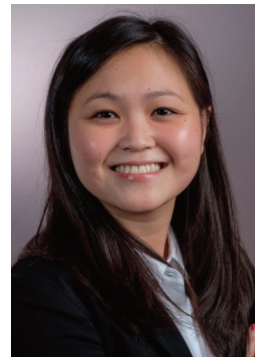


Joy Sun '21 Update

As I am writing this, my COVID-postponed graduation ceremony from Harvard Law School is less than a few days away. It is hard to believe that



a full year has passed since I had officially graduated from HLS. I came into law school steadfast in my desire to become a legal aid attorney post-grad. To actually be in that role has been both so much more rewarding and challenging than I could have even imagined.

Thanks to the David A. Grossman Fellowship, I have had the privilege after graduation to pursue a project focused on housing justice in the Consumer Rights Unit (CRU) at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). My project primarily entails working closely with grassroots community organizations to advise, represent, and educate low-income homeowners who are facing foreclosure, especially in Boston's communities of color.

The beginning of the fellowship was the most challenging period. Though I was a student attorney in the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau's (HLAB) housing practice and was familiar with tenant-landlord law, foreclosure issues are a completely different and very complicated area of law. In many ways, learning this complex area of law felt like being a 1L in law school all over again – learning new jargon, new terms, new procedures. What is a servicer? How is the note different from the mortgage? How do you protect someone's home in a state with no judicial foreclosure process? Just like in law school, I felt

the pressure to learn as quickly and as much as possible. Except this time, it was not just my grade to worry about but my clients' home and stability on the line.

On the flip side, the varied nature of the work has been incredibly rewarding. Not only have I learned a ton about foreclosures in general, but my cases are all very different substantively and procedurally. For instance, I am representing several homeowners in their post-foreclosure eviction cases in housing court. I also assisted a client with filing for Chapter 13 bankruptcy to cancel an imminent foreclosure auction on his property. Many of my cases are also in pre-foreclosure stages, meaning there has not been an auction yet. These cases involve a lot of investigation and extra-judicial advocacy to lenders, servicers, and various government agencies. The variety in my casework can certainly be a challenge, but also pushes me to constantly engage and explore my clients' issues on a deeper level.

In line with my fellowship project, my work in the CRU has been centered on working with community organizations, like City Life/Vida Urbana (CLVU) and Urban Edge, to represent low-income homeowners and prevent foreclosures. Many of my cases were direct referrals from these community organizations. Additionally, this work has allowed me to stay connected with CLVU, a grassroots community organization that I worked closely with while I was at HLAB. In continuation of my time in HLAB,

I attend CLVU's weekly Tuesday night meetings to meet with homeowners seeking legal advice, and I have presented two "know your rights" trainings to CLVU members on the foreclosure process.

Thankfully, I am supported by incredibly smart and generous colleagues here, which has allowed me the time, space, and patience necessary to grow and learn as a young attorney. As one of the smallest units in GBLS, the CRU team is extremely collaborative and friendly. No matter how many dumb questions I have asked – which is many – there is always someone in the unit willing to help.

Reflecting back on this year, I mainly feel gratitude – for the DAG fellowship, its funders, and of course, Stacy Grossman. Because legal services are so underfunded everywhere, especially in consumer advocacy, I recognize what a privilege it is to be able to pursue a career in this field coming right out of law school. The DAG fellowship has provided me with the foundation I needed to pursue my passion in housing justice over this past year and to continue seeking greater justice for marginalized communities for many years to come.



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DAG FUND



for social justice

FALL 2022

In the News

A Note from Stacy Grossman:

I am thrilled to share that the David Abraham Grossman Fund for Social Justice has reached the \$1 million dollar mark! This means we have raised one million dollars of principal, which is endowed at Harvard Law School, and has the capacity – market dependent – to generate \$50,000 annually and in perpetuity to support our fellowship program. Since our formation in November of 2015, there has been a steadfast outpouring of support from David's family, friends, colleagues, and students, and this unwavering interest has helped us achieve this incredibly meaningful and important milestone. THANKYOU!

Next Steps for the DAG Fund Fellowship Program at Harvard Law School:

Effective immediately, the DAG Fund for Social Justice will now be an annual fellowship program at HLS. We will no longer be awarding fellowships every other year, an action we took in 2019 in order to accrue interest in "off" years to help our fund grow. The "every other year" strategy, along with consistent donations to the fund, expedited our ability to achieve our goal of raising \$1 million dollars in principal, and we only needed two "off" years to get there – AMAZING! THANKYOU!

Commitment to keeping the DAG Fund Fellowship program in step with the times:

While we are truly grateful to have established an annual fellowship program in David's memory, we also recognize that it needs to remain relevant and compelling. Our program aims to launch careers in community advocacy, work that includes representing low income families against burdensome rent increases and no fault evictions, women and children facing domestic violence and abuse, workers who are experiencing discrimination in the workplace, and many other poverty related legal challenges. We need to provide a stipend that affords our fellows with a quality of life that is reasonable so that they can focus their energy on the communities they serve. And, \$50,000 in most U.S. cities in today's economic climate is not an ideal salary especially because our fellows must utilize a portion of this annual sum to pay for their healthcare. The Grossman family recognizes this reality and will provide \$5,000 annually for the next ten years to supplement our fellowship stipend so that our fellows are better supported in our new economic reality. Thus, our new fellow, who will be selected in 2023, will receive a \$55,000 award. We hope that in time our principal will continue to grow so that it can generate \$55,000 a year, but this will be market and donor dependent. If you have the means and are still compelled by the mission of the DAG Fund for Social Justice, we ask you to please continue to consider us in your philanthropic giving plan.

With gratitude,
Stacy Grossman

Thank you!

Donate online by visiting our website at <http://www.davidgrossmanfund.org/> and clicking the donate link or go directly to our online portal at HLS at <https://community.alumni.harvard.edu/give/13520537>

Keeping Up with Former DAG Fund Fellows

Alex Milvae '19 Update

Alex is wrapping up his third year in the Asian Outreach Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services, now as an Equal Justice Works Fellow. Building on his DAG Fund Fellowship, Alex has continued his work in Malden, partnering with grassroots organizers to ensure the city complies with its obligations to Chinese-speaking voters under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. Alex, his colleagues in AOU, and their community partners have held monthly meetings with Malden's mayor



and city clerk, collaborating with the city to ensure language access and equity not just in voting, but throughout all city services. Alex has also

helped to organize the Chinese-speaking residents in one of Malden's largest public housing buildings. By utilizing a combination of legal and organizing tactics, the residents pushed the Malden Housing Authority to hire a trilingual building manager, a major language access and racial justice victory in the plurality Chinese-speaking building. Alex has also worked to expand AOU's work with undocumented communities, representing clients in VAWA, U Visa, Adjustment of Status, Naturalization, and Removal Defense cases. Through close collaboration with numerous community partners, AOU has begun connecting undocumented clients a range of holistic services, from emergency funding to health care applications to full representation in immigration cases.

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Rebecca Donaldson '17 Update

After my DAG Fund Fellowship at Legal Action of Wisconsin, I stayed on with the organization to continue representing and advocating with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. We primarily focused on an issue that came up often in their cases: protecting their privacy over their mental health records.



Rebecca Donaldson working with a client at Legal Action Wisconsin

We also took on several issues at the Wisconsin Supreme Court: arguing for standing to assert rights over mental health records during the course of a criminal case, weighing in on citizens' Fourth Amendment rights to cell phone privacy in their interactions with law enforcement, and supporting the right of Chrystul Kizer and other trafficking victims to assert a complete defense to crimes that directly result from their victimization – a recent victory with the

potential for nationwide impact as other states interpret their respective versions of similar statutes.

After four years with Legal Action, this year I will start teaching students at Marquette Law, among other topics, a client-centered approach to lawyering. Starting in 2023, I plan to clerk on the Ninth Circuit for Judge Ronald Gould to build my appellate litigation skills and tackle additional impact cases in the future.

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Jackie Ebert '18 Update

Jackie spent the last year in Orlando, Florida working at the non-profit IDignity. While at IDignity, Jackie assisted clients with overcoming the legal barriers to obtaining state-issued identification. Simultaneously, she led the organization in pursuing legislative change to amend the Florida name change statute. As the



statute currently reads, individuals with felony convictions who have not undergone the clemency process cannot obtain name changes. This is a barrier to obtaining Florida ID for many of Jackie's clients, as they need a formal name change to amend their birth record to reflect the name they used their entire life and to match the name reflected on their Social Security record. The inconsistent names on these individual's documents prevent them from being able to obtain Florida identification, pursuant to the Real ID Act.

Jackie will be starting at the Homeless Services Network, the Central Florida Continuum of Care's lead agency, in early August where she will serve as the System Operations Manager. In this role she will focus on increasing collaboration between central Florida community stakeholders involved in homeless services, oversee the community's homeless response system, and work to increase the efficiency and sustainability of housing for individuals transitioning out of the homeless system.

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Support DAG

If you wish to continue to support the David A. Grossman Fund for Social Justice, you can!

Donations by check made payable to the "DAG Fund" should be mailed to: Joanna Shellenberger, Director of Donor Services, Harvard Law School, Pound Hall, 1563 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Or, donate online by visiting our website at <http://www.davidgrossmanfund.org/> and clicking the donate link or go directly to our online portal at HLS at <https://community.alumni.harvard.edu/give/13520537>

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www.davidgrossmanfund.org