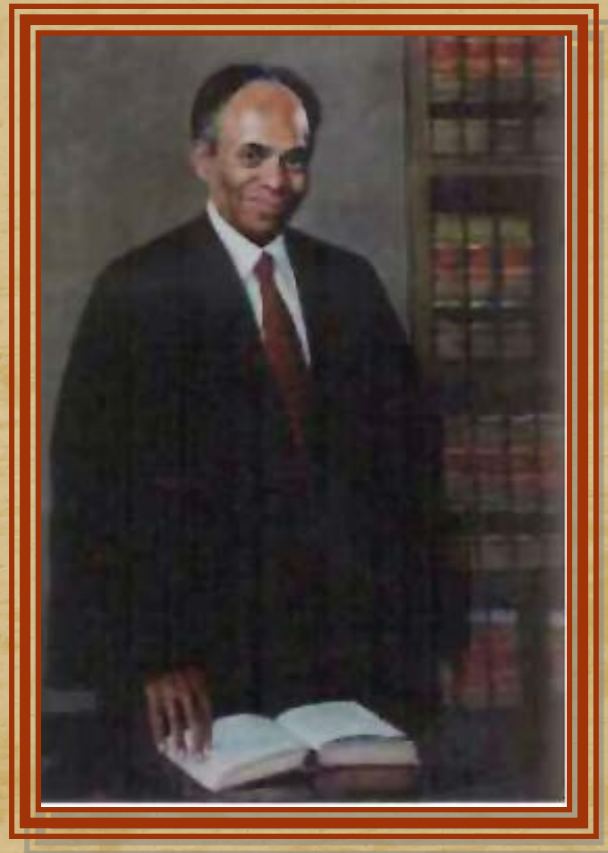


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Another Eventful Summer at the Courthouse...

FEATURED ARTICLES:

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Meeting My Judge

By Veronique Similien

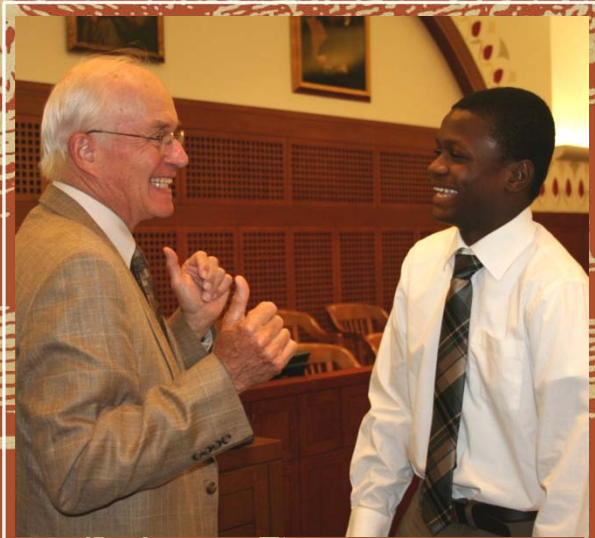
It was my first day as a Nelson Fellow and I was both nervous and excited to meet my Judge. There were many questions running through my head. What if she didn't like me? What if I gave the wrong impression? However, when I entered the chambers, it was nothing like I expected. I had the privilege of working in the chambers of U.S District Judge Denise Casper. Even before meeting her, I was looking forward to working with her because she is the first African American female district Judge in Massachusetts. She was also the Judge who oversaw the trial of the notorious Whitey Bulger. In addition to getting to know my Judge, I also got to know the law clerks and interns really well.

First, there was Tyeesha whose clerkship was drawing to an end and who loved Netflix. Then, there was Shamise who loves acting and had recently started her clerkship. Francheska and Shefali were both interns who were current law school students who made me feel happy to be in chambers. What was really awesome about my chambers was the fact that they were all women of color. I know that it is really hard to be a woman in the law field and it strongly inspired me to work with women who were successful in that field. What I loved most about the law clerks and interns I worked with was the fact that they were so...so normal. We had many pointless conversations, including one involving werewolves vs. vampires! For my birthday, they even bought me a cupcake and sang to me.

During my time in chambers, my task was to organize the articles on the Whitey Bulger trial. This gave me the opportunity to read more about the case. I had the chance to see the case evolve from the pre-trial to the sentencing period.

I had the opportunity to read about the witnesses in the case. I also sometimes organized the supply closet. My favorite part, however, was when we would sit around the table and just talk.

Because I was able to spend time with four wonderful women who I aspire to be like one day, Chambers was one of the highlights of my experience in the Nelson Fellowship program.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

~ Mavrick Afonso ~

As a past Nelson Fellow and a former coordinator for both the Nelson and Lindsay Fellowship Programs, Afonso continues to maintain a close relationship with the courthouse.

Currently, Afonso is working for the city of Boston at Parks and Recreation where he is manages outdoor events in the city.

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Preparing for the Future

By Naccilla Tracy Jean

Interviews are what usually helps determine that you have the right technical skills or that you possess the ability to do well at the job for which you are applying. One of the many opportunities that the Nelson Fellowship offered me was the chance to learn some really important tips on how to successfully go through the interview process.

Normally, when asking for a job position in my school, I usually get advice and help from my teachers in order to prepare for my interviews, but the experience that I had in my mock interview was very constructive for me. Something that I never thought about before was the importance of an interview. The interview offers you a chance to demonstrate to your future employer that you have an interest in the job, and furthermore possess all the right qualifications. Since being interviewed can be very nerve wrecking experience, the mock interviews were extremely helpful in preparing me for what I will be expecting in the real world. These mock interviews not only taught us basic things, such as how to prepare a good cover letter, and an impressive resume, but they also taught me how to best present my set of skills and my individuality.

Furthermore something that I was really glad for was the fact that we received feedback from the people who interviewed us, and those compliments that they gave me are things that I never thought of before and are things that I should work on or continue doing. I was very glad for having that kind of experience, that I know that few people have the opportunity to live and for that reason I'm very thankful and those experiences would always be useful in my future.

“Justice is but
truth in action”

- *Louis Brandeis*

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An Inspiration to All Women

By Kiana Baez

When we met with US Attorney, Carmen Ortiz, I learned that the United States Attorney prosecutes all criminal and civil cases brought by the Federal government and defends the United States when it is a party in a civil case. This particular office is committed to developing and maintaining strategic partnerships among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to ensure the effective deployment of resources to positively impact the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents.

In addition to explaining more about what the office of the US Attorney does, Carmen Ortiz gave us the privilege of opening up and telling us a little bit about her journey to where she is today and everything that she has had to go through. U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz is a one of a kind woman, not only for achieving such a high position in her career but also for her attitude on life. Even though she has faced many obstacles because of her background and her gender, she did not let these obstacles define who she is or stop her from aiming higher. Through it all, she held her head high and kept on. Before taking on her current role, she was an attorney in the Justice Department's Criminal Division, an assistant District Attorney, and an assistant U.S. Attorney. Throughout her career, she has worked on many high profile cases, including the most recent one being the Boston bomber case. She is known for working on some high profile cases. Although being a US Attorney is not an easy task, and some may even say that the job itself takes over your personal life, she has been able to manage raising two daughters and have a well balanced life.

We are the Future

By Kamel Mohamed

The future of tomorrow is determined by the actions taken today. William Gross understood this idea. He went out into the world and took it for what it was, a place in need of change.

There were so many problems in his community. He saw the problem and tackled it head on with so much strength and power knowing the battle was going to be long and hard. His goal, which was to see a brighter tomorrow kept him going. He became a police officer early on in his career, and focuses on protecting the people of Boston. Once the job began, he was completely devoted to it. His passion and need to create a better community pushes him till this day. With his hard work and long hours, he moved up the chain of command over time, showing his leadership and skills. He highlighted the importance of hard work and how it was the most important thing that got him to be the first black Superintendent of Chief of Police. Although he is very successful at his job, he also realizes that there is still a lot to be done.

With this new position, he has more power to change the things he could not before and also shape our city into what he has always imagined it could be. What I appreciated most about this meeting, was his simple approach at meeting us, and even asking for help on how to improve the community. Within one hour, we were all convinced that we can be more, and do more to help our city.

After this meeting, I am now convinced that I, as well as the other Nelson Fellows, are the future and that our actions determine not only our fate, but also the fate of our community. So, now I am responsible for myself but also my community and even the next generation to come. What I am is important, what I do has an effect and my choices have the power to create change. You must try to achieve and as Charles W. Chesnutt said "impossibilities are merely things which we have not yet learned."

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Writing is my Power; Speaking is how I Exercise that Power

By Heroldy Limage

I never liked public speaking, not only because I have to speak in front of a group, but also due to the stress that comes with the idea. Taking the public speaking class this summer has given me a new insight on the one thing I never liked. It has shown me that speaking is the only insight someone has into who I really am. I never thought of it that way; I saw speaking as only a form of communication.

One of the things that Jamele Adams, our public speaking teacher, always said that has stuck with me was "writing is my power, speaking is how I exercise my power". In fact, it is true! I always thought that words were powerful, but never saw through a different point of view until this summer. I have come to the realization that writing is not only a form of communication, but a form of self expression as well. It's a way of showing others the side of us that they never get to see, the side they never thought existed. Not only me, but the other fellows, felt inspired by Jamele Adams and his words. I truly believe that he made us realize not only how powerful words can be, but how much more powerful we could be once we knew how to communicate our feelings and desires better. Words have the power to create peace and the power to start a war; and we hold that power. While taking in the class, I've come to see that there's a side of me that a lot of people haven't seen because I never paid much attention to meliorating my public speaking skills, or practice my writing abilities. Not only has this class helped me on that, but it has made me a better person. It has given me different point of views on certain things as well as teaching me not to underestimate my power. Speaking is my power; writing is how I exercise my power. Now that I know, it won't ever hurt to take a few minutes a day to exercise my power: the power I forgot I had.



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Not Just another Camp

By Naideline Raymond

My feelings are many but my words are few; I will, however, talk about one of the most memorable events I participated in through the Nelson Fellowship Program. It was the 25th of July; the Nelson Fellows along with the Ward Fellows were invited to Future Star Camp in Lowell, which runs a wonderful Day Camp program for children ages 4-13. The staff of this summer program is composed of people who are, or have family members that are affiliated with gang and/or violence. This summer program recruits these people, gets them off the street and away from, if any, mischievous and unfortunate circumstances.

When we arrived at the camp site in Lowell, few of us decided to aid with the picnic for the little children, whereas most of us mingled and split into teams that battled each other in a tournament that included many sports (kickball, soccer, baseball, and basketball). There were 6 teams. I was part of team 1. Team 1 and team 6 were paired against each other to a basketball game. (Well, just so you know team 1 won.) Later on, team 1 and team 6 were paired again to a soccer game, if you're wondering team 6 won by one goal. It was such a fun day. We were able to befriend other teens like ourselves. I had the chance to meet Kayla, she's 19 years old. She works as a staff member for Future Star Camp and we definitely bonded, we have the same taste and same point of view. We both want to major in forensic sciences. I enjoyed her company; she made me feel at ease. This day was a day to make friends, to lose couple pounds, to have fun, and to be proactive. It was fantastic. I feel like this day brought the Nelson Fellows closer to each other. I enjoyed it and I think my fellow friends enjoyed it as much as I did.

In a nutshell, Future Star Camp is one of the many opportunities I had the chance to experience through the Nelson Fellowship Program. My overall experience of working at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse as a Nelson Fellow was phenomenal. In addition, a unique aspect of this job was getting paid to basically learn and network. I have accomplished many goals through the things I've learned, the people I've met, the classes I attended, and the activities I took part in. This job has provided a valued space for self-development, which has sequentially influenced my personal and professional development. I will take away with me a greater sense of self awareness, and an increased confidence.

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A Different Perspective

By Simon Wu

It's not always about arguing, as an attorney. Another way of settling a problem is through mediation. It's not always about who's right or who's wrong, but what we can do to solve an issue. Regardless of whether it is a huge problem or even a petty problem, any problem can be solved through the process of mediation. It gives a chance to both sides to understand the opposition's perspective. Although mediation is a process of compromise, it doesn't mean that it's easy to come to a solution. Often, both sides strongly believe that they are right. The powerful aspect in mediation is that both sides can talk about how they feel and how they could help each other, which is usually not inherent in a court hearing because a judge or jury decides on how a conflict should be solved.

Personally, I always believed that I was right in any conflicts because of how I felt. My experience at the Community Dispute Settlement Center has given me a new perspective on how to solve an issue by not arguing about it. I've learned to talk about the problem and how both sides can contribute in solving it. Also, from my experiences at the Community Dispute Settlement Center, the job of a mediator can be very challenging. The mediator has to make sure that both sides are being respectful towards each other, yet at the same time, express their feelings and thoughts. Mediators have to be ready to deal with emotions from both sides. For example, when a conflict has emerged, both sides are often portraying negative emotions towards each other.

A mediator has to have patience and be fair, regardless of their own opinion, and treating both sides equally. It's not always about who's right or who's wrong, it's about how both sides can compromise and find a solution that would be favorable towards everyone.

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Meeting the Man Himself

By Geury Cabrera

As the Lindsay and Nelson fellows arrived to the State House, we all were aware that today we would be meeting the man himself, Deval Patrick. Once we settled in, a large array of sound started to distinguish itself from the general courthouse noise. The Lindsay and Nelsons started to assimilate into the State House as we all became more and more comfortable; however, we remained anxious as the atmosphere started to fill up with enthusiasm. We were well aware that Governor Deval Patrick could have walked in at any moment and we all knew exactly what to do. Once Governor Deval Patrick walked in we all jumped out of our seats to demonstrate our respect. Yet, he waved hello and flashed his smile, a sense of ease had been bestowed to us and our anxiety diminished.

Governor Deval Patrick became the first African-American Governor in Massachusetts, an achievement which will forever be associated with his name. However, the Lindsay and Nelson fellows would not be able to distinguish this fact considering the Governor's general composed demeanor.

Arrogance is usually associated with success; however, it is a complete fallacy with Governor Deval Patrick. Thereafter, the Governor introduced himself and spoke about his pride. Yet, he did not speak about his self-pride but instead of Massachusetts, which is the pride of all its inhabitants. The Governor spoke about the states' achievements after the 2008 economic crash and the stupendous school system, in which Massachusetts leads the country. Once he concluded with his introduction, it was time for the inquisition, immediately I noticed the faces of the fellows lit up with anticipation.

Although the questions which we asked seemed to be more on the personal side, Governor Deval Patrick would attempt to answer the questions in a way which we would all be able to relate to. Once he did this, he made every answer a lesson, or a motivational message. For instance, Nelson Fellows are obligated to learn about the legal field, which include the negative and positive aspects of it. Throughout the program, most speakers seemed to hold some type of disdain towards law school. However, once a fellow asked the Governor about his experience in law school, the Governor boldly admitted that he loved it. Although Harvard Law School was difficult and Governor Patrick had to overcome his minor dyslexia, he loved the law school process. Governor Patrick joyfully explained how he met his greatest lifelong friends in law school and how his love for the law truly developed in law school. This sense of excitement for higher education motivated all fellows who were once afraid of law school and who now welcome the challenge.

The meeting became an experience which we should never forget, more so because the Governor enlightened us with his stories and his presence. The most important trait which I admire from our current Governor is his persistence. Massachusetts may be one of the most respected states in the country but he wants more. Our education system may lead the country but he wants more. Harvard Law School was difficult but he wanted more and this persistence inspires me. Throughout this summer I learned that persistence is vital for success and we must all adopt this significant trait in order to succeed.



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A Second Chance

By Anissa Catino

From the time we are young we start to form opinions on people, these opinions come from how we were raised and by whom we were raised. We are taught that certain things are “bad” and therefore, we start to think that the people who do these things are “bad” people as well. The RESTART Program, which stands for *Reentry: Empowering Successful Todays and Responsible Tomorrows*, gave me a different perspective on this. People make mistakes. That is one of the main focal points of this program. RESTART takes people, who have a criminal mindset and don’t really know how to get used to the normal life, and helps them reenter the world after coming out of jail. This program requires that its members check in with the court and have a meeting where they talk to a judge about their life. Did they start a new job? Did they just reenter their child’s life? Judge Hennessy, the one who presides over this program, makes them feel at ease and genuinely cares about their well being. He is not afraid to use tough love when needed, though.

I am very passionate about public service. I truly believe that when you are educated and have accomplished things, it is your job to use that knowledge to help others. I think that the people involved in this program are remarkable. The Judge sits on his bench and tries to impact as many lives and help as many people as he can. He does not criticize their fallbacks, but helps them get back on track. I believe that one of the main problems with people going back to jail is the constant judgment they receive from people outside. They are constantly put down upon, so how can they try to change their life when no one gives them a chance?

The RESTART program helps so much because at times, all its members need is for someone to listen to their problems and recognize their accomplishments. A simple “good job” goes a long way. Because at the end of the day, it does not matter who you are, or how old you are, at times we all need someone to reach a helping hand and make us realize that after all, we are not alone.



Mock Trial

By Nahum Lopez

We got our case, we sit in place, and we start thinking. What do we know? What can we do? What is there to argue? There is a plethora of things to do when one is getting ready for a mock trial, even though it is just a “mock” trial.

When it came to the first day of preparing for the day of the mock trial, the Nelson Fellows were introduced to a man by the name of Jerry Howland. His knowledge about the law precedes him since he teaches high school students on law and justice. When one talks to him, you might not even realize that you are already feeling comfortable talking to him, despite his looks. He really is smarter than he looks. (If you read this, Mr. Howland, I just had to put that small joke in there.) All jokes aside, Mr. Howland always does his best to help the Nelson Fellows in our preparation for the big mock trial and gives the fellows great advice and encouragement. During class, the fellows listen intently to the advice and criticism that is given by Mr. Howland, making Mock Trial Prep more engaging as a whole.

Towards the end, I, as well as the other Nelson Fellows, feel much more confident than before, and know that we will do the absolute best in our roles. For that, we owe our gratitude to Mr. Howland, who patiently worked and transformed each and every one of us.

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The Legacy

By Rony Alvarez

At the discovery of my admission as a Nelson Fellow I was very excited, mainly because it insured me some money over the summer but also because I knew that the legal field is where I would want to have a career in the future. As the weeks went by and the experiences piled up I realized that a pay check was the least that I was receiving as a fellow but I still did not yet have a full grasp of what it meant to be a Nelson Fellow. It wasn't till we met with the uniquely wise and positive, Joe Oteri that I realized the great honor that comes with being a Nelson Fellow.

To my surprise being a Nelson Fellow had almost absolutely nothing to do with the law, for the law is constantly changing. While the rulings are constantly being reversed, the essence of what it means to be a Nelson Fellow is never changing, except getting stronger and more emphasized as the years go by. To be a Nelson Fellow is to emulate the honorable David Nelson, to possess characteristics that should be permanent in our personalities. It means being able to possess his sense of humor and glow; to have the ability to enter a room and lighten up the atmosphere as he always did; to be as determined and hardworking. But mainly, to be a Nelson Fellow means to make a commitment to devote our lives to meliorating ourselves and those around us.

A Visit to the U.S. Marshal's

By Esther Oloukun

I cannot specifically state that our visit to the United States Marshall's office met or exceeded my expectations because I had none. It's not every day that students are given the opportunity to meet U.S. government officials. Therefore with chances such as these, one can only hope for the best.

Upon arriving at the office, a mere four floors below our own, we were ushered into a conference room. Subsequently, we met Kevin Neal, the supervisor of operations, who gave us an overview of the marshal service: the requirements to become one, how they are trained, what they do, and what crimes they are allowed to oversee. He even showed us his Taser gun and how it works, allowed us to try on a full set of handcuffs and leg irons, and showed how the DNA sampling is conducted for criminals. We also met U.S. Marshal Gibbons, the marshal for the district of MA, who told us about how connections were needed to become such a high ranking government official. After all introductions were made, and after most of our questions were answered, U.S. Marshal Deputy Neal took us on a tour of the jail cells and holding facility in the courthouse basement. (continued)



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As soon as we entered the elevator to descend into the area, my heart began to race. I wasn't sure why I was becoming so anxious at first, however, now I understand. All my life, I have preferred and chosen the bloody action movie about the escaped convict over the typical *How I Met Your Mother* type shows.

While I was used to seeing these prisons and convicts on TV, the reality of actually being in a holding facility then slapped me in the face. After jumping over the hurdle of my anxious feelings, I was eventually able to enjoy the tour and truly take in my surroundings. Marshal Neal explained to us the number of precautions they take to ensure that no prisoners were able to escape such as not carrying weapons or keys in certain areas and keeping prisoners at a certain angle so as to be ready for any attempt by the prisoner. He also explained to us that the reason for the white winding, maze-like hallways was to ensure that even if a prisoner did escape, they would have trouble finding their way out. Although these precautions are taken, the Marshals also told us that they always make it a priority to treat all prisoners with respect, but never to become too close to them.

When the tour was over, we were taken through the back door into the courtroom, but not before we were allowed to sit in a jail cell. As my nostrils filled with the odor of Clorox and my eyes took in the white labyrinth one last time, I wondered why anyone would ever intentionally break a law and end up in such a place. Then I thought to myself, if the public was allowed tours to such places, then would they think twice about putting themselves in such a position?



A Class to Remember

By Halimo Mohammed

The Civil Rights class has taught me many things, starting with how the history of the United States changed throughout the years to learning more about ideologies and the diversity in our cultures. Our teacher, Jason Wise, who is one of the greatest people I have met, has taught me so many things. For me, this class was very interesting. As a young girl, I have always enjoyed learning about the past and how history influences on our everyday life and who we are today as a society. While we learned a lot about historical events, we also had the chance to get to know one another better. One of my favorite parts of this class was creating our very own identity bags. On the front of the bag we had to put anything external, something that anyone can tell about us, on the inside we had to put something things about ourselves that no one would be able to guess. This task was extremely different, but at the end, I actually had a chance to learn more about myself, and the other fellows. It gave us a chance to grow as individuals but also grow closer.

The Nelson Fellows have been a family to me. In just about seven weeks, I have met twelve other individuals who have different backgrounds and together we accomplished to have one of the best summers of our lives. I am so proud to be a Nelson Fellow, the opportunities that this internship offers are just amazing. One of these opportunities was to get an insight of what it would feel like to be part of the legal system. This was very helpful since I have been interested in the legal field throughout my life. As I get older, I hope to learn more about our legal system and hopefully one day be part of what makes our country a great nation.

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The Memory of the “Bumble Bee Judge” Flies On

By Ian Reece

If I were to ask you to give me a few traits that make up a good judge what would you say? You may say that a good judge must be a hard worker, wise, stern, and well versed in the law. If you had asked me the same question two months ago I might have given you that answer as well. However, in those two months my perspective has changed. During my time in the Lindsay Fellowship Program, a fellowship named in honor of the late Honorable Judge Reginald Lindsay, the fellows received the opportunity to speak with many individuals who knew him personally. Through these meetings, I have discovered the characteristics that distinguish a great judge from a good judge. It is an attribute that everyone wants, and those that have it, don't realize it. This highly sought after trait is quite simply being a kind-hearted human being.

It is undisputed that Judge Lindsay was a phenomenal judge. He had the uncanny ability to maintain order in his courtroom and was an incredible teacher of the law. However, when speaking to individuals that had the privilege to personally know Judge Lindsay they will tell you that he was also an absolutely wonderful human being. We, the Lindsay fellows, were told stories not only about the several notorious cases in which Judge Lindsay presided but also that he was the “wisest and funniest man in the history of civilization.”

Although, Judge Lindsay is no longer physically with us today, his legacy will always remain alive. Through the memories those that knew him cherish, through the footprints he has left behind in this world, and through each Lindsay fellow that is chosen. Even though he was confined to a wheelchair for a portion of his life, he maintained a passion to not let obstacles, such as that, hold him back. He turned his physical restrictions into motivation to fight even harder for what you wanted. His belief of not giving up and proving no obstacle is too great to overcome can be illustrated in a speech Judge Lindsay gave at a Nelson Fellowship graduation:

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 of 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.

In other words, like the bumblebee, we will all defy the laws of physics and fly. It was truly an honor and a privileged to have gotten the gracious opportunity to partake in the Lindsay Fellowship Program. It is an even greater privilege to forever be referred to as a Lindsay fellow and play a part in keeping the legacy of Judge Lindsay forever alive.

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Everyone Deserves a Fair Trial

By Picardy Lamour

“Everyone deserves a fair trial” seems to be the most essential notion shared by all Federal Public Defenders. They all have this deep sense of understanding of humanity in regards to not just the offenders, but the law as a whole.

Before having the privilege of working at the Federal Public Defender Office, my understanding of their job was a premature conception based on the people they represent. In other words, I thought their priority was to help criminals get away with any crime. Well, I was wrong. While working with the defenders, I realize that their job is a profound commitment to the constitution. Their conviction is to make sure that law enforcement officials do not infringe one’s rights. For instance, one of the defenders has recently won a Supreme Court case that makes it unconstitutional for a police officer to get evidence from one’s phone without their consent. This is of particular importance because it illustrates how defenders help shape the law in order to preserve the rights of the people.

As mentioned previously, my experience at the Federal Public defender office has shattered many presuppositions that I had. I was never concerned with the upbringing or environment of an offender. My judgment was simply based on the crime they had committed. Nevertheless, the defenders have helped me understand their clients to a more insightful angle. I now know that people who engage in illegal activities are, frequently, people who have been misguided by environmental factors that were beyond them.

What made my time at the FPD interesting in particular were the high profile cases they had this summer. To say the least, I have had the chance of discussing cases that would remain forever historical. Interestingly, the emphasis is not on the crime committed, but rather, the assurance that everyone gets a fair trial.

Of great significance were the various discussions I had about the sentencing guidelines. Not only was I completely oblivious



to the tough and arguably ineffective drug sentencing guidelines, I certainly did not know how they were implemented. I have learned to think openly, in a manner that benefits society as whole. For instance, why do we simply focus on the punishment, why don’t we as a society think of institutions that could help them differently? This way of thinking is not derived strictly from the Federal Public Defenders, but my experience there undoubtedly accentuated my judgment.

All things considered, this experience was exceptional. The deep aspiration for public interest, the great conversations, the part of the law I explored are all things that will shape me in whatever I do in the future.

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“I Came in Like Perry Mason”

By Suleyka Hance

The Lindsay Fellowship Program has been a truly enlightening and eye-opening experience. Eye-opening because it has taught me that the role of an attorney is not necessarily a “glamorous” one. And enlightening because my path to becoming an attorney is now set in stone. When we first began this internship, I was solely interested in attending law school but now, at the bitter sweet end, I am certain that I will be going to law school in 2016. Throughout this experience, I have had the opportunity to meet judges and attorneys from both the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Federal Public Defender’s office. But the greatest challenge this summer was to be disciplined in my writing by a Boston University law professor, Alexis Hamden.

I vividly recall our first day of class as we walked into the room there was Alexis smiling from ear to ear greeting us with such pleasure in her voice. But that was short lived because as soon as introductions were over, we were hard at work. We worked on grammar and sentence structures. It also just so happened that she wanted us to rewrite our essays from our applications. She read some of them out loud and would ask, “How could we restructure this sentence?” A fellow would give it a go with a response, but she’d say “Nope. Try again.” This class has introduced us to writing legal briefs and how difficult it can be to write one.

Alexis has taught us fellows that being an attorney is not a walk in the park and she’d always said that being an attorney is not glamorous. I remember her preaching, “If you want to be a good lawyer you have to be devoted to your work.” I believe that the most challenging part of Alexis’s legal research and writing class was preparing for moot court, but that experience will remain with me for the rest of my life. I remember at the moot court prep I was so unprepared that she cut me off and said “I’m going to go get a muffin before I die while you get it together.” I was shocked, but I can guarantee that the very next day I came in like Perry Mason with attitude and a little bit of flare, just for Alexis. I guess what I really want to say is that Alexis has made such a great impact on myself and I’m sure that also goes for the other fellows. We will never forget to EDIT and re-Edit! Thank you for the tough love, it’s greatly appreciated. Alexis you will be missed!!!



From the Federal Court to State Court

By Marlene Inoa

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both." The Dorchester Division, Boston Municipal Courthouse has a vital responsibility to ensure justice to all people even if they cannot afford a lawyer. Their mission is to devote themselves to the rule of law through the conscientious and expeditious resolution of disputes, with a commitment to restoring the human spirit through correction, education, respect and compassion.

My first impression of the Dorchester courthouse was that it was out of place due to the fact that it was in the middle of Dorchester, or in other words, the "hood." As we approached the respectable and traditional courthouse, we gradually found out how laid back it actually was. Upon our arrival to the courthouse we met with Nancy Hurley, an incredible, well respected, and hilarious attorney, waiting for us in her light blue jeans ready to tell jokes and give us an exclusive tour of the courthouse.

Oddly enough, it was my first time in the Dorchester courthouse and I anticipated it being a great time. I was anxious to see the difference between the state court and the federal court. It was a Friday and the courthouse was still very busy. There were so many people waiting in line to find out what their next move was going to be, whether it was from a judge or an attorney. There we were able to observe mostly preliminary actions, trial arraignments, and motions.

One of the more interesting aspects of our visit was when we were able to get a tour of the holding pens. It was a little nerve wrecking because we were able to see real detainees waiting for their turn to go to court. To say these holding cells weren't glamorous is an understatement. These cells were small, crowded, and had one toilet for everyone to use and see you use while being inside the cell. I would absolutely hate to be held in one of these cells and was happy to walk out of there a free woman.

Afterwards, we had the pleasure of sitting down and having conversations with a wide range of people, but one of the most inspirational talk we had was with Judge Jonathan Tynes who was appointed in 2013 to fill the seat vacated by the retirement of Judge Edward R. Redd. He spoke to us about his upbringing and also about the paths he took to become a judge. He was able to relate to us and advised us that we can do anything we put our minds to, our backgrounds do not define us, and that respect is everything.

If there was anything I took from our visit to the Dorchester courthouse it would have to be that life is full of surprises and that you should not limit yourself. It doesn't matter if you are from Dorchester, Roxbury, or Mattapan, your goals will never be too high to reach.

Outside of Chambers and into the USAO

By Joe Rowell

I had the distinct pleasure of working in the United States Attorney's Office ("USAO") this summer. I was nervous at first as I didn't know much about the work done there and how I would fit in. At the same time, I was excited about working in the USAO with so many sensational cases in the pipeline. I was really interested in getting an inside view of the federal justice system.

From my first day of work, we hit the ground running. We were all welcomed with open arms to the office. Everyone was so happy to have us working there. There was so much information to learn during our orientation. We learned about the diligence and delicacy that the work we were going to be doing required. It was almost like working for a secret agency. Most of the things that I would be doing and learning about, I wouldn't be able to casually talk about.

Primarily we worked under Ray Farquhar. Ray was a great mentor and provided excellent guidance during our time in the USAO. Our biggest project was to write a legal memo for a hypothetical slip and fall case. Our client was to be the United States Postal Service ("USPS"). A customer who had slipped, fell and broken her elbow was bringing suit against the USPS. We were instructed to make a recommendation to the USPS about whether or not they could be found liable in the case. It was an interesting case because the answer wasn't as straightforward as we initially thought. The journey of writing the memo was a fun one.

One of the most interesting things we discovered was that state law and not federal law dictates the law that we follow in this case. We began with researching for our memo. Our research took on many twists and turns. We stumbled across a case that changed the law in Massachusetts. We found that for the most part, that landowners are not responsible for injuries that occur on their property resulting from a natural accumulation of snow. Our recommendation to our client was that they would not be found liable for the injury caused on their property.

The other work that I did was a great experience. I assisted an attorney with some of the background work on her case. I helped make a chronology of events to help organize the events in a case. I felt like a real investigator! I was able to trace how a case was built through this project. I was also able to do some research and summarize cases. I was examining an aspect of the law in order to determine if the federal government had standing for a lawsuit.

Through this experience I learned so much about the inner workings of the federal justice system. I hope to stay in touch with everyone that I met in the USAO. Overall, my time at the USAO was AMAZING!

NELSON FELLOWS 2014



Rony Alvarez
Another Course to College,
Class of 2014

Interned in Magistrate Judge
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Class of 2015

Interned in Judge Zobel's
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Anissa Catino
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LINDSAY FELLOWS 2014



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THE REGINALD C. LINDSAY & DAVID S. NELSON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

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COORDINATORS 2014

Alcina Tran is a rising senior at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, studying International Relations. She will graduate early in December 2014. Alcina hopes to pursue graduate school for International Affairs.



Enki Gjerci is a rising junior at Harvard University, where she is concentrating in Government and Classics. She sees herself in law school in the near future, and hopes to specialize in education.

Thankfully, we still have **Ginny Hurley** with us! We don't know what we would do without her! Every summer, she coordinates the coordinators and is simply the driving force of the program.

Magistrate Judge Judith Dein and **District Judge Denise Casper** are the current overseers of both the Lindsay and Nelson Fellowship Programs.



THE REGINALD C. LINDSAY & DAVID S. NELSON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

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