack class and send Taisha off on tangents, she always made sure to bring it back to the matter at hand. When we asked her what her LSAT score was, she turned it into LSAT study tips. When we asked her to explain the issue decided in *Roe v. Wade*, she turned it into a homework assignment for us to read and brief the case. She was determined, to our dismay, to ensure we learned something during every moment of time we spent together.



Taisha went far beyond teaching us legal research. She came prepared to honestly answer every question we had for her, and we had so many. Taisha was transparent with us about all the struggles she faced getting herself to where she is today. She was always willing to listen to the issues we faced and if she had experienced something similar, would not hesitate to share an anecdote she thought would be helpful. Taisha taught us to rise above and maintain decorum. She taught us to hold our-

selves accountable but to also give ourselves grace if we fell short of our expectations. We were all incredibly fortunate to have the chance to learn from Taisha Sturdivant and we know those lessons will follow us forever, no matter where we end up.

## U.S. Probation Office — *Cleiton Castro (Lindsay Fellow)*

I am so elated I got the opportunity to serve as a Lindsay Fellow in the summer before my senior year of college. After spending a month with the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office, I understand that probation officers play an important role in the court system and that many probation officers are either practicing or non-practicing lawyers as well. When someone is arrested, probation officers are the first interaction within the court system.



Iris Golus, our supervisor in Probation during our July placement, allowed us to sit in on numerous high-profile cases. We also got the opportunity to learn about the risk factors that determine how dangerous a person is to the community. My favorite part of my time in the Probation Office was getting to meet the Probation Techs. They play a major role in the Probation Office by taking on caseloads of up to 200 people on supervised release. Probation Techs provide immeasurable support to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office.

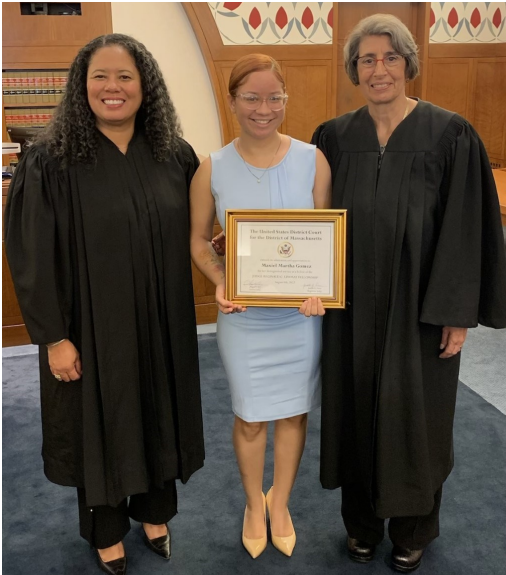
I believe what makes the Probation Office unique is that they hold the power to impose ankle monitors and other forms of supervised release on a formerly incarcerated person if they deem them to be a threat to the community. Probation also provides great assistance to those incarcerated people who need it. For example, the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office has a wonderful fatherhood program that helps provide currently and formerly incarcerated people with the tools to be better fathers to their children. The Office also provides necessary treatment to all incarcerated people who have mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety, or bipolar disorder. The patience and care that probation officers give to their clients is truly remarkable.

The U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office spends a considerable amount of time making sure their clients don't relapse from drug abuse. The growth of their relapse program emphasizes the importance of post-incarceration needs that may not be addressed after a sentencing. Spending time understanding not only the initial interactions of the defendants and probation officers but also the investigation of every case really has been a great experience. By the time someone is convicted, the Probation Office has already gathered some basic background information that the defense attorney may not have known. The Probation Office is an example of how our government can function fairly. I am now interested in pursuing a position with the Probation Office after finishing my bachelor's degree.



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Armand Coleman & Transformational Prison Project — *Maxiel Martha Gomez (Lindsay Fellow)*



This summer we had the pleasure of meeting with various individuals in the legal field. After meeting with numerous lawyers that provided us with useful insight on their legal careers and advice for ours, meeting Armand Coleman was a breath of fresh air. He took us back into the reality of the criminal justice system. His experience and perseverance reassured my faith in the legal system and the possibility for the transformation he experienced.

Armand Coleman is the Executive Director of Transformational Prison Project. The organization's mission is to create a space to encourage open dialogue between those who have committed violent crimes and those who have been victimized by violent crime. Armand's passion for restorative justice stems from his lived experiences. He was incarcerated from the age of seventeen and spent a total of 28 years in prison. For the first 20 years of his sentence, he was in a maximum-security facility and spent more than half of his time there in solitary confinement.

While incarcerated, Armand founded the Youthful Offender Coalition for those incarcerated who committed their crime under the age of 18. He also founded Men Exploring Their Own Obstacles, which encourages the discussion of controversial topics in the community such as sexism, rape culture, and toxic masculinity.

Our interaction with Armand was genuine and unique because of his ability to be vulnerable with us and share aspects of his story that allowed us to truly understand his strength and passion for the work that he does. Armand's demeanor was respectful and welcoming, which encouraged openness in our discussion. I can confidently say that meeting Armand Coleman was one of the highlights of my summer as a Lindsay Fellow.



## Judge Saris' Chambers — *Lenny Tejeda (Lindsay Fellow)*

On my first day as a Lindsay Fellow, I walked into the beautiful John Joseph Moakley Courthouse and was escorted to my “chambers.” I remember receiving my schedule for the first two days, and one of the first things that caught my attention was “Chambers/Court Proceedings,” highlighted in yellow. The program coordinators informed us that “chambers” is time spent with federal judges and law clerks: they urged us to take full advantage of the experience because it is a unique component of the Fellowship program.

Chambers was an excellent opportunity for fellows to learn the inner workings of the federal court system while constructing meaningful relationships with the people there, including the judge. I was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris. I walked up to Judge Saris's chambers apprehensively because it was the first time I would interact with a judge. When I got there, I was worried about how I would present myself and what exactly I would say. Despite my nervousness about meeting Judge Saris for the first time, I walked in with a huge smile. She graciously welcomed me into her office, and at that moment, my nerves were instantly calmed.

Judge Saris and I immediately connected because of my experience working closely with her sister at an educational non-profit organization in Salem. I was comfortable sharing my family background, educational upbringing, and past internship experiences. She asked me about my first day as a Lindsay, and I instantly told her, “I love it. I hope by the end of it, I can have more clarity on my interest in the legal field.”

I took advantage of my time in chambers and asked the law clerks/interns numerous questions about their law school experiences, legal trajectories, and interests as well as questions about the cases they were currently working on for Judge Saris. Towards the end of my time in chambers, Judge Saris had me read a civil rights case about police brutality in the city of Methuen. The case was a motion to dismiss, and for the bench memo, I outlined the case overview and facts, analyzed the counts, and inserted my opinion on each count alleged by the plaintiff in addition to writing a conclusion complete with recommendations.

Sitting in on Judge Saris's trials and sentencing hearings was one of the most memorable experiences in chambers. I had the chance to attend a human trafficking hearing that Judge Saris presided over, where I saw firsthand the type of judge that Judge Saris is. She cares about administering justice and abiding by the law, but also about the defendant's narrative. When Judge Saris walked into the courtroom, she sat up and immediately addressed the audience, which was the defendant's family, and thanked them for being there. She allowed the defendant to be vulnerable enough to own up to their mistakes and express how they intend to be a positive member of society.

At that moment, I felt like she gave the defendant a voice. She acknowledged the severity of the crime committed and considered this person a human being deserving of a second chance. What I saw in the courtroom during this human trafficking sentencing helped me realize I want to continue down the path of becoming an attorney. I aim to represent underprivileged people and work with them to get the best result possible. I am thankful for my experiences in Judge Saris' chambers for allowing me to realize my passion for justice.



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## Mock Trial with Jerry Howland — *Sarah Fosberry (Nelson Fellow)*

Over the course of these 6 weeks, we have met with some incredible people and have learned so much. One of the highlights of my experience as a Nelson Fellow was the mock-trial prep course we took with Mr. Jerry Howland. Walking into this fellowship, I was not sure if a career in law was something that I was ready to fully commit to. Participating in a course with Mr. Howland was one of the factors that helped me to realize that pursuing a career in law is truly my dream. This class was more than just preparing for our mock trial. It helped us to see what a career in law could truly look and feel like for us.

The atmosphere created when we were in the courtroom with Mr. Howland was perfect for learning. He was open to answer any questions that we had, whether it was about the case that we were working on or a legal term that we had run across outside of class. This allowed us to truly immerse ourselves in the new things that we were experiencing. Without the help and guidance of Mr. Howland, we truly could not have been as well prepared and trial ready as we were. He helped us to grow the skills that we had already possessed, such as public speaking and writing, and gave us so many new ones, such as how to speak in a courtroom and how to read a case while looking for facts to build an argument from.



Before we were given our case for the end of the summer, we completed a practice mock trial, where we could see how a mock trial works and what the roles in a mock trial are. This was an informative experience that helped us to see how we worked together as a team and who was going to be the best person to fill each role in the final mock trial. After this, we were given a packet detailing the case that we would be doing at the end of the summer. One of the most important things in this packet were the top three things to remember when preparing for a mock trial: *1. Preparation. 2. Preparation. 3. Preparation.* This was one thing that Mr. Howland made sure that we would remember for the rest of the program and long after the program ended.

This summer, we prepared an argument for the case of Terry King. In short, Terry was on trial for allegedly murdering his best friend and business partner, Elvis Presley. As we were the defense for this trial, we were challenged with poking holes in what seemed to be an open and shut case. The first few times we read the case it seemed clear that Terry King was guilty. But as we read it more, looking to find some arguments that we could use, we noticed more and more holes that we could poke. We spent several classes all together, deciding what our final arguments would be, assigning roles, and just discussing the case overall. It was essential for everyone to know the whole case well before roles were assigned so that all of our arguments fit seamlessly together. I cannot wait to see what the future looks like for the rest of the Fellows and for myself, and how the skills that we have learned in this class will come into play for the rest of our lives.



## Public Speaking & Debate — *Alaina James (Nelson Fellow)*

On the first day, Jamele Adams walked in with full pastel attire, including a vibrant bucket hat. You could imagine us Nelson Fellows' surprise at his attire considering we had all panicked the previous weekend over the business casual attire requirement. Before we even got to utter the words "good morning," Jamele captivated us all by delivering a powerful poem voicing the experience of being Black in America. After leaving all of us in shock, Jamele had us all write our reactions to his poem. I expressed how "making his introduction with something so deep was incredibly moving and powerful as it allowed me to put feelings into words in ways I couldn't do before." A quote that stuck with me the most was, "It's hard to feel human when you started off properly." For me, this quote was a direct counter to the world's attempt to minimize the foundational damage slavery has cost black identities.

During that portion of the class, I was able to feel the words of everyone around me as Jamele's poem had left us all with a powerful feeling in our hearts. Hearing my peers' pieces motivated me to revise my words and make them as meaningful and thorough as possible. When sharing, I stood tall, I took a breath, and I delivered, incorporating every bit of soul I had into my words. I didn't know the real intensity of my words until I saw the widened eyes of Jamele and the "wows" from my peers, and those small details felt like my reward.

In Jamele's class, I gained empowering confidence in my ability as a writer and as a public speaker. From the impromptu performances of our writing pieces to the shocking and tough debates we had to prepare for each day. Before Jamele's class, I had questioned my ability as a leader. I knew I had the capabilities, but I never had the opportunity to really prove it for myself, but during those debates and performances, I really got to see my power. For every debate, I took the role of organizing our team's argument while also making sure that every voice was heard. Being able to keep my team organized and united allowed us to walk away from every debate strong and confident, ready for the next.

The same confidence and skill I had learned in my public speaking and debate class were also taken with me into my mock trial as a cross-examiner. In that experience for mock trial, I embraced my inner Viola Davis and was able to perform to my best ability, as my skills were nurtured in Jamele's class.

Jamele left with us powerful mantras that are truly adaptable for any environment, the ones that stuck with me, as well as the other Fellows, were, "words are powerful," "writing is how I exercise my freedom," and "speaking delivers me." I am a poet, and those mantras were, and still are, gold to me.



## Juvenile Court & Migdalia Nalls — *Keyanna Bernard (Nelson Fellow)*



Our trip to the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse was our very first field trip we had this summer and, in my opinion, my favorite one. Meeting Attorney Migdalia Nalls was eye opening for me. She is a juvenile attorney and her speaking to us about her experience in her field kind of pushed me to decide what type of lawyer I want to be and what field of law I want to specialize in. The work that she does is really refreshing to learn about, especially now when the general public opinion is against the criminal system.

It was so good to know and see that in our corrupt system there are people doing great work to better our communities, especially for our kids. I was born and raised in Boston, in the Mattapan neighborhood. So, I have witnessed first-hand how bad things can get for the young people who live in my neighborhood. Knowing that there are people like Migdalia who were raised in our neighborhoods, know our neighborhoods and are giving back to the youth is extremely inspiring.

The Edward W. Brooke Courthouse itself was beautiful. It had such a sleek interior which was very minimalist and kind of gave off a cold and scary vibe. I didn't find the court to be scary after meeting Migdalia and other court employees. The people who work in the Courthouse care about giving the necessary punishments but at the end of the day they want to be fair to everyone, especially juvenile defendants. The Courthouse has numerous programs that support at-risk youth and youthful offenders to help steer them away from the criminal legal system.

We got the opportunity to visit the lock-up area of the Edward Brooke W. Courthouse during our visit there, and it was probably the worst part of our trip. Seeing lock-up was the worst part of our trip simply because it was so chilling and eye-opening. Jail is not a place I want myself or anyone I love to ever be in. Thank you to Migdalia Nalls and everyone at the Edward Brooke Courthouse!



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## U.S. Attorney's Office Panel — *Elinel Gonzalez (Nelson Fellow)*

Through the Nelson Fellowship we were lucky enough to experience so many different opportunities to speak with many different people that work in the legal field. One of the most prominent to me was the panel of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who worked in different areas in the U.S Attorney's Office. This was very eye-opening and gave much insight on all the legal work that can be done in area of work in the legal field alone.

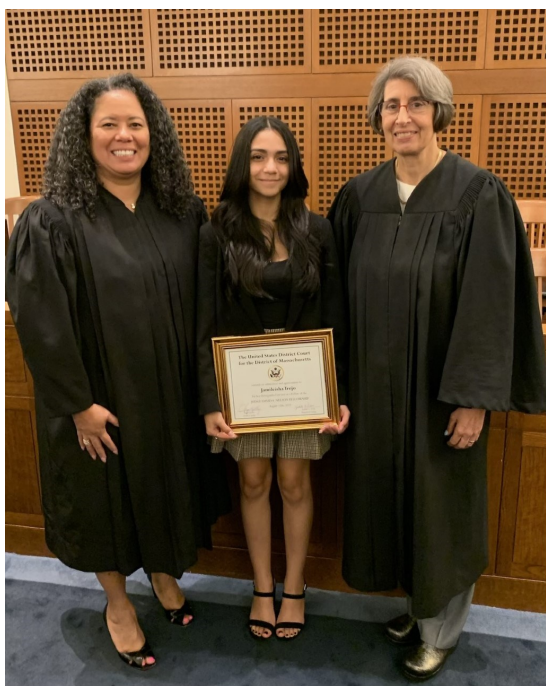
Within the U.S, Attorney's Office they worked in numerous different fields of work and all majored in non-law related topics in college. They can come from education, STEM, or even politics and all be joined by the legal field. In the U.S. Attorney's Office there are many different positions and seeing the range from criminal and civil cases they take on was incredible. They were even in the works of establishing a brand-new division on Human Trafficking which greatly interested many of the Fellows. It really showed how there is a prominent dedication to serve and protect the government and the community all at once.

What inspired me the most was the fact that each panelist was a woman. It really showed me that women can have power in the legal field and that it's not as male-dominated as one might think. Throughout the duration of the panel, I was able to ask questions and learn more about the wide variety of tasks happening in one singular office.

Speaking to these attorneys you can feel a sense of nobility and pride with the work they do with defending the government and prosecuting cases. Being a Fellow and aspiring public defender, speaking with this panel really opened my eyes on what the prosecution life may be and it made me eager to maybe incorporate that in my later legal work. I am extremely grateful to have been a part of such a special and rewarding program like the Nelson Fellowship and to have spoken to such an amazing and inspiring group of people.



## Judge Hennessy's Chambers — *Jamileisha Trejo (Nelson Fellow)*



In the beginning of the Fellowship, every Nelson had the opportunity to work with a Judge. As you can imagine, we were very intimidated but excited by this idea. (I mean we're just teenagers in high school and it was our first day in this big courthouse.) Chambers time was last on our schedule that first day and everybody was eager to meet their Judge and staff to see if they would get along well with each other. Well, I was assigned to Judge Hennessy for the remainder of the program. At first, I found out he was only going to be in the U.S. District Court of Boston for the first two weeks of the program since he is in the federal courthouse in Worcester. I was a bit sad since I wouldn't see him as often as I wished.

On the first day, Dawn escorted me to his chambers, and it felt like I was going through a maze on a quest to it. Once we finally arrived, I met my Judge, and we had a very interesting conversation about our families and our backgrounds. He asked me about my plans

and dreams, and I asked him about his journey and how he worked to get to where he is now. That same day I was able to meet his interns for the summer, Jack and Jameson, two polar opposites working with each other but both very intellectual people.

We had such a long and fun conversation that I almost missed my train to get back home but nonetheless I had a great time the first day. While Judge Hennessy was in Worcester we would meet over Zoom with Kristin, one of the law clerks, and talk about what I've been doing in the program and what everyone has been up to as well. I enjoyed sharing my thoughts with my chambers about my experience so far in the program and meeting different people as well as visiting places around Boston with the Nelsons. The environment in chambers since the first day was always welcoming, calm, and comforting to me. On Friday in the second to last week of the program, I visited Judge Hennessy's chambers in Worcester. I was excited because it was my first time in this building. Jameson, one of Judge Hennessy's interns, gave me a tour around the courthouse, where I was able to enter courtrooms and offices in the building. He showed me many things that I didn't know were in the courthouse.

I had another interesting experience that Friday with my Judge. It was my first-time witnessing Judge Hennessy authorizing a warrant over the phone. Even though it looked a bit funny, it saved time and money for both parties. Overall, my experience with Judge Hennessy and his chambers these six weeks has been more than amazing. Not only have I learned of the different roles lawyers can play in the legal world and gained insight of what it is like to have a legal career, I also received advice that will stick to me for years to come — whether personal or educational. I am grateful for the advice Judge Hennessy and others in the office gave me for my goals whether they were short-term or long-term goals. I learned so much from every individual and now I feel more motivated to keep learning and pursue a legal career. If I could, I would repeat this experience a million times and more.

## Federal Defender's Office Panel — *Julian Henehan (Nelson Fellow)*

Throughout my time as a Nelson Fellow, I have learned more about the judicial system than I have ever known. I have learned the ins and outs, and the right and wrong. All the guest speakers we met have added something valuable to my toolbox of knowledge. However, the speakers that really spoke to my heart as a future lawyer were from the Federal Public Defender Office.

Federal public defenders do not work solely for the money, they do not work for fame, these people work for change. These lawyers want to make a difference for people who look like me, or anyone who doesn't have deep pockets to invest thousands or even tens of thousands into private counsel. This is one of the most noble causes I can think of. Ever since I started my journey into law, I have known that I wanted to be a public defender at heart; I want to help innocent people who need legal help.

Public defenders are the unsung heroes of the legal world. Meeting with the federal defenders opened my eyes to the endless work and infinite uphill climb they do. I want to be a part of that even if the fight for justice never ends — I want to be someone who throws a couple punches. I want to help reform the public defender system so they aren't so overworked, and therefore people who cannot afford a private lawyer to not suffer from the fact that their lawyer might have many different clients at the same time. Meeting with the public defenders made me realize there is nowhere else I'd rather be in the legal field. I don't care about the money, I don't care about the fame. I want to be able to say at the end of the day I helped make the world a better place, and as a future public defender I hope that will be the case.

It was amazing to see how much the federal defenders just loved their job. They weren't tired of fighting that uphill battle, they just got stronger and pushed on. It really goes to show how these people are, their passion was just inspiring to witness. They want change, they want to be the person that helps the underdog. It's easy to say they could represent a client and just pass them on forgetting about them, however they do not do that. Even if they have a significant amount of clients, they connect with all of them and help them to the best of their ability.

Thank you again to the Federal Public Defender Office. Also, all of the guest speakers this summer have been amazing. Thank you if you are reading this.



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## U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins — *Nathan Palmer (Nelson Fellow)*

During my time as a Nelson Fellow, we met with many wonderful people but the interaction I loved the most was our meeting with U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins. Before the meeting I didn't know much about what her position entailed and what her background experience was like, but after meeting with her I was thoroughly enlightened and impressed. Her presence as she entered the room took me by storm. She commanded respect and authority, and she explained how seriously she takes her job and her non-work-related priorities as well. I learned how she got to her position and what she also did before getting to this position.

Rachael Rollins told us about her experience as the first Black female U.S. Attorney. She stated that she does not have much room to make mistakes because at all moments, she is not only a representative of herself and her important position, but also a representative and reflection of the entire community of Black people, Black women especially. In order to make sure she is taken seriously and respected, Rachael Rollins has taken on a very serious and intentional demeanor at work. Rachael Rollins shared with us how she is the oldest child in her family, and how a few of her siblings have spent time in the criminal legal system. She detailed how this affected her on all levels and inspired her to pursue prosecution work. She is an avid believer in the amazing work prosecutors do and the high level of power they have in a courtroom. Rachael's story resonated highly with me because I am also trying to push forward and better myself to the best of my ability.

Rachael Rollins is fighting for a voice in a world that often shuns Black voices, especially those of Black women. She told the Fellows how she wants to be involved with the people that she's trying to help which is why she and her family live in the middle of Roxbury, rather than in an area that is not as harmed by constant violence and police surveillance. I would like to thank Rachael Rollins for taking the time to speak with us and enlighten us on both her job requirements and her life.



*Pictured: 2022 Nelsons meet with former U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz*

*- We will remember to get a picture with U.S. Att'y Rollins next time! -*

## Annissa Essaibi George — *Faduma Abdikadir (Nelson Fellow)*



As a teen in America it can often feel as if adults are shushing you because they are talking and coming up with ideas for our future without our input. Speaking to Annissa Essaibi George was a reminder that there are adults who are here to actually listen and support our communities for a better future. This fellowship has offered us a collection of unique opportunities. One of them being able to meet and talk with Ms. George. Being able to speak with a past City Councilor At-Large, an educator, and businesswoman was a refreshing experience. Not only was she born and

raised in the Dorchester/Roxbury area of Boston, she is actively involved in her neighborhood with a small business called “Stitch House.” She also taught social studies at East Boston High School for over a decade.

Just hearing about her background was reassuring in knowing she actually is here to give back to the people. For our conversation we talked about different issues we felt were prominent in our schools and communities and how we as students can make our voices heard as advocates. Through this conversation I picked up the names of different resources that would help me become a better advocate in my school and community. Being on the thin line dividing “child” and “young adults” we are often overlooked in our concerns for how things are being done. I've been enrolled in the BPS since the 2020 school year which we all know was when schools were closed in March.

I haven't been in Boston for my whole life, but I have picked up on a lot of overlooked issues our schools and districts don't properly address. Being a student, we go to a teacher who tells us to go to the principal, who then tells us to go to another higher up. When we are dismissed by staff, who are we supposed to go to? Speaking to Annissa I was able to bring up my concerns on how our schools are addressing issues within the building. My school has been through a lot since the time I've been here. Two-gun related issues, harassment/sexual assault issues, and other safety issues. We've had protests to advocate for a better school COVID-19 policy and meetings to discuss student mental health regarding schoolwork and other topics. Though these things can be hard to talk about, it's necessary to confront them in order to make progress with how things are run. Being able to talk to Annissa I was able to get a better idea on how to properly talk about the things that matter to us the most.

As a student it's important to know that there are here to support us and after our meeting with Annissa, I feel confident that those people are out there. Walking out of the conversation with her contact information and knowing she is a connection I made from this program was personally one of the most memorable moments from this summer.



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## Civil Rights with Jason Wise — *Ashley Aguirre López (Nelson Fellow)*

The Nelson Fellows took three courses throughout the summer, one of which was a civil rights course with Jason Wise. Jason covered many topics, such as identity and how race has influenced how people had to live their lives, and the discrimination many had to face. We read stories about Jennifer Wang, a Chinese immigrant who struggled with whether she was Chinese or American because she didn't fit the mold for either of them. Jason taught us that identity is made from two parts: the outside, which is how you perceive yourself to the world, and the inside, which is how you see yourself.

Jason also taught us about the Little Rock Nine, which many of us had learned about, but he went about it in a different way. He asked us about our first day of school experiences and proceeded to teach us about Elizabeth Eckford and the hardship she endured to go to a white school. From him we learned about the hardships that the Little Rock Nine had to endure in order to allow us the privilege of integrated schools now.

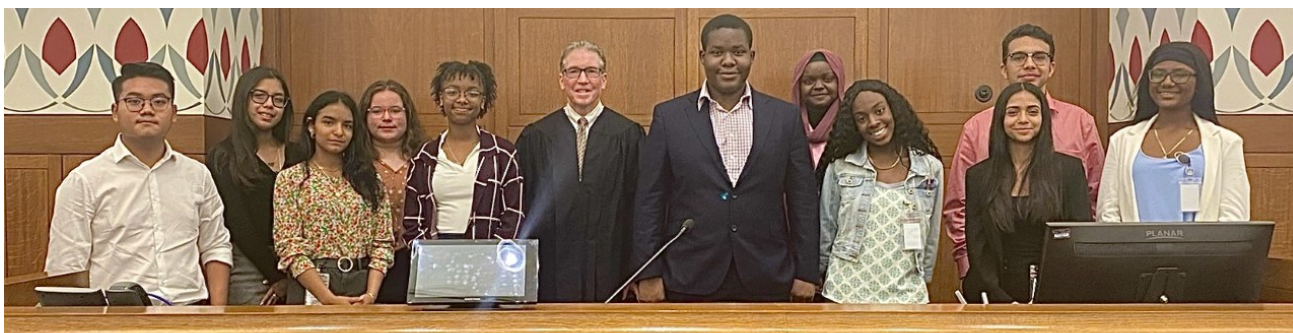


Jason taught us about the “lost year” as it's called, which took place in 1958 when school was shut down for an entire year to prevent Black students from going to integrated schools. On the first day, Jason gave us this thick packet full of stories and information, but never did I imagine I would learn so much and be captivated by what I learned. History isn't my favorite class, but I had a great history teacher in 10th grade and found another great teacher in Jason Wise.

The class wasn't all just learning but in fact we, the Nelsons, were able to build a great connection with Jason. There was never a dull moment in class, and our topics would vary from our civil rights curriculum to Jason teaching us what it means to be a girl dad and also to the fact that bald fathers tend to spoil their daughters (his daughters did confirm FYI). I'm thankful for the fact that the Nelson Fellowship gave us three amazing teachers. Although I only talked about one of them, they were all honestly the best people I would have imagined spending my summer with, that goes for everyone who is a part of this program as well. Thank you, Jason Wise!



## Meeting Judge Hennessy — *Mark Tran (Nelson Fellow)*



*“Prosecutors are the most powerful people in the American criminal justice system.” “Prosecutors are bad guys who put many people into jail.” “Prosecutors are aggressive and intimidating.”* This is what people usually say about prosecutors—or if you are like me and watch many legal dramas—you must have seen a few of these stereotypes portrayed against prosecutors. And to be honest, before I had the chance to be a part of this life-changing fellowship, I didn’t have much idea about the work and duty of a prosecutor. Having seen and heard many things like that gave me a bad impression of them.

All my assumptions were swept away during the meeting with U.S. Magistrate Judge David Hennessy. He appeared as a nice gentleman and started to introduce us to the different categories of lawsuits. After that, he revealed that he used to be an Assistant U.S. Attorney, or federal prosecutor, and gave us a sample of his opening statement from back in his day. He spoke calmly with a soft tone of voice, contrary to what I had imagined of a powerful prosecutor that has the power to change the course of life of many people. Although his voice was soft, his arguments and performance were sharp and logical, and I could not take my eyes off him.

As I said before, prosecution is a job that I did not quite understand at first but after the meeting, I was motivated to become a prosecutor after witnessing Judge Hennessy’s dedication for the job. He is hard working and does not shy away from working extra hours, day and night to get people who have committed crimes their true and fair verdict. He has helped bring justice and peace to the community he has worked in. At the end of that meeting, I realized that it was my dream to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney and dedicate myself to the greater good of society.



## Judge Casper's Chambers — *Taleiyah Walker (Nelson Fellow)*

My time during the Nelson Fellowship was amazing: I got to learn a lot about different career paths in the legal field. We took part in great classes that taught major lessons that have prepared me for my legal journey as I head to college. From Jamele Adams' class, I learned how to be unapologetic when I'm speaking my truth — to Jason Wise's class, which really dug deep into civil rights and legal history that has been tossed to the side. Jason gave us the opportunity to create a timeline in which future generations of Nelsons will be able to add on to. Jerry's class put my true passion of wanting to be in the legal field to the test through doing pre-mock trials and diving deeper into the preparation attorneys go through to prepare a case.

As a Nelson Fellow, you get to learn more about what the day-to-day life of an attorney looks like. We got to watch interesting court proceedings and see all types of different cases. I was initially extremely nervous to meet everyone in my chambers because I felt like I would be out of place and unexperienced in comparison. I was placed in Judge Casper's chambers, and got to meet her law clerk Justine Sheehan, who was extremely friendly and welcoming.

My experience in Judge Casper's chambers was amazing: the law interns taught me so much about court proceedings and cases. When I asked questions, they listened and gave information and thoughtful answers. We had conversations about topics in the law field I've always wanted to learn more about. Being in chambers wasn't always just work and law, being in chambers was like being with a home and family. It's true when people here say the Court becomes your family.

The other law interns that work in the judge's chambers took their time to personally get to know me. In the time I've shared with them, they taught me to have patience and to analyze any piece of information I'm reading or writing. They stated that if I don't understand a term, to ask for help when needed. The biggest piece of advice that my chambers taught me that no matter what path you take to law school or how long it takes you, to stay determined. Sometimes our paths are straight and narrow and sometimes they are wide and loopy. I would like to thank Judge Casper and all Chambers staff once again.



## Excerpts from 2022 Lindsay Graduation Speech — *Bettyna & Samy*

“Good afternoon! My name is Bettyna. My name is Samy. We’d like to tell you a little bit about our summer. Nine weeks ago, this day felt like it was an eternity away. As we stand here today, we can’t help but wonder where the time has gone. We are Lindsay Fellows and over the course of our time here in the Court, we have sincerely come to understand the weight this title carries. The Lindsay Fellowship was established in honor of the late Judge Reginald C. Lindsay, a man who showed love and empathy in everything he did.

During the last nine weeks, we were given the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse and everyone in it. We held our competitive and highly regarded position as Lindsay Fellows in high esteem. We are in a unique position because many others who look like us are often not afforded this same opportunity: to actively see how the law is studied and practiced in this country, and to interact with the people within our judicial system. Each time we walked through these halls we walked with purpose and humility and strived to take advantage of all the amazing opportunities and wisdom bestowed on us...

Nine weeks ago we were strangers but that certainly didn’t last long. Awkward small talk quickly turned into full-blown therapy sessions. We sat together, ate together, learned together, laughed together, walked together. We are forever connected by the experiences we had here and I am confident in the fact that the bonds we made this summer are lifelong bonds...

We would not be here if it was not for the life and legacy of Judge Lindsay. Judge Lindsay, you are here with us in spirit. We thank you for breaking through barriers and for sacrificing so much to chart a path for all of us to succeed. Your legacy lives on through each of us, and we hope from this day onward that your name, which we proudly bear, will touch even more lives through our work in times of need.”



2022 Lindsay Fellows with Cheryl Lindsay (center), late Judge Lindsay’s wife

## Excerpt from 2022 Nelson Speech — *Alaina & Keyanna*

“Hello everyone! I am Alaina James, and I am Keyanna Bernard. We are two of eleven Nelson Fellows this summer.

I walked into this program thinking I would be able to keep my expectations as my reality and I was incredibly wrong. Originally thinking that this program would be light work if I just kept to myself, I was able to build strong friendships with each individual here, all who upgraded our experience in some way...

On behalf of the Nelsons, we want to thank all the judges who took time out of their busy schedules and summers to welcome us with open arms into their chambers. For working with us, teaching us, and just taking care of us in the courthouse. A special thank you to Judge De-in and Judge Angel Kelley who were the head judges for this program. They were so kind to the Nelson Fellows and always checking in on us...

My chambers willingly answered every question I had, no matter how socially questionable and I can't thank them enough for that. Thank you for being a bucket of knowledge and support for me, I hope to keep in contact with you. To Sam and Cheryl, the real definitions of chaos coordinators. This summer would not have been possible without you guys. We thank you for all your dedication and hard work to schedule the very meetings and experiences that changed all our lives forever. We also thank you guys for putting up with how loud we are in chambers considering you guys were right next to us.

Thank you to Carolyn Meckbach as well who was the boss woman behind the scenes. Whenever she would meet with us, she would always greet us with the warmest simile.

To thank our instructors, I would like to begin with Jamele Adams. You introduced us all to the power of our voices and the value of family, your definition of family going beyond any expectation of what it's supposed to be.

You helped kickstart the community bonding and we can't thank you enough for that. Thank you to Jerry Howland and Gabriela Vasquez who helped us prepare for the mock trial we had this morning. These two really taught us a lot to not only prepare for the mock trial but to be lawyers in the future.

And finally, to Jason Wise who was the history teacher everyone wants. He taught us things I've never learned before in my history class and if I did learn that topic, he would introduce to us I got a better understanding of it by the end of the class...

Being a Nelson, this summer would have got to be one of the smartest decisions I've made. I made so many new relationships and so much about our legal system. I remember on my first day I was asked in Jamele's class: “Why I am here?” And I remember my answer was “to find out if law is something I really want to do in the future” — and by the end I was able to find this out. Talking all the people met like Migdalia Nalls, the Assistant U.S. Attorneys and Rachael Rollins, taking field trips to places like Juvenile Court or big law firms like WilmerHale, I was exposed to a whole new world. And doing this program and exposing myself to this new world made me realize this is something I want to do when I am older.

Being a Nelson Fellow helped show me that my dreams are not out of reach. This whole program was 6 weeks of reassurance and knowledge that helped confirm how much I want to do law. Before this program, I would second guess my capabilities as a leader and as a student and now that has changed. I have made connections, I have prepared for several debates, I've written speeches, I made lots of new friends even though I believed that would be one of the hardest things, and I've consistently believed in myself, and that's a gift that I am so grateful to have received.”

Excerpt of Graduation Speech — *Samantha Roszczenko (Deputy Coordinator)*



“This year, Samy Dubuisson, Maxiel Martha Gomez, Lenny Tejada, Marianna Jantzen, Cleiton Castro, and Bettyna Elescar served as our 2022 Lindsay Fellows. The six of you are truly some of the most driven and intelligent people I have ever met. You are powerful young leaders with years of incredible accomplishments ahead of you and I would only hope that you don’t forget about Cheryl and I when you are off doing powerful things in the world! Samy, your humorous nature provided a very well needed breath of fresh air in the courthouse. Cheryl and I enjoyed spending lunches with you and Maxiel, chatting about our days. Maxiel, your passion for the fellowship showed through your willingness to never let there be a dull moment. Your dedication this summer has not gone unnoticed and will bring you far clear that you of your time as a respectful and kind to be around, and energy are cont-

***“You are powerful young leaders.”***

one of the nicest. Your positive spir- many times throughout the summer. You are a joy to be around and radiate intelligence and optimism wherever you go. Cleiton, your curiosity and willingness to participate in any capacity was well appreciated this summer. Your relentless resilience and willingness to show up for yourself and everyone else is extremely admirable. Bettyna, your kind, graceful spirit, and warm energy is inspiring. You command the room in a thoughtful and powerful way, I cannot wait for what the world has in store for you. To all of you, thank you for all the memories and all the laughs we shared this summer. I hope you carry this positive experience with you and remember that we are always cheering you on even when times are most difficult. Let’s face it, you made it through moot court – you can do anything!”

in life. Lenny, it has been sought to gain the most out Lindsay Fellow. Your re-nature has been a pleasure your hard work and warm gious. Marianna, you are people I have ever met. it has uplifted the group at



Excerpt of Graduation Speech — Cheryl Aikins (Lead Coordinator)

“This summer has truly been one for the books. For those of you who did not get the chance to witness me hobbling around the Courthouse, I broke my foot in mid-June. I then contracted COVID on my 21st birthday in mid-July. The last few months have been chaotic, to say the least, but even when I was unable to tend to my daily coordinator duties, I was met with unwavering support and assistance from two amazing women, Carolyn Meckbach and Samantha Roszczenko. Jay, Taleiyah, Keyanna, Mark, Sarah, Alaina, Faduma, Nathan, Julian, Elinel, and Ashley, it has been wonderful to work with you this summer. You are an amazing group of students with great curiosity, persistence, and intellect. You all, in your own special ways, embody the legacy of Judge Nelson. Throughout the summer you all proved time and time again that you were wise beyond your years with the amazing questions and analysis you presented. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to making the most of your time in this Courthouse. You are all truly destined for greatness, and it will be my great joy to witness your success. The first time I stepped foot in this Courthouse I was 16 years old, with bright-eyes and an inquisitive mind. I stand here in front of you today at 21 years old, grateful for all the experiences, knowledge, laughter and opportunity this Courthouse and this exceptional program has blessed me with. The Nelson Fellowship is very near and dear to my heart, and I am extremely proud to have served as its Coordinator for the last few years.”

***“You all, in your own special ways, embody the legacy of Judge Nelson.”***



## Excerpts from 2022 Lindsay Graduation Speech — *Judge A. Kelley*

“...One might think Judge Lindsay’s accomplishments came easily because of his upbringing and education. But in fact, he experienced some of the greatest challenges anyone could face. He was born a black man, in the segregated south, decades before the civil rights movement. Yet despite enduring the indignities and disadvantages of being treated as a second-class citizen by the society through the laws and culture of Alabama, Judge Lindsay defied the odds, overcoming structural and legal barriers to rise to the highest levels of the legal profession. Can you imagine what it was like to attend segregated schools, or being told you must use colored-only water fountains or bathrooms and forced to ride in the back of the bus? He lived through it all. I am sure at times he did not feel welcomed, discouraged, and uncertain about his future, because he was among the firsts without any one to pave the way for him or role models to follow. Yet, he overcame these obstacles. And THEN, 13 years into his legal career, Judge Lindsay was afflicted with an illness that stole his ability to walk and confined him to a wheelchair. Can you imagine how this changed his life and the new challenges he faced? BUT that didn’t stop him from climbing to new heights. In a state with more than 6 million people, over 40,000 lawyers, and approximately 400 judges in the entire state, Judge Lindsay was appointed to the federal court to one of the 13 judges to serve in the U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts. He was the 36th judge to ever hold a sit in this court, since 1789, that is more than 2 centuries. Judge Lindsay was the second black person to serve in this capacity. He was the last black male to serve as a district judge on this court. Are you getting the sense that he was rare, extraordinary, and truly special? Please allow me to further explain how extraordinary he was, by sharing with you his words expressed on a day like today, in 2004 at similar graduation program.



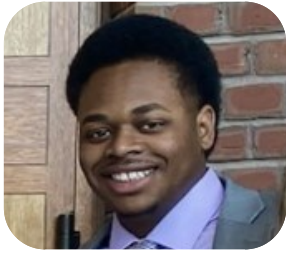
“I compare you, as I have compared other Nelson Fellows, to an insect, the bumblebee. If you confine yourself to the basic facts about the bumblebee, to what some people think are the laws of science, you will conclude that the bumblebee cannot fly. The basic facts are that the bumblebee's wings are too small, and its body too large and poorly shaped to permit flying. But the bumblebee is not confined by the basic facts, by the stereotypes, by the probability curve. The bumblebee does not know the so-called laws of science or the predictions of the probability curve. Thus, the bumblebee is not limited to an earthbound existence. It is not limited by the way it looks, where it comes from or by what the superficial inquiry will predict about its capacity. The bumblebee flies, and so do you.”

We know in these last 9 weeks, the 6 of you found your wings and you are ready to take flight. Soar, soar high, continue to soar beyond any limits that you might see – push past the barriers that might exist, because nothing can hold you back – You are a Lindsay Fellow. You are of part of the Lindsay Legacy. Have confidence. Even if you ever struggle through a difficult time, remember you are Lindsay Strong – you are a Lindsay Bumblebee. Move forward in life knowing you have what it takes to succeed, and you are never alone. You are a Lindsay Fellow, forever a part of this federal court village.”

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# THE 2022 LINDSAY FELLOWS

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**Samy J. Dubuisson** is a senior at the University of Massachusetts — Dartmouth, where he double majors in Crime & Justice Studies and Psychology. Samy was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.



**Maxiel Martha Gomez** is a rising senior at Northeastern University, where she majors in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Maxiel was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper and was placed in the U.S. Attorney's Office.



**Bettyna Elescar** is a rising senior at Salem State University, where she majors in English with a concentration in Professional Writing, and double minors in French and Peace Studies. Bettyna was assigned to the Honorable Angel Kelley and was placed in the Federal Public Defender Office.



**Lenny Tejeda** is a rising senior at Denison University, where he double majors in Global Health and Anthropology/Sociology. Lenny was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris and was placed in the Federal Public Defender Office.



**Marianna Jantzen** is a rising senior at the College of the Holy Cross, where she majors in Political Science and minors in Asian Studies. Marianna was assigned to the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton and was placed in the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office.



**Cleiton Castro** is a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts — Boston, where he majors in Criminal Justice. Cleiton was assigned to the Honorable William G. Young and was placed in the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office.



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# THE 2022 NELSON FELLOWS

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**Mark Tran** is a rising senior attending Excel High School. He was assigned to the Honorable Angel Kelley.



**Jamileisha Trejo** is a rising senior attending University Park Campus School in Worcester. She was assigned to the Honorable David H. Hennessy.



**Keyanna Bernard** is a rising junior attending the John D. O'Bryant. She was assigned to the Honorable Patti B. Saris.



**Nathan Palmer** is a rising senior attending the Edward Brooke High School. He was assigned to the Honorable Donald L. Cabell.



**Sarah Fosberry** is a rising junior attending South High Community School in Worcester. She was assigned to the Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton.



**Ashley Aguirre López** is a rising junior attending the John D. O'Bryant. She was assigned to the Honorable Jennifer C. Boal.

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# THE 2022 NELSON FELLOWS

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**Elinel Gonzalez** is a rising junior attending the John D. O'Bryant. She was assigned to the Honorable Leo T. Sorokin.



**Julian Henehan** is a rising senior attending Boston Latin Academy. He was assigned to the Honorable William G. Young.



**Alaina James** is a rising junior attending the Brooke High School. She was assigned to the Honorable Allison D. Burroughs.



**Taleiyah Walker** is a rising freshman attending Suffolk University. She was assigned to the Honorable Denise J. Casper.



**Faduma Abdikadir** is a rising junior attending Boston Latin Academy. She was assigned to the Honorable Richard G. Stearns.

## The 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.

### To Donate:

Donations are welcome. Please email FBA Treasurer Brian Murphy (murphy@murphyrudolf.com) if you wish to donate. Checks should be made out to Federal Bar Association - Massachusetts Chapter. Please include a note designating the funds for Ginny Hurley Memorial Scholarship.

*THANK YOU!*

*We wish to thank those  
who have provided invaluable assistance to the Fellowship:*

Cheryl Lindsay

Alexis Hamdan, Esq.

Taisha Sturvidant, Esq.

Jamele Adams

Jason Wise

Our Devoted Judges, Chambers' Staff, Law Clerks, and Interns

Kyana Givens, Jessica Thrall & The Federal Public Defender's Office

Ricardo Carter, Carolina Aparicio-Santiago & The U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office

Rachael Rollins, Josh Levy, Anne Paruti, Anu Balakrishna, Carol Head & The U.S. Attorney's Office

Paul Barton & The U.S. Marshal's Office

Robert Farrell, USDC Clerk of Court, and Staff

Bottom Line, Boston

Posse Foundation, Boston

Summer Search, Boston

Lissy Medvedow, Boston College Law Rappaport Center

Gail Packer, Community Dispute Settlement Center, and Staff

Daniel Hohler & the Pro Se Office

Anne Bowie, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

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Annissa Essaibi George

The Federal Bar Association—Massachusetts Chapter

James Pace, USPO

AUSA Kunal Pasricha

Matt Wilson, Discovering Justice

Stephanie Angel, Counsel for Senator Warren

Armand Coleman, Transformational Prison Project & Stacey Borden, New Beginnings Re-Entry  
Services

Andrea Campbell, Esq.

Chief Justice Amy Nechtem

Carmen Ortiz, Esq.

Annabel Rodriguez, Esq., Doris Fitzpatrick, Jermaine Kidd, Esq., Wagner Soto, Esq., and the numerous other Lindsay & Nelson Fellowship alumni who have consistently shared their knowledge, experience, and support... All others who have given their time to this program in any way!