Inside
Meet the Dean
Read her vision for the Law School
Bankruptcy Law
Grads are making a mark
OPENING ARGUMENTS

Katie Narbus (Class of ’14) Asylum Officer for USCIS

Where were you before attending Maine Law?
I spent five years in Montana completing my first degree, working at a French Bistro, skiing, and hiking.

Why did you choose Maine Law?
I had been away from (Maine) and my family for nearly eight years, so I felt that it was time to come home.

How did Maine Law’s experiential learning opportunities impact you?
I certainly found the clinics to be Maine Law’s strength. You can take all the classes you want, but you really get a head start when you learn how to work with clients and with other colleagues. My time at the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic (RHRC) was the gateway into a career that I did not previously know existed – an international resettlement consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Everyday with UNHCR I used the interviewing and writing skills that I learned in the RHRC.

Were there faculty members who were particularly influential?
Absolutely – Professor Anna Welch was more than a professor; she was a mentor to each and every one of her students, especially those of us fortunate enough to spend a semester in the RHRC clinic. Professor Welch believes in her students and sees each one as an individual with separate and distinct qualities. Even after graduating, I always feel that I can reach out to Professor Welch for advice and assistance with my career goals.

Can you share a memorable moment at Maine Law that will always stay with you?
It is far too hard to choose a single moment, but my best memories at Maine Law always involve my fellow classmates. However, I suppose watching George tell the story of the “Ant Man” in the first person for Trial Practice will forever put a smile on my face.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
I try not to plan too far ahead. Sometimes when you make plans and set expectations you miss out on amazing opportunities because they don’t fit into the plans that you created. I prefer the one-year plan. In 2016, I see myself working as an Asylum Officer for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in New Orleans.

Katie Narbus is from the Moosehead Lake region of Northern Maine. She graduated with a B.A. in history from Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont. She worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia from August 2014 until October 2015, before becoming an asylum officer for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in New Orleans.
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Staying connected with Maine Law
facebook.com/umainelaw

Maine Law has a Facebook page featuring news, upcoming events, photos and information for alumni from all years, as well as current and prospective students. We encourage you to "like" the page and join in the conversation.

You can also stay up to date by visiting our web page, mainelaw.maine.edu, and on Twitter: @umainelaw and @umainelawdean

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Dean Danielle Conway  Story: Page 8. (Nathan Eldridge photo)
In Brief

Maine Law awarded $300K diversity grant to fund undergrad summer programs

The University of Maine School of Law has been awarded a three-year, $300,000 grant to host a summer immersion program for college undergraduates who are interested in learning about the law and potential legal careers.

The program will be called the Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) program. It is designed primarily for students of color, immigrants, and low-income students, reflecting the ultimate goal of bringing more diversity to the legal profession in Maine and around the country. Maine Law faculty members will teach the four-week program. About 25 undergraduate students will be selected for the first session to begin in June.

The curriculum for the summer PLUS Program will include an introduction to lawyering, logical and analytical reasoning, and legal writing, as well as visits to courthouses, law firms, the State House and other destinations. Students will also take part in simulations where they will work in teams to represent fictional clients.

For additional info visit: mainelaw.maine.edu/admissions/plus.

WLA honors Aria Eee ’94

The Women’s Law Association at the University of Maine School of Law recently recognized Aria Eee ’94 as the 2015 Outstanding Alumna Award Recipient.

A 1994 graduate of Maine Law, Eee serves as Deputy Bar Counsel for the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar. In that role, Eee helps ensure that lawyers throughout Maine abide by the highest standards of ethics, and provide competent representation to their clients. Eee gives lawyers guidance on the Maine Bar Rules, and the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct, and she investigates and prosecutes cases involving alleged violations of those rules.

Eee was honored at a reception at Maine Law on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Maine Law welcomes Richard Chen to the faculty

Professor Richard Chen joined the Maine Law faculty in the fall of 2015 as an associate professor. He is an expert in civil procedure, commercial law, international business transactions, corporations, and contracts. Professor Chen most recently served as a visiting assistant professor at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California. He previously worked as an attorney in private practice at Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles.

A native of Massachusetts, Professor Chen is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he was an articles editor of the Harvard Law Review. While at Harvard Law, Professor Chen was an intern at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and also at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office.

Professor Chen has served as a law clerk for the Honorable Raymond C. Fisher and the Honorable Paul J. Watford, both of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to his legal career, he worked at Google in Irvine, California.

“We are very excited to welcome Professor Chen and his family,” said Danielle Conway, Dean at Maine Law. “Professor Chen brings outstanding academic credentials and teaching experience, along with experience in private practice and the judiciary. He will be a wonderful addition to the Maine Law community.”

Maine Law takes first place at Northeast Regional Duberstein Tournament

On February 20, 2016, Maine Law’s Duberstein Moot Court team of Kristy Hapworth and Ryan Woodward took first place in the first annual Northeast Regional Duberstein Tournament held in Boston. The regional tournament, sponsored jointly by the American College of Bankruptcy and the American Bankruptcy Institute, is designed to provide New England law schools with the opportunity for head-to-head competition as a warm up to the national competition.

The second team from Maine Law, Allie Tocci and Jeremy Dean, finished strongly, receiving praise from the judges, who included two expert bankruptcy reorganization attorneys and a sitting federal bankruptcy judge.

The students from Maine Law are coached by attorney Bodie Colwell ’11 of the Preti Flaherty law firm and Visiting Professor Jim Haines.
The JFW program is a hit at Maine Law and in the greater community, combining a major public lecture with personal opportunities for engagement.

The Justice for Women Lecture Series (JFW), now in its fifth year, has made a huge positive impact on the lives of Maine Law students and other people in Maine. With more than 500 people attending the annual lecture, and hundreds more attending associated community events, JFW has become one of the Law School’s signature programs.

The series brings speakers to Maine each year from developing countries to discuss their work and strategies to promote justice for women and girls. During their time in Maine, the speakers also take part in conversations with various groups, including lawyers, legislators, judges, and high school and college students from around the state.

The Law School established the series in 2011 with leadership and support from attorney and civic leader Catherine Lee of Lee International. The series is supported in part by the generosity of community partners, including CIIE, and other donors, and it reflects Maine Law’s commitment to social justice in Maine and around the world. Each year, the JFW lecturer has received a key to the city from the mayor of Portland. The visit usually takes place in March, during Maine Law’s spring semester.

“Justice For Women is a shining example of what exactly Maine Law can contribute to our community,” said Maine Law’s new dean, Danielle Conway. “Each year the program brings us all closer to realizing self-empowerment and self-determination for women and girls worldwide.”

Here are a few examples of the wide-ranging impacts of the JFW program:

- Thousands of high school and college students from across Maine have attended the public lecture and associated events, giving them valuable insights on world affairs, and how global issues impact the lives of people in Maine. JFW organizers have strong partnerships with Portland Public Schools and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs at the University of Southern Maine.
- The program is strengthening international ties, through a continuing dialog between people in Maine, JFW lecturers, and their allies worldwide.
- The program has heightened awareness of important topics about justice for women and girls not just in developing countries, but here in Maine, such as the focus on human trafficking during the JFW events in 2015.

Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, a scientist, farmer, and activist who is at the heart of the movement to make Africa a food-secure region, will deliver the University of Maine School of Law’s fifth annual Justice for Women Lecture. Sibanda will spend a week in Maine, speaking with a wide range of groups about the significant problems of food insecurity and hunger around the world, and right here in Maine.

Originally from Zimbabwe, Sibanda has been CEO and head of mission of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) since 2004. In that role, she coordinates policy research and advocacy programs across 17 countries in Africa, focused on food security, climate change, and advances in agriculture. Sibanda is a leading voice in the “Farming First” global campaign to promote sustainable agricultural development, and serves as board chair of the International Livestock Research Institute.

Previous JFW lecturers were the Hon. Unity Dow (2012), the first woman to serve as a judge on Botswana’s High Court; Leymah Gbowee (2013), an activist and women’s rights advocate who won a Nobel Peace Prize for helping to end civil war in Liberia; Dr. Sima Samar (2014), chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and founder of the Shuhada Organization; and Ruchira Gupta (2015) of India, a global leader in the fight against sex trafficking, and the founder and president of Apne-Aap Women Worldwide.

The Justice for Women Lecture Fund, an endowed fund, was created with the goal of sustaining the JFW Lecture Series in perpetuity. Founder Catherine Lee, Honorary Chair Maddy Corson, and others have raised more than half of the $475,000 fundraising goal.

To make a donation, visit www.mainelawcommunity.org/donatejusticeforwomen
Wil Smith was a kind, brave, wise and generally amazing person. He was a quiet and effective world-changer. “All feel the poorer that he has gone from us,” as Winston Churchill said in his eulogy of T.E. Lawrence. He was many things to many people – coach, leader, parent, advisor, guide, friend, fiancé; I knew him as a student in my first-year torts class in the fall of 2003.

Few people know that Wil actually changed the field of torts, that foundational course about personal injuries and other civil wrongs, required for all U.S. law students in their first year. He did this by asking a single question that no one else had asked, and opened up an entire field of knowledge.

It was about a month into the semester and we were discussing the civil law of self-defense. The assigned case involved a shooting in which a parking lot owner shot a man in the foot. When the injured man sued the parking lot owner seeking compensation for his injuries, the judge said the parking lot owner’s fear was reasonable and that the shooting was justified under the circumstances. The justifying circumstances were that the plaintiff was drunk, had grabbed the defendant, had been asked to leave, and was tall and strong while the defendant was short and weak.

Wil knew, although I did not, that the plaintiff, Paul Silas, a professional basketball player, was African-American. Near the end of the class, Wil raised his hand, mentioned that the plaintiff was African-American, and gently suggested that perhaps the plaintiff’s race had something to do with the fear felt by the parking lot owner (who was probably white), and with the conclusion that the fear was reasonable (and the shooting therefore “justified”). This comment was instructive and sadly, still all too relevant.

Wil also asked how the torts system had dealt with claims brought by and against African-Americans. For me at that moment, time stood still. I knew virtually nothing about the answer to Wil’s broader question. It was instantly clear what an important question this was -- torts is part of the legal system; and the legal system, through the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution, promises everyone equal protection of the laws. I told the class and Wil that I did not know but would find out.

I went back to my office and immediately did some online research, thinking I would find a few great articles, go back to the next class, and explain the general contours of the way the torts system had dealt with claims by African-Americans specifically and race generally. However, I was not able to report back because almost nothing had been published about race and torts in the legal literature! Reams had been written about how the criminal justice system treated African-American people, but very little about race and torts.

The Maine Law community was terribly saddened by the loss of Wil Smith, who passed away in February 2015 at age 46, after battling cancer for several years.

Wil graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 2006. As a law student, he provided leadership and a moral compass to his peers. After graduation, his engagement with Maine Law continued – mentoring a further generation of law students, connecting Maine Law with diverse communities and activities in Southern Maine, and serving on the board of directors of the Maine Law Alumni Association.

He also had deep ties to Bowdoin College, where he graduated in 2000, and later became Bowdoin’s associate dean of multicultural student programs. At the time of his death, Wil was dean of community and multicultural affairs at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Mass. He also was associate camp director of the world-renowned Seeds of Peace camp.

“I relied on Wil Smith for his wise counsel and learned from his love for others, when he was in law school and ever since,” said Peter Pitegoff, Maine Law professor and former dean. “My son’s two summers with Wil at Seeds of Peace heightened my respect for Wil and strengthened our warm friendship. We all miss Wil Smith and will remember him always.”

A single father, Wil was deeply devoted to his daughter Olivia, now a young adult. Their story is recounted in Wil’s and Olivia’s moving StoryCorps conversation, broadcast on National Public Radio and preserved in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
American defendants, and cases on the topic were discussed in Constitutional Law courses and Criminal Law courses. But the dozens of legal scholars who wrote articles in the field of torts simply had not turned their attention to race and the torts system. No court decisions involving race and torts were discussed in the legal literature.

In the next few years, my research and writing focused on trying to answer Wil’s question. The result was a series of articles and a book, The Measure of Injury: Race, Gender and Tort Law (N.Y.U. Press 2010, co-authored with Martha Chamallas). This work could not have been done without my many fabulous research assistants (Marya Baron, Zach Brandmeir, Dennis Carillo, David Goldman, Erin Krause, Katharine Rand, Josh Scott, and Rebekah Smith) and the librarians and staff of Maine Law.

We found a wealth of material, including in published legal opinions, hiding in plain sight, that had been overlooked or ignored. We first found that many torts claims, starting at the end of slavery and continuing until the 1960s, were brought by African-American plaintiffs and that judges writing decisions in these cases generally identified the plaintiff’s race in the decision. Where a plaintiff was white, judges would not mention this fact. This showed that African-American plaintiffs had access to legal remedies in torts, and also that whiteness of plaintiffs was the unstated default in the torts system. Second, we dug deeper, and read hundreds of cases from across the U.S. We found that a race-based discount was applied in many torts decisions, so that claims by African-American plaintiffs were identified as race-based and similar claims by whites were not. This showed that African-American plaintiffs were valued for lower dollar amounts than similar claims by whites. While many find this unsurprising, this had never before been written about. Third, we uncovered some early twentieth century cases in which the race bias of the judges was blatantly on display, explicitly devaluing injuries to black plaintiffs. Fourth, we found unheralded cases that were civil rights cases in the form of torts cases. The best example is Bullock v. Tamiami Trails Tours,2 in which a bus company had to pay damages to a Jamaican couple for injuries they suffered when a white passenger attacked them as they sat in the front of an interstate bus a few months after buses were desegregated.

Besides shining light on these issues through publishing about them, I’ve spoken to torts classes and legal conferences all across the country about them. The book and articles are used in many torts classes. No one can say or credibly assume that race and racism are separate from and irrelevant to the field of torts. And the research continues, as scholars across the country research further about the question Wil raised.

After Wil graduated, I stayed in touch with him. I sent him a copy of my book and articles that his question inspired. When I told him of the impact he had, he smiled his warm smile, with a twinkle in his eye, and gently nodded. Wil, thank you. I miss you, and will always be grateful for your presence at University of Maine School of Law, and in my life.

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2 266 F.2d 326 (5th Cir. 1959).
Words with the Dean

Dean Danielle Conway on her career and her vision for leading Maine Law

By Trevor Maxwell

Maine Law, meet your new dean. Danielle Conway is an accomplished teacher, lawyer, scholar, and innovator.

Professor Danielle Conway was hired as dean at the University of Maine School of Law in January 2015, and formally assumed her new role on July 1. Conway is the seventh dean at Maine Law since the founding of the modern day law school in 1962. She is also the first African American to lead Maine's public and only law school.

Prior to coming to Maine, Conway was the Michael J. Marks Distinguished Professor of Business Law and Director of the Hawai‘i Procurement Institute at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law. During her 14 years at Hawai‘i, Conway earned a reputation as a leading expert in public procurement law, entrepreneurship, and as an advocate for minorities and Indigenous Peoples. She has 25 years of active and reserve duty service with the U.S. Army (see story on Page 12), and also has experience as a lawyer in private practice.

She is a graduate of the Stern School of Business at New York University, Howard University School of Law, and earned her LL.M. degree from The George Washington University Law School. She was the Godfrey Visiting Scholar at the University of Maine School of Law in 2008.

Maine Law Magazine writer Trevor Maxwell recently sat down with Dean Conway for an interview about her life, her new job, and her vision and goals for the law school.

ML: Taking over a deanship is a major step in the career of a law professor. What are some of the qualities about Maine Law that convinced you this was the right fit?

DC: I was looking for an opportunity at a premier public law school. Public law schools have two essential functions – achieving excellence, while at the same time providing a high level of access to the community. Maine Law does both. It offers significant access, while still maintaining high standards.

Another factor was the experience I had at Maine Law in 2008 when I taught a bridge course in Licensing Intellectual Property. It left a strong impression on me that this was a school that really personified the term ‘student focused.’ I could see it was a flexible school, will-
Letter from the Dean:

Maine Law is ready to meet challenges

Dear Friends,

H onored. Inspired. Ready to work. A little more than a year ago, when I was asked to become the next dean at the University of Maine School of Law, these words captured my emotions and my readiness for the mission. Since that time, I’ve spent two semesters at Maine Law, arriving in February 2015 as dean-designate. I formally took on the role of dean on July 1, and during the fall semester I had the pleasure of welcoming the class of 2018. Looking back on the decision to join this incredible community, I’m happy to say that the job has been every bit as rewarding and challenging as I hoped it would be.

The traditions of academic excellence, civic engagement, and public service – hallmarks of Maine Law since the modern day law school opened in 1962 – are alive and well. Over the course of the past year, I have met hundreds of students, alumni, friends and supporters, each of whom has contributed to my understanding of this unique and vital institution.

So let me use this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for welcoming my family and me to Maine. Thank you for sharing your enthusiasm and energy, and for offering your sage advice and creative ideas for the future.

Thank you to the Maine Law faculty and staff, search committee, students, and University of Maine System leadership for placing your trust in me. Thank you to the members of the Maine Law Alumni Association, the University of Maine School of Law Foundation Board, and the Maine Law Board of Visitors, whose service is so pivotal to our success. And thank you to my predecessor and colleague, Dean Peter Pitegoff, who successfully navigated Maine Law through an unprecedented period of change in the legal profession and the academy.

Many of you have asked me about my priorities for year one and beyond. Many of my goals and philosophies are explored in the interview that begins on Page 8 of this edition of the Maine Law Magazine. Above all, I want to project our ethos that students are at the center of all that we do, from our program of legal education to our signature events and community-based activities.

American legal education faces major challenges in the years ahead. The University of Maine School of Law stands ready to meet these challenges; as well, the law school will pursue new opportunities for students who will be our next generation of lawyers and leaders, serving our community with dignity and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism.

Danielle M. Conway
Dean & Professor of Law
University of Maine School of Law

ML: You arrived on campus in the spring of 2015 as Dean-Designate. What has impressed you most about Maine Law and its students so far?

DC: I was struck immediately by the high level of engagement of Maine Law students in the academic enterprise. Maine Law students are obviously studying and taking their work seriously. But these students are special. They are engaged with the Offices of Admissions, Students Services, and Advancement as fellows doing the ever-important work of building relationships and keeping the Maine Law network strong and vibrant.

Another impressive quality of our students is their commitment to the state of Maine. These students are already self-determined. They want to be in Maine, they want to create a socially and economically sustainable infrastructure, and they genuinely want to serve their communities. They are socially entrepreneurial. Many of them find and create their own externships. Maine Law students have a strong public interest resolve, and they consider that part of the calculus of becoming a lawyer. That has a great deal to do with the excellent faculty here, and how the students are taught, but to be fair, the students come to us with most of these traits firmly intact.

ML: Can you characterize the style of leadership you bring to Maine Law?

DC: My style of leadership is to find value in the people around me, and to nurture their strengths. I then attempt to identify with people to find our degrees of sameness. So in identifying with people, I also share my strengths and my vulnerabilities. I share what I believe to be those fundamental principles and values that create credible expectations for and among the professionals in the Maine Law organization. Finally, I am explicit with my colleagues that I hold myself to those values, principles, and expectations, and that I am learning and growing alongside them in developing new skill sets and meeting new challenges in the law school environment. In short, I value the people around me, and I’m open to learning from them every step of the way.

ML: What are some of the biggest challenges facing Maine Law?

DC: People do not know what we offer. People from inside and from outside Maine do not know how engaged we are in the community, they do not necessarily know how fabulous our faculty is, how engaged they are in scholarship, teaching, and service. So the greatest task for me is to get the word out.

Another challenge is enrollment. We want to maintain our level of enrollment, and ultimately grow it in a sustainable way. But that is a challenge nationally, and we have to figure out how to navigate that challenge, because our entire community, not just Portland, needs good, ethical lawyers.

There is also a more nuanced challenge that we need to meet head-on. We need to rewrite the narrative of what a lawyer is, and what the law means to a community. We have to educate the public about the vital role a lawyer plays in doing justice in a community, and the
A Decade of Success - Dean Pitegoff’s Legacy

As dean at Maine Law from 2005 to 2015, Peter Pitegoff successfully navigated the school through turbulent waters for legal education.

By Trevor Maxwell

In 2005, Peter Pitegoff arrived at Maine Law as the school’s sixth dean, following an outstanding tenure as a law professor and vice dean at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. Over the next decade, Pitegoff charted a steady and successful course for Maine Law, heightening its reputation in the state and around the nation, despite a historic recession and a whirlwind of changes in the legal profession. Pitegoff stepped down as dean in July of 2015, and assumed a new role as a full-time professor at Maine Law.

During his time as dean, Pitegoff recruited top-notch faculty and staff; expanded collaboration with Maine’s judiciary, the organized bar, and public and private institutions; and oversaw numerous enhancements to the school’s program of legal education.

“Maine Law is well positioned to thrive in the coming years. I am grateful to numerous colleagues – faculty, staff, students, alumni, volunteers, university leaders, and supporters – who share credit for Maine Law’s recent progress and success,” Pitegoff said. “We will continue to train and nurture the next generation of lawyers and leaders, building on the traditions of academic excellence, civic engagement and public service that have long been at the core of a Maine Law education.”

As a professor, Pitegoff will focus his teaching and research on the legal profession and ethics, business associations, corporate governance, nonprofit organizations, and community development and finance.

Here are some selected accomplishments under Pitegoff’s leadership:

- Maine Law expanded experiential learning opportunities for students, including the creation of the Juvenile Justice Clinic, and the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic. There also has been steady growth of field placements in the externship and summer fellowship programs.
- A record number and amount of scholarships have been awarded to Maine Law students in recent years, supported in part by generous contributions from alumni, law firms and friends of the law school. New endowment funds included the Vincent McKusick Diversity Fellowship and the Charles A. Harvey Trial Immersion Fellowship, among others.
- Pitegoff built a strong administrative and leadership team, maintained a collaborative organizational culture, and achieved vital further autonomy in Maine Law’s budget and management control.
- Maine Law expanded interdisciplinary opportunities and career services, guiding students onto new career tracks as well as to traditional law jobs. Pitegoff amplified the school’s role in succession planning for the Maine bar, targeting outreach to communities with a need for a new generation of lawyers and opportunity for Maine Law graduates.
- The law school has strengthened its global connections through a number of programs, including the Justice for Women Lecture series, visiting scholars, and student exchanges. The school established two new post-professional degree programs, the Master of Laws (LL.M.) and Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.).

role the law plays in maintaining an ordered and civilized society. We have somehow strayed from that, and we have allowed others to define lawyers in ways that don’t accurately capture who we are and what we do.

ML: What can alumni do to support the law school?

DC: Engage. Promote. Give. Maine Law needs its alumni and friends now more than ever to become intimately involved in sustaining the legal education enterprise in Maine. At the same time, we need our alumni and friends to serve as mentors to the attorneys of the future. We need them to serve as open door ambassadors, to attend our admitted students day, vigorously participate in the MAPIL auction, and of course hire Maine Law students.

ML: What are your plans for your first year as dean?

DC: I mentioned that one of the things that attracted me to this law school was the culture of being student-focused. This year I want to bring that approach to the center of everything that we do. That includes our anchor programming, such as the Frank M. Coffin Lecture on Law and Public Service and the Justice for Women Lecture Series, and various other events and symposia; our fellowships, such as the Harvey, McKusick, and Anthony fellowships; our clinical courses; and our traditional doctrinal courses.

One of the challenges of any program of legal education is that often times courses, activities, or clinics are presented in silo fashion. For the benefit of our students, and to really achieve a student-focused program, there has to be more coherence in the delivery of curriculum, both doctrinal and experiential. So I’ve asked our faculty and staff to get
very smart on each other’s areas of expertise and provide more explicit connections between substantive content among and between related courses. The idea is meant to demonstrate to students how concepts are related from one course to the next, or from one experiential activity to the next.

There are also three initiatives, in various stages of development, that are high priorities for me, and all of them are focused squarely on student success.

ML: Can you tell us a little about the three initiatives?

DC: The first is the Opportunities Through Law (OTL) program. It connects our faculty, students, and alumni with high school and undergraduate college students statewide, through a range of events and activities. The goal is to educate young people about the role and impact of law, while introducing them to the range of careers available to J.D.s. The signature program will be a summer immersion experience at Maine Law for college juniors and seniors. It will be called the DiscoverLaw.org Pre Law Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) program, and we were thrilled to learn in January that we received a $300,000 grant from the Law School Admission Council to help fund the program over the next three summers.

By encouraging young people, particularly those of diverse backgrounds, to explore careers in law, we open pathways to opportunities for more than one career path, and we want many of the fellowship opportunities to be in rural communities, in order to benefit our graduates as well as the communities. We are considering or thought possible.

The next is what I call e2e, the Enrollment to Employment initiative, and the goal is to make sure our students receive the real-world experience they need to succeed in the field of their choice. Upon graduation, students will have opportunities to rotate through short-term work assignments at law firms, corporations, public agencies, and non-profit organizations, so they can truly be career ready. The rotation concept is especially helpful to new graduates who are interested in more than one career path, and would like to test the waters before seeking a long-term position. I’m recruiting employer-partners to pilot this program, and we want many of the fellowship opportunities to be in rural communities, in order to benefit our graduates as well as communities throughout Maine.

The third initiative is called LEAP, for Lawyers and Entrepreneurs: A Partnership. This initiative addresses the shift in the way law school graduates are using their degrees. More than ever before, students and graduates are pursuing and creating opportunities outside the traditional legal profession. We are embracing this shift, and we want our students to learn about the management and operation of businesses, non-profit organizations, and other entities. One major component of the LEAP initiative will be an incubator capstone project. This will allow third-year students to take part in the creation of a business from the ground up by contributing value-added legal, decision-making, and risk management services. Another option would be for students to collaborate on the creation of a “micro law firm,” where the focus is on transactional practice and business development. The LEAP initiative fits well with the Professional and Graduate Center Initiative that is in development within the University of Maine System.

ML: What does the job market look like for today’s law school grads?

DC: The job market seems to be ticking upward. It’s a slight upward trend. The number of employers searching for law graduates has increased, but much of that could be a function of having fewer law students in the pipeline. In Portland and the rest of Maine, we are relatively flat for those traditional legal jobs. However, in Maine, law students and recent graduates are quite entrepreneurial in creating their own opportunities, either in the traditional practice of law, or in other law-preferred, or law desirable positions, such as in corporations or small businesses. Specifically, the law desired opportunities include risk managers, compliance officers, government contractors, specialists in health organizations, nonprofits or NGOs. That is actually a more healthy market. The difference at Maine Law is that, through the LEAP incubator initiative, we are going to be in it with our students. We are going to assist them with thinking and acting entrepreneurially to create real career pathways prior to and after graduation.

ML: U.S. News and World Report rankings still play a significant role as applicants consider their options for law schools. How important are rankings, and what would you tell prospective Maine Law students about the factors they should consider?

DC: When I was looking at law schools, I didn’t even know about U.S. News and World Report. I chose my law school based upon what I wanted to get out of my legal education, and that’s what I would urge all students to do. If you look at U.S. News and World Report, look at it as a starting point to acquire information. However, it is not an end point. Now it’s every prospective law students’ responsibility to put that data in context. As a prospective law student, you should think about whether the law school you are considering provides a community of which you would be proud to be a part. You should also think about whether the program of legal education fits what you want to accomplish.

ML: What are you looking for in Maine Law applicants?

DC: Every law professor looks for something different, and I’m sure every dean looks for something different, but I want students who love the law. I want students who appreciate that the law, and adherence to the rule of law, can solve so many problems: societal, business, and institutional. I want students who see themselves as lawyer-leaders. And that doesn’t necessarily mean a vocal student, or a competitive student. A lawyer-leader means someone who will get involved, invest in a community, and do the hard work needed to improve society for all of its members.

ML: If you have time to step back into the classroom while at Maine Law, what would you like to teach?

DC: I certainly will step back into the classroom at some point during my time as dean. When the time is right, I will work with our faculty’s curriculum committee to determine the most pressing un-

― Dean Danielle Conway

“These students are already self-determined. They want to be in Maine, they want to create a socially and economically sustainable infrastructure, and they genuinely want to serve their communities.”
met curricular needs and decide whether my background and areas of expertise are responsive to those needs. I have had the opportunity to teach courses ranging from legal research and writing to Indigenous Peoples Rights & Intellectual Property. Notwithstanding the needs of Maine Law, I would jump at the chance to teach first-year Contracts as well as a course I developed over a decade ago, but update annually, called Internet Law & Policy.

ML: You are the first black woman, and first person of color, to lead Maine Law. Does this hold special significance for you?

DC: I’m pleased, I’m heartened, and I’m impressed that I was selected on the merits as the best person for the job. In addition, during the selection process, no one ignored the fact that I’m a black woman. No one was afraid to talk about it, and that impressed me. I feel proud to be chosen, to be recognized, and to be identified as a black woman. For other people of color in Maine to see a black woman in a leadership position, in a position of influence, that is empowering. I feel that people here have embraced me.

I also have the benefit of my military experience, in which I have met and worked closely with people representing diverse backgrounds. When a new team comes together, there is always a great deal of learning to be done. You have to learn how to understand one another, whether it is language, political ideology, race or ethnicity, or sexual orientation. You learn how to power through difference, not to ignore it, to arrive at a place where trust and teamwork rule the day. That is how effective teams are built.

ML: You often speak about your mother as your greatest influence. She earned an accounting degree, and then a law degree, all while working multiple jobs and raising her own children and younger siblings in Philadelphia. What were her goals for you?

DC: My mother’s goals for me were neither lofty nor extreme. She wanted her children to be good people, good citizens, and hard workers. It’s funny. The one mantra my mother did have – and I don’t mind sharing this with you – she would tell me, “Whatever you do, don’t get pregnant, but if you do, you must be able to take care of you and yours.” My mother, like so many other strong, black women, refuted commonly held stereotypes ascribed to black women. My mother wanted me to be in a position to take care of myself, without having to rely on others or the state. She didn’t want me to have to struggle the way that she had to struggle to succeed professionally. My mother is my guiding light because she succeeded, in spite of myriad obstacles, to become an elected Municipal Court Judge in Philadelphia while taking care of herself and her own. As dean, I just need to follow in my mother’s footsteps to take care of Maine Law as my own.

My mother always talked about how vital it was to have an education, so I said OK I have to go to college. I didn’t really know what college was or what it meant. I just knew it was something my mother insisted I do. I knew my mother believed in education. And much later I realized why my mother believed in education. She believed in the power of education to level the playing field, to empower an individual to command her own destiny through the attainment of knowledge, and to become self-determined and self-actualized. Of the many gifts my mother bestowed on me, I cherish her resolve to motivate me to take knowledge and to use it for the amelioration of society. ML
Professor Lupica continues to lead ground-breaking national study

The addition of the Hon. James B. Haines, Jr. to the faculty in 2014 allowed Professor Lois Lupica to take an important and highly productive sabbatical leave for the 2014-15 academic year. During part of her leave, Lupica served as the Robert M. Zinman ABI Resident Scholar for the American Bankruptcy Institute. She is a member of the ABI Board of Directors, and continues to play a central role in that institute’s groundbreaking work on consumer debt and policy reform.

Lupica is one of three Principal Investigators of the Consumer Financial Distress Research Study, with Jim Greiner of Harvard Law School and Dalié Jiménez of University of Connecticut Law School. The landmark study is examining the efficiency of America’s small claims court system, the real-world impact of various legal intervention programs, and the value of financial education for distressed consumers.

Lupica wrote two law review articles with Greiner and Jiménez during her leave. She also received awards, which will help fund the ongoing study, from the National Science Foundation, the American Bankruptcy Institute Anthony H.N. Schnelling Endowment, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Endowment for Education, and the Sears Consumer Protection and Education Fund.


Grads making mark in bankruptcy law

In the hot field of bankruptcy law, Maine Law gives students an edge. The bankruptcy law track continues to thrive under the guidance of superstar teacher and researcher Lois Lupica, and Judge James B. Haines, Jr.

**By Trevor Maxwell**

As hiring within the legal industry continues to recover from the recession of the late 2000s, law firms can’t afford to invest in the same levels of mentorship and training as they once did. They’re looking for “practice-ready” newcomers.

The trend can be seen in specialized areas of law practice such as bankruptcy, which calls for an assortment of skills including negotiation, transactional law, and litigation.

Over the past decade, practice in the bankruptcy field has been one of the fastest growing legal specialties. The ongoing credit crunch, economic restructuring and other fallout from the recession have contributed to the demand for bankruptcy lawyers to service creditors and debtors, in both the consumer and corporate spheres.

For law students interested in pursuing careers in bankruptcy law, The University of Maine School of Law is fortunate to have not one, but two faculty members who are among the very best in the field.

Professor Lois Lupica is one of the nation’s most renowned educators and scholars in consumer and commercial credit and bankruptcy law. Since joining the Maine Law faculty in 1995, Lupica has been a difference-maker, ensuring the school’s curriculum and training opportunities are competitive with those from much larger institutions. She was joined in the effort in 2014 by the Hon. James B. Haines, Jr., who served more than 20 years as a federal bankruptcy judge in Maine. Haines serves as the Libra Visiting Professor at Maine Law, teaching courses in bankruptcy, federal courts, pre-trial practice, and secured transactions.

Outside of foundational coursework, bankruptcy students at Maine Law have
opportunities to work as interns or externs in law firms or with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Individual accolades have included two students – Nate Hull ‘09, and Kaitlyn Husar ‘15 – who were selected by the American College of Bankruptcy as the Distinguished Bankruptcy Law Student of the Year for the First Circuit, respectively.

In addition, Maine Law has sent teams to New York City to compete in the annual Hon. Conrad B. Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, every year for the past 10 years. It is one of the largest moot court events in the nation, and the only competition devoted to bankruptcy law.

“Over the 10 years I have been involved with our Duberstein teams, students consistently have told me that this is the best experience they have had in law school,” Lupica said. “They are thrown into real-world brief writing. It forces them to grapple with the most complex issues of bankruptcy.”

Opening rounds of the Duberstein competition are held at St. John’s University School of Law in Queens, with final rounds at the U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse in Brooklyn. All teams attend a gala awards banquet in Manhattan, which attracts a crowd of more than 1,000 bankruptcy lawyers and judges from New York and beyond.

Maine Law consistently fares well against much larger schools at the Duberstein Competition. Students Kristy Huff, ’16, and Micah Smart, ’16, advanced to the final eight of 60 teams in the spring of 2015.

In addition, the appellate brief written by Huff and Smart was recognized as one of the Outstanding Briefs. They were coached by Judge Haines and attorney Bodie Colwell, who graduated cum laude from Maine Law in 2011.

“It was a great accomplishment for Maine Law. We had the support of Bernstein Shur, Ms. Colwell, and the Portland area bankruptcy bar, many members of which judged practice rounds,” said Haines. “We also had great support from the state and federal judiciary. Chief Justice Saufley ’80, U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Torresen, and Bankruptcy Chief Judge Peter Cary judged the final practice round.”

**Maine Law Grads & Bankruptcy Careers**

**THE HON. MICHAEL FAGONE, ’97**  
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Maine

How long have you been working in the field of bankruptcy law? What jobs have you held in this field?
I started as associate attorney at Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson in Portland in 1998. Later, I became a shareholder in Bernstein Shur, and continued in that role until my appointment to the bench in the spring of 2015.

How did Maine Law help you prepare for a career in bankruptcy law?
I took several tax courses with Professors Khoury and Lang. Those classes helped me get comfortable working with a comprehensive statute, the Internal Revenue Code. I think there are some parallels between the Internal Revenue Code and the Bankruptcy Code. In addition, my legal writing was dramatically improved as a result of my service on the Maine Law Review. The ability to write clearly and concisely is critical in any area of law, but particularly so in bankruptcy where there is heavy motion practice.

What do you like best about bankruptcy law as an area of practice?
For individuals, bankruptcy is an opportunity for a fresh start. For businesses, bankruptcy is a means to preserve, and at times create, value for creditors and owners. In either context, there is a substantial amount of optimism for the future. Also, in many cases, there is plenty of room for creative lawyering, within the bounds of the law, to achieve a result that yields the most benefit for the most parties.

Why should Maine Law students and prospective students consider a career in bankruptcy law?
Bankruptcy was a great place to start my career as a lawyer. It exposed me to a litigation-based practice, with a fair amount of transactional work attached. It also required mastery of a comprehensive statute and a related set of rules.

**BODIE COLWELL, ’11**  
Associate attorney, Preti Flaherty

How long have you been working in the field of bankruptcy law? What jobs have you held in this field?
I’ve held several positions since I began working in the bankruptcy field during my time at Maine Law. I’m currently an associate attorney with the Bankruptcy, Creditors’ Rights and Business Restructuring Group at Preti Flaherty.

How did Maine Law help you prepare for a career in bankruptcy law?
Starting the summer after my 1L year and all through law school, I was project manager and lead research assistant for Professor Lupica’s Consumer Bankruptcy Fee Study. Additionally, I was a member of the Maine Law team for the Conrad B. Duberstein Moot Court Competition. The experience was so important to me that, along with Professor Haines, I serve as a coach to the Maine Law teams. That wouldn’t have happened without the exposure and opportunities at Maine Law.

What do you like best about bankruptcy law as an area of practice?
The Maine bankruptcy bar is small but has incredibly knowledgeable practitioners. Because it is a smaller group, it allows for greater familiarity and sense of community.

Why should Maine Law students and prospective students consider a career in bankruptcy law?
Bankruptcy is one of the few areas of practice that includes opportunities for both litigation and transactional work. A young attorney practicing bankruptcy might appear in bankruptcy court one day and work on an out-of-court restructuring the next. That kind of variety can be very challenging, as well as a wonderful experience. Talking to a bankruptcy attorney can give you more insight into whether it would be a good fit.
Maine Law graduates have forged successful careers in the area of bankruptcy law, including in government, the judiciary, and in private practice. We recently caught up with some of these graduates and asked them questions about their careers and their time at Maine Law.

KAITLYN HUSAR, ’15
Associate attorney, Pierce Atwood

As a new graduate of Maine Law in 2015, what are your career plans? I took the bar exam in Maine in July 2015. Over the summer I worked part-time for Attorney Elizabeth Stout for her family law practice and in August I started at Pierce Atwood in Portland as an associate in the Real Estate practice group.

How did Maine Law help you prepare for a career in bankruptcy law? While I’m not practicing bankruptcy law, many of the issues I learned about and worked on related to bankruptcy are important in a commercial real estate practice. Areas of study that require students to grapple with complex statutes are important for preparing them to be lawyers in many practice areas. Additionally, Professors Lupica and Haines are very giving of their time and knowledge. Finally, having access to such excellent professionals makes the Maine Law program really great.

What opportunities did you have in the bankruptcy field when you were a student at Maine Law? In the spring of 2015, I externed with Judge Peter Cary, Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine. I also had an externship in the consumer and housing division of Pine Tree Legal Assistance in fall 2014. I participated in the Duberstein Moot Court Competition, and assisted with Professor Lupica’s Consumer Financial Distress Study.

Why should Maine Law students and prospective students consider a career in bankruptcy law? Whether students are interested in individual consumer law or corporate law, having an understanding of bankruptcy is important. Opportunities to extern with the bankruptcy judge in Portland or to work with the Chapter 13 trustee are unique because they allow you to dive into the practice of bankruptcy law.

NATE HULL, ’09
Associate attorney, Verrill Dana; Chapter 7 Trustee

How long have you been working in the field of bankruptcy law? What jobs have you held in this field? I have worked in the bankruptcy practice area since joining Verrill Dana in 2009. I’m also one of the four members of the panel of chapter 7 trustees for the District of Maine and serve as co-chair of the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program, which provides financial literacy programming to high school students.

How did Maine Law help you prepare for a career in bankruptcy law? First and foremost, Professor Lupica’s secured transactions class should be a prerequisite to graduating from Maine Law: you cannot overstate the importance of understanding a basic secured transaction in practice, regardless of your field. Second, there is no substitute for the broad-based curriculum Maine Law offers when it comes to practicing bankruptcy law, which necessarily involves many issues of state law.

What do you like best about bankruptcy law as an area of practice? We are blessed with incredibly capable bankruptcy judges in this district, including Maine Law’s own Judge Fagone, and I have a great deal of confidence that everyone on the other side of the bench, including the court staff, is working hard to get to the right answer. I also enjoy the ebb and flow of a bankruptcy case and the shifting alliances that are formed and then, almost as quickly, disappear as the case matures and different objectives surface. Finally, bankruptcy practice here in Maine is a practical enterprise. Often, the greatest value you can provide to a client is offering a candid assessment of the situation and a sensible solution aimed at a quick resolution. I’m grateful for how quickly I was forced to develop a “business” sense after law school by virtue of my entry into the bankruptcy field.

PETER FESSENDEN, ’74
Standing Chapter 13 Trustee, District of Maine Fellow, American College of Bankruptcy

What are the responsibilities of a Chapter 13 trustee? I am the standing Chapter 13 trustee, appointed (but not employed) by the United States Trustee in 1981. A “standing” trustee (unlike a case-by-case trustee) is assigned all cases in her or his district and is permitted to maintain pooled bank accounts, rather than individual accounts for each debtor. I administer all Chapter 13 cases in Maine. Since 1988, I have served as the case-by-case Chapter 12 trustee for all farm and (since 2005) fishing cases filed in Maine under that chapter.

How did Maine Law help you prepare for a career in bankruptcy law? Foolishly, I did not take advantage of the Maine Law bankruptcy program while I was a student. Happily, I taught bankruptcy as adjunct faculty for five years and served as the Duberstein coach for seven or eight. There is nothing like teaching to force one to learn.

What do you like best about bankruptcy law as an area of practice? With the exception of some bizarre provisions adopted in 2005, the Bankruptcy Code and Rules are a coherent, consistent and just body of law. I have the feeling that I am “doing the right thing” when I go to work each day. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Why should Maine Law students and prospective students consider a career in bankruptcy law? As I mentioned, with only a few exceptions, the Bankruptcy Code and Rules are a coherent, consistent and just body of law. Practitioners can – and do – sense that they are “doing the right thing” every day. Secondly, the skilled and attentive practitioner can make a very good living … doing well by doing good.
Maine Voices: Detention of immigrant women and children is not justified

By Amber Attalla and Laura Shaw
Reprinted with permission.

Behind the tall barbed-wire fence that surrounds the Artesia Center, young children crowd around a small table inside a makeshift trailer to color with crayons on their photocopied pages of Disney’s “Frozen” coloring book. Their mothers wait solemnly to speak to an attorney, and guards stand post, monitoring every move.

How has the systematic imprisonment of women and their children, fleeing conditions of extreme violence in their home countries, found its place in the United States?

After spending a week last month volunteering at the Artesia Center, (https://amberandlaurainartesia.wordpress.com/), an immigration jail currently housing around 400 women and children in a remote area of New Mexico, we still cannot ascertain a justified, moral answer to that question. Instead of being held in detention, the women and children in Artesia should be released on reasonable bonds and given the opportunity to fight their asylum cases remotely.

Most of our work at the jail was aimed at achieving this goal, which has several benefits.

First, outside of Artesia, individu-
als will have improved access to counsel and resources, giving them a better chance to adequately pursue their immigration claims. When the Artesia Center opened in June, the women and children there had no access to legal counsel. Noncitizens in the U.S. have no constitutional right to counsel, and Artesia is about four hours from the closest major city.

Since June, attorneys from all over the country have been traveling to Artesia to volunteer whatever services they can. But this often does not amount to the same level of representation and resources one would receive if she had her own attorney with a local office.

Second, family immigration jails cause irreversible physical, emotional and psychological harm to women and children. This harm is escalated by the fact that mothers must recount, and thus relive, their horrifying stories in front of their children.

While in Artesia, we learned that most of the children at the facility are in poor physical and mental health. A woman who had been in Artesia since it opened reported that her daughter had been scratching her own face, pulling her hair out and talking about killing herself. Her daughter was 3 years old. Others reported that children had lost up to 10 pounds since arriving at the facility.

Generally, individuals can be released from detention on bond if they can show they are not a flight risk, are not a danger to the community and have ties in the United States.

In Artesia, however, Department of Homeland Security attorneys regularly argue that the women and children in the Artesia Center should not be released because they are part of a “mass migration scheme,” and thus present “risks to national security.”

Judges in Artesia often buy in to this argument, and set higher bonds as a result. For example, one woman was offered a $12,000 bond simply because she had traveled to the United States with a group of others for a small portion of her journey.

The women fleeing Central America, primarily from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, are not threats to our national security who need to be behind bars. They are strong, brave women who each have their own, tragic story of why they fled their country. They want nothing more than to protect their children.

We met one 19-year-old woman who had traveled to the United States with her young daughter from El Salvador. All her life, she had been physically, emotionally and sexually abused. When she began receiving death threats by gang members, she knew she had to get out. She said: “My choice was to stay and watch my daughter die or to leave.”

Unfortunately, although the Artesia Center is scheduled to close at the end of this year, the government is relocating these women and children to an immigration jail in Dilley, Texas, in mid-December.

There is no justification for the systematic detention and mistreatment of refugee mothers and their children who have come to the U.S. to escape extreme violence and harm in their home countries.

Releasing women and children with viable immigration claims will save taxpayer dollars, prevent further physical and psychological trauma and will allow refugees to adequately prepare their immigration cases. ML
Before he became Chris Poulos the standout student at the University of Maine School of Law, he was Chris Poulos the addict.

Before he was President of the Maine Law chapter of the American Constitution Society, he was Chris Poulos the convicted felon.

Before he landed a prestigious internship with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and a legal fellowship with The Sentencing Project in Washington, D.C., he was Chris Poulos the troubled kid from Portland who needed a second chance and – perhaps more than anything else – people to believe in him.

Poulos hasn’t forgotten his past. He isn’t running away from the struggles he endured, or the mistakes he made. Instead, the 33-year-old continues to draw on all of his experiences, and every moment he spent changing his life for the better, as the fuel he needs to become a top attorney, mentor, and advocate.

Poulos is a Dean’s List student in his final year at Maine Law. He is an emerging national leader in criminal justice policy and addiction recovery. Individuals within the federal court system have described him as one of the most extraordinary examples of rehabilitation they have ever witnessed.

Poulos recently presented a talk at the TEDxDirigo Conference in Portland about his journey. He was featured in a story and video in the Washington Post, was named by Portland Magazine as one of Maine’s “Most Intriguing” people, and was selected by National Jurist Magazine as a “Law Student of the Year.” It has been an inspiring and remarkable turnaround for a man who spent much of his life battling addiction.

“My greatest burden is also my greatest asset. It is one thing to read a book about what it means to be incarcerated, home- less, or addicted; it is another thing entirely to have actually experienced and survived those challenges,” Poulos said. “I am an asset to people in the criminal justice system, to Maine Law, and to the legal profession not in spite of my past, but because of it.”

An advocate for reform

Through a variety of means, including his summer 2015 fellowship with The Sentencing Project and his fall 2015 internship at the White House, Poulos is focused on changing our nation’s ‘mass incarceration’ approach to criminal justice policy and substance use.

Over the past year he has collaborated with members of Congress, national advocacy groups, and the Obama Administration on policy matters. Poulos is pushing for reforms that emphasize early intervention to break the cycle of poverty and addiction. On the local level, he chaired a subcommittee for the City of Portland, which is exploring ways to divert eligible low-level offenders toward treatment and other resources and away from the criminal justice system.

“For addiction, poverty, and mental health related offenses, jail alone is short-sighted. It is a Band Aid for a deep and infected wound,” Poulos said. “You can temporarily remove the person from his community to patch the wound, but it is incredibly more effective to perform the surgery necessary to address the underlying issues, and to provide an opportunity for the individual to become a productive member of society.”

For several years, Poulos has been a mentor at Long Creek Youth Development Center, and he currently serves as a student attorney in the

Christopher Poulos at the White House.
Juvenile Justice Clinic at Maine Law. Poulos recalled being sworn in to the bar at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court as both powerful and surreal. “I went from utilizing the lawyer of the day, to being the lawyer of the day. I now practice law in the very same court where I was once a juvenile defendant. I am honored and grateful to have this opportunity.”

“There is a criminalized class now, a new form of a caste system, under which members (those with criminal records) are often unable to find employment or obtain housing and as soon as they attempt to move up in the class structure, they are judged by the worst thing they did, rather than the sum of themselves,” he said. “Many are never allowed to even vote again, and this treatment continues long after they have completed their sentence.”

“If we truly expect people to change, we have to change our ways of thinking and acting. We must provide the tools people need to emerge as full members of society and positive role models in their communities once they have fulfilled their debt. A criminal conviction that is not a life sentence should not effectively serve as such, but unfortunately, it often does.”

From spiral down to sobriety

Poulos was in his early teens when he began a downward spiral of addiction to alcohol and drugs. He grew up without a father and experienced multiple tragic family losses during his teenage years. Despite stretches of homelessness, he graduated from Deering High School in Portland. But his addiction became worse, moving into hard liquor and cocaine. Time after time, he made destructive choices, and in 2007, he was charged with drug trafficking and possession of a firearm. The destructive choices Poulos made were always directly correlated to an underlying and untreated addiction. Since attaining sobriety over eight and a half years ago, Poulos has not received so much as a traffic ticket. He also made it clear that he takes full responsibility for his actions and does not blame others or his life circumstances for his decisions.

“I achieved sobriety about a year before my indictment. That’s when my downward spiral ended. I was 24,” Poulos recalled.

Poulos continued his personal transformation before he was sentenced and remained on this positive path throughout his nearly three-year period of incarceration.

He taught English and prepared other inmates for their G.E.D. exams. He learned Spanish and the practice of yoga. He sponsored men in recovery and found a recovery support group at the federal prison in Lewisburg, Pa. He studied law and criminal justice policy, and knew he wanted to pursue his law degree.

Pathways to success

Upon his release, Poulos enrolled at the University of Southern Maine, where he got a job with Student Legal Services, and designed his own Maine State Judiciary internship. He was elected Chapter President of the National Political Science Honor Society, and received the Alan B. Rodway Memorial Scholarship at the recommendation of faculty.

Poulos had never earned an “A” before, and upon earning his first “A,” never again earned anything less as an undergraduate. After his first “A,” Poulos maintained a 4.0 grade point average during each subsequent semester, all while working two jobs, and paying his own way through college.

Poulos decided to publicly share his story because he feels the stigma attached to terms such as “felon” and “addict” can only be broken through knowing and ultimately accepting the real people these terms supposedly define. The public needs to be shown through example that people can change. The U.S. now has a prison population of more than 2.2 million people, a 500% increase over the last 40 years, eclipsing the prison populations in all other nations, both in raw numbers and per capita.

The struggle for criminal justice policy reform is one of the most pressing fronts of the ongoing civil rights movement, Poulos said. He believes that it is hard to hate up close: “The recovery movement and those with criminal convictions have much to learn from the openness now seen in the LGBTQ community. So long as we hide ourselves in the shadows, society will keep us in the shadows.”

“I wasn’t going to give up’

Poulos vividly recalls his first meeting with Peter Pitegoff, then dean at the University of Maine School of Law. Poulos eagerly told Pitegoff about his interest in social change, criminal justice, and his desire to attend law school. Pitegoff was not as enthusiastic, Poulos recalled.

“He warned me that law is a very guarded profession, and that he didn’t know how receptive the legal community in Maine would be to me. He suggested that I might consider pursuing other ways to bring about change, other than pursuing a J.D.”

At the time, Poulos was crushed. But with the benefit of hindsight, he realized that Pitegoff was giving him his first lesson on what a person with Poulos’ background would face.

“Rather than patting me on the back, he gave me a realistic outlook, as much as it was painful at the time. I was discouraged, but I told him I wasn’t going to give up, and I didn’t. That conversation served to further fan the flame already burning within me, which was then and remains now, fully determined to follow this path.”

Dean Pitegoff and the admissions team at Maine Law ultimately unanimously agreed to accept him.

“The first person I saw when I opened the door was Dean Pitegoff. He lit right up, as he does, and walked in my direction with his hand out. He said, ‘you are welcome here; you are part of this community now.’ That’s a moment I’ll never forget.”

At a recent speaking engagement with former foster care youths, Poulos stated, “Never believe anyone who tells you that you can’t go somewhere because of where you have been, or that you can’t do something because of what you have done. Instead, show them how.” ML

{‘I now practice law in the very same court where I was once a juvenile defendant.’}
- Christopher Poulos ’16
Roughly 600 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the University of Maine School of Law gathered in South Portland on April 10, 2015, to celebrate the careers of six retiring professors who have been at the heart of the law school for decades. The Faculty Recognition Reception honored Professors David Cluchey, Jim Friedman, Marty Rogoff, Nancy Wanderer, Tom Ward, and Mel Zarr. Together these professors contributed over 215 years of teaching, mentoring and scholarship during the last 35 years, touching the lives of more than 2,900 of the 3,500 Maine Law alumni. Professors Friedman, Wanderer and Ward retired recently, while Cluchey, Rogoff, and Zarr are in the process of phased retirement.

The reception was held at the Marriott at Sable Oaks in South Portland. The program included a video tribute to the retiring professors, which can be viewed on Maine Law’s YouTube channel. The program also featured guest speakers from around the country, a slide show, and a live jazz trio. The event was hosted by Maine Law, the Maine Law Alumni Association and the University of Maine School of Law Foundation.

Guests traveled from 15 states across the country, including as far away as Washington and California. More than 20 entities, including many law firms, sponsored the event. In honor of the retiring faculty members, the event raised about $40,000, benefitting the Maine Law Foundation Scholarship and Foundation Professorship Funds, held by the Maine Law Foundation.

“Together, these professors have educated and mentored thousands of students, and helped shape the school’s identity and standards of excellence in teaching, research, and public service,” said Peter Pitegoff, former Dean at Maine Law. “Their legacy is reflected not only in the lives of their former students, but also in the energy and drive of the next generation of talented Maine Law professors.”

Honoring Six Maine Law Professors Who Have Made A Difference
Faculty Recognition Reception, Friday, April 10, 2015

Professor Emeritus Tom Ward
Professor David Cluchey
Professor Mel Zarr
Professor Marty Rogoff
Professor Emeritus Jim Friedman
Professor Emerita Nancy Wanderer

Maine Law Deans gather at the Faculty Recognition event. From left are: L. Kinvin Wroth, Colleen Khoury, Peter Pitegoff, Danielle Conway, and Donald Zillman.
The Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies Initiative:

What it means for Maine Law?

By Trevor Maxwell

Maine Law continues to be an engaged and supportive partner of the Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies Initiative, which is in its early development phase under the leadership of Eliot Cutler.

The initiative is a project of the University of Maine System. The Center would serve as a hub for greater collaboration among the law school and the two graduate business schools, with the promise that the professional and graduate schools will have significantly more interaction with Maine’s legal and business communities. It eventually would bring the Law School, the University of Maine and University of Southern Maine MBA programs, and potentially the Muskie School of Public Service, under one roof in Portland. Through technology, the Center would be linked with students and campuses throughout the state.

The initiative does not envision a merger of the Law School with other schools. Rather, it envisions value-added programming which could include, but is not limited to, the following: expanded use of digitally distributed academic technologies; innovative new degree and non-degree programs and certificate offerings, such as a master of science in law and business or law and public policy; and an entrepreneurship incubator capstone experience.

“The most vital role the Center can serve is as a hub to attract myriad entities, both public and private, to partner to compete for large grants and contracts that would stimulate research and development aligned with Maine’s competitive advantages and economic development needs,” said Danielle Conway, dean at Maine Law.

Maine Law would retain its identity and autonomy as a law school accredited by the American Bar Association and would reinforce its role as the law school of the University of Maine System. Maine Law would also continue to award joint degrees in law and business – J.D./MBAs – in conjunction with the business schools at the University of Maine and USM, as well as the J.D./M.P.P.M. and the J.D./M.P.H. degrees with the Muskie School.

In the fall of 2015 Maine Law piloted two courses – a negotiation and mediation workshop and a course in environmental law and policy – in collaboration with the USM School of Business and the Muskie School.

“Interdisciplinary collaboration is essential for the education of today’s law students, and the benefits are also clear for economic development in Maine,” Conway said. “We’re excited about the potential for this Center and the interdisciplinary opportunities it presents for our students and graduates.”

Conway, along with the deans of the business programs and select faculty members from each school, are participating in an innovation roundtable, where they are sharing ideas on the projects and programming that are best suited for the new Center.

One of the nascent projects that Maine Law intends to bring to the table is a Certificate Program in Information Privacy, which would be available to law, business, and public policy students, Conway said. Maine Law is a leader in information privacy law, and has hosted a successful Information Privacy Summer Institute since 2012. Students with this certificate would be excellent candidates for positions as chief privacy officers, risk managers, compliance officers, security analysts, and more.

The University of Maine System, with funding from the Harold Alfond Foundation, engaged the Parthenon Group in 2014 to conduct a market opportunity and feasibility study for a Portland-based Center for Graduate Professional Studies.

The Parthenon Group presented its report to the UMS Board of Trustees in November 2014. The Harold Alfond Foundation then provided $1.25 million toward early stage development of the concept, including the hiring of Cutler as the initiative’s chief executive officer. Cutler is a well-known attorney, businessman, and former gubernatorial candidate. His job, essentially, is to build partnerships, an operational framework, and pilot offerings for the new Center.

David Cluche, a longtime professor at the University of Maine School of Law, recently wrote an op-ed about the initiative with James Suleiman, an associate professor of management information systems at the University of Southern Maine School of Business.

“Universities must focus on eliminating duplication and inefficiencies and adopt cost-effective technology with the goal of providing better education at lower cost. This is one of the important objectives of the business and law initiative of the University of Maine System – to provide affordably priced, top-quality professional education in business and law that is closely aligned with the needs of the Maine economy,” Cluche and Suleiman wrote in the Portland Press Herald.

“Sophisticated business leaders appreciate the importance of law in the life of any business and are themselves knowledgeable consumers of legal services. Lawyers who work with businesspeople quickly realize that the value they provide to those business clients depends to a significant degree on their understanding of how the business operates and what the client really needs from the lawyer.”

“Increasingly, those with law degrees are branching out beyond the practice of law to positions in business organizations and to other non-legal opportunities where knowledge of the applicable law is essential to the competent performance of a leadership role.” ML
Legal Writing Professor Angela Arey was a participant on a panel, “Word Crimes and Other Misdemeanors,” presented at the 2015 Maine State Bar Association Winter Meeting. In June, Professor Arey gave a presentation, “Here’s What I’m Teaching Them: Educating Faculty on the Pedagogy of Teaching Writing to Help Students Transfer Their Skills to New Contexts,” at the Biennial Conference of the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD), in Memphis.

Associate Professor Dmitry Bam’s article “Our Unconstitutional Recusal Procedures,” was published in volume 84 of the Mississippi Law Journal. This is the first article to argue that the recusal procedures used in the majority of American courts is unconstitutional as it violates the Due Process Clause by allowing the challenged judge to determine for him or herself to step down from a case, thereby acting “as a judge in his own cause.” In addition to his work on the aforementioned article, Professor Bam was also a speaker at NYU’s symposium, “Judicial Recusal Five Years After Caperton.” His comments will be published in the New York University Journal of Legislation and Public Policy. You can watch Professor Bam’s panel on the NYU YouTube channel.

Clinical Professor James Burke continues to work with students at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. He assisted a student in writing a brief for the Law Court in Butterfield v. Gilbert, 2015 Me. Unpub. LEXIS 21, Mem. 15-21. In addition, Professor Burke chaired a panel, “Incompetency, Insanity, Mental Abnormality and Crazy Stuff: Know the Basics,” at the 2015 Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Associate Professor Richard Chen is our newest faculty member, joining Maine Law in the fall of 2015 after previously serving as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pepperdine University School of Law. Professor Chen teaches and writes in the field of civil procedure, corporations, international business law, and remedies. Professor Chen had two articles published in the summer of 2015. The first paper, “Suboptimal Human Rights Decision-Making,” 42 Fla. St. U. L. Rev. 645 (2015), applies insights from behavioral economics and cognitive psychology to show that some human rights violations likely result from suboptimal decision-making as opposed to rational choice. The paper argues that the human rights community should supplement efforts to deter violations and spread norms with more attention to improving the decision-making process of states and their leaders in this area. Professor Chen’s second paper, “A Contractual Approach to Investor-State Regulatory Disputes,” 40 Yale J. Int’t L. 295 (2015), considers how international tribunals have analyzed the fair and equitable treatment clause contained in most bilateral investment treaties. The paper argues that tribunals should interpret this clause using tools from contract law to approximate the intent of the contracting states, thereby avoiding the policy discretion that existing approaches would require tribunals to exercise.

Professor David Cluchey retired from the law school in August of 2015 but returned in the fall to teach Antitrust Law to second and third year law students. Professor Cluchey continues to study, write, and lecture about the Russian legal system. This past year he authored an op-ed piece in the Maine Sunday Telegram, “Russia and the Rule of Law.” Professor Cluchey gave two lectures on these issues, the first to the Osher Life Long Learning Institute and the other at the University of Maine School of Law as part of the International Law Society luncheon program. In addition, Professor Cluchey has written an op-ed piece on the proposed Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies, and the benefits of the Center for the University of Maine System.


Professor Christine Davik presented her scholarship at several public speaking engagements, including a presentation at the Works In Progress Colloquium at George Washington University Law School, where she presented, “ACCESS GRANTED: The Necessity Presumption of Public Access under the CAAA and Beyond.” She also presented this paper at the United States Patent and
Libra Visiting Professor James B. Haines, Jr. continues his visiting professorship at the Law School. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Judge Haines appeared on a panel addressing ethics for attorneys in insolvency practice for a Maine Bar Association CLE. He also served as editor/advisor to authors drafting trial court bench books addressing both civil and criminal processes in the Republic of Kosovo. Those bench books were published in mid-August and distributed to judges, capping an 18-month effort. Both books were published in both Albanian and Serbian languages. In August, Judge Haines spoke at the Montana State Bar’s Bankruptcy CLE in Great Falls, Montana, addressing bankruptcy decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court last term. Most recently, Judge Haines was retained by the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts to serve as an expert/advisor for a special study addressing alternative structures for delivering administrative services to court units throughout the federal judiciary.

Law Library Director Christine Iaconeta completed her term as Chair of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section (ALL-SIS) of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) in July. She continues to serve the organization’s executive board as its Immediate Past-Chair until July 2016. ALL-SIS is the second largest special interest section in AALL and works to promote the interests and address issues of concern to those working in academic law libraries. In addition, Professor Iaconeta’s book review of Introduction to Law Firm Practice, by Michael Downy, was published in volume 107 of Law Library Journal.

Professor Lois Lupica returned this fall from a year-long sabbatical during which she was extremely productive. She edited the book, The Best of the ABI, 2014: The Year In Consumer Bankruptcy; and wrote two books: Bankruptcy Cases and Materials, 6th Edition (with M. Howard) (West Publishing); and Developing “Practice Ready” Bankruptcy Lawyers (with M. Howard) (West Publishing). Professor Lupica also was a speaker at several conferences, giving presentations on a variety of bankruptcy issues, including a presentation on the Consumer Bankruptcy Fee Study she conducted entitled “Who’s Driving The Train: Chapter 31 in Theory and Practice” at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Annual Meeting. She also presented a program, “Technology, Social Media & Legal Ethics” at the American Bankruptcy Institute’s Winter Leadership Conference. At the Maine State Bar Association meeting, Professor Lupica presented a program, “How to Help Consumers in Financial Distress.” As part of her work as the American Bankruptcy Institute Resident Scholar, Professor Lupica conducted several podcast interviews housed on the ABI website. These included an interview with Kevin Baum and Craig Nutterbaum, authors of “Survival Guide for New Lawyers”; an interview with former White House Chief Information Officer, Theresa Payton about privacy in the age of Big Data; and with Judge Steven Rhodes, the presiding judge in the Detroit Chapter 9 case.


Professor and Director of the Center for Oceans & Coastal Law Charles Norchi continues to write, present, and blog on various aspects of ocean and coastal law. He is the co-editor on the Brill publication, International Straits of the World, and has two forthcoming articles: “Maritime Features in the Public Order of the Oceans,” to be published in the Journal of Territorial and Maritime Studies, Seoul, Korea (Winter/Spring 2016); and “After Afghanistan: American Foreign Policy and International Law” (Forthcoming 2016). Professor Norchi’s presentations are varied and include such topics as international corporate governance, international law and the arctic, the maritime boundary negotiation between the Republic of Korea and the People’s Republic of China, and graduate legal education in the United States. Professor Norchi’s summer travel to Istanbul and Ethiopia inspired two blog posts featured on the Maine Law Faculty Research blog. You can read them at mainelaw.maine.edu/faculty/research.

Clinical Professor Christopher Northrop continues his work with the Juvenile Justice Clinic. In April 2015 he offered testimony in support of Maine L.D. 1029, “An Act to Improve Maine’s Juvenile Justice System.” His testimony was in support of the provision’s call to end the practice of indiscriminate use of physical restraints on children in Maine’s delinquency courts. The testimony can be found online at www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getText.aspx?id=28279. In addition to his work at the clinic, Professor Northrop continues to work with the Juvenile Justice Advisory
Group and Muskie School of Public Service to measure and address Maine’s racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, and he continues to work with the Preble Street Law project. This collaboration with KIDS Legal and Preble Street Resource Center allows supervised clinic students to provide legal consultations on issues of parenting, health, education and housing rights to homeless youth in Portland.

Professor Peter Pitegoff published an article, “Edmund Muskie’s Creative Federalism and Urban Development Today,” in the Buffalo Law Review and moderated a panel on the same subject for a conference, “Connecting Law and Legislature: The Legacy of Ed Muskie.” He presented on “Principles of Board Development and Governance,” at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) national rural seminar and published an op-ed piece, “Lack of Oversight Will Cost the Maine Sunday Telegram. Professor Pitegoff participated in a round-table discussion with Maine’s federal judiciary on developments in the legal profession and academy. He continues to serve on the board of directors of Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI), a Maine-based national leader in community development finance, and on its executive and finance, audit, and CEO transition committees. In July 2015, Pitegoff stepped down as Dean after 10 years, shifting gears to return to teaching, research, and continued public service as a full-time professor at Maine Law.

English, Italian, and Spanish. In addition to the writing he did for the book, Professor Rogoff was responsible for translating the parts of the book originally written in Italian and Spanish into English.

Professor Sarah Schindler was recently named the Glassman Faculty Research Scholar, a designation that honors Harry and Caroline Glassman, who both taught at Maine Law and served as judges of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Professor Schindler continues to develop a national reputation for her scholarship, which focuses on the intersection of sustainable development and land use law. Her most recent piece, “Architectural Exclusion: Discrimination and Segregation Through Physical Design of the Built Environment,” was published in volume 124 of the Yale Law Journal. This piece considers legal responses to the use of agriculture and urban design for exclusionary purposes. Professor Schindler’s article “Regulating the Underground: Secret Supper Clubs, Pop-Up Restaurants, and the Role of the Law” was part of an invited online symposium, “Grassroots Innovation & Regulatory Adaptation,” available online at “The Dialogue,” a source for online content published by the University of Chicago Law Review. Professor Schindler’s piece can be found here: lawreview.uchicago.edu/page/regulating-underground-secret-supper-clubs-pop-restaurants-and-role-law

Professor and Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Director Deirdre Smith continues to focus her writing in the areas of Maine courts, evidence, and psychology and the court system. She presented “Parental Rights Matters in Probate and District Courts: Origins, Challenges, & Strategies” at the Maine State Bar Association’s Family Law Institute in September. In addition, she presented her article “Dangerous Diagnoses, Risky Assumptions, and the Failed Experiment of ‘Sexually Violent Predator’ Commitment,” at the International Congress of Law and Mental Health, put on by International Academy of Law and Mental Health, in Vienna, Austria, in July. This article is published in volume 67 of the Oklahoma Law Review. In addition, Professor Smith co-authored a piece with Bruce Borkosky, Ph.D., “The Risks and Benefits of Disclosing Psychotherapy Records to the Legal System: What Psychologists and Patients Need to Know for Informed Consent.” This article was published in volume 40 of the International Journal of Law and Psychiatry in the fall of 2015. Also of note, Professor Smith’s piece, “The Disordered and Discarded Plaintiff: Psychiatric Evidence in Civil Litigation,” 31 Cardozo L.Rev. 749, 821 (2010) was cited in Judge Weinstein’s opinion out of the Eastern District of New York, in G.M.M., minor child v. Mark Kimpson, to support the argument that use of race-based statistics should be discontinued. Professor Jennifer Wriggins’ book; The Measure of Injury: Race, Gender, and Tort Law, in which she discusses how tort law and lead paint case damage awards demonstrate racial and ethnic bias in the judicial system, was also cited throughout Judge Weinstein’s opinion.

Visiting Professor Jeff Thaler’s most recent work, “From Immersion with Farmers and Autoworkers to Refugees and Immigrants: 40 Years of Transformational Learning” is published in Putting the Local in Global Education: Transformative Learning Through Domestic Off-Campus Programs. This publication explores the underlying pedagogy, development and implementation of a nationally unique experiential education program in Portland for college students to live with host refugee or immigrant families, and to work in public schools or health clinics.

(Author photo)

Professor Martin Rogoff’s article “Le democrazia diretta in Francia” was accepted in the Italian legal periodical Diritto Pubblico Comparato Ed Europeo. Professor Rogoff also completed the book La Democrazia Diretta with colleagues Elisabetta Palici di Suni Prat and Eloy Garcia Lopez, which will be part of a series titled Le Frontiere del Diritto, published by G. Giappichelli. The book will be published in three languages:
Legal Writing
Emeritas Professor Nancy Wanderer continues to write her column, “Res Ipsa Loquitur” for the Maine Bar Journal. It deals with everything from brief-writing to plagiarism to grammar, punctuation, and usage. Professor Wanderer has also been elected to the board of Legal Services for the Elderly, Coastal Studies for Girls, the Western Maine Wellesley Club, and the OceanView Resident Assistance Fund. She has also been asked to serve on the marketing committee of the Campaign for Justice.

Associate Clinical Professor Anna Welch continues to expand the reach of Maine Law’s Refugee and Human Rights Clinic through her many opinion pieces, speaking engagements, and broader advocacy projects. Of particular interest was Professor Welch’s Op-Ed, “LePage’s Immigration Lawsuit Has No Legal Basis: Instead He Should Urge Congress to Act,” available online at bangordailynews.com/2014/12/29/opinion/lepages-immigration-lawsuit-has-no-legal-basis-instead-he-should-urge-congress-to-act/. Here, Professor Welch argued that the governor’s action was ineffective and would result in a waste of taxpayer money. She suggests the governor and others unhappy with President Obama’s action should encourage Congress to pass a bill that addresses the need for immigration reform. Professor Welch’s letter to the editor on the issue of denying General Assistance to people without immigration papers, available online at www.pressherald.com/2014/06/28/letter-to-the-editor-cutting-aid-for-illegals-comes-with-too-high-a-cost/, argued the action would adversely affect Maine’s most vulnerable populations, including asylum seekers and abused and neglected immigrant children. Her article with co-author Jennifer Koh, “Integrating Skills and Collaborating Across Law Schools: An Example from Immigration Law,” was accepted for publication in volume 16 of the Nevada Law Journal. Professor Welch also continues to present at a number of CLE events including the Maine State Bar Association’s Family Law CLE Event, the Maine State Bar Association’s Legal Year in Review, and CLE events coordinated by the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project. She remains involved in a number of advocacy projects including national efforts to address the crisis at our southern border with respect to the detention of immigrant women and children.

Associate Legal Writing Professor Sara Wolff was a guest speaker at Colby College for students enrolled in “Legal Writing and Legal Argument: Through and After Law School.” This course is designed to give those considering law school an introduction to legal writing and analysis, oral presentation and advocacy. Professor Wolff spoke directly on the various ways people use a law degree, what to expect in law school, and the critical importance of the skill of legal writing. In addition, Professor Wolff recently completed revising Uniform Maine Citations, the 2015 edition of which is now available online at mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/journals/uniform-maine-citations.

Professor Jennifer Wriggins has been appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, making her responsible for many aspects of the curricular life of the law school. Even with these added duties, Professor Wriggins continues to teach, write and present. In September, Professor Wriggins was a panelist at “Legal Issues: Federal and State-In Access to Medical Care and Insurance for GLBT Maimers.” This presentation discussed the Affordable Care Act, other federal laws, and Maine law as they relate to coverage for medical treatment for issues pertinent to the GLBT community. In addition, a new draft regulation under the Affordable Care Act, “Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities,” was also outlined. Also of note, Professor Wriggins’ book, The Measure of Injury: Race, Gender, and Tort Law, in which she discusses how tort law and lead paint case damage awards demonstrate racial and ethnic bias in the judicial system, was cited throughout Judge Weinstein’s opinion out of the Eastern District of New York, in G.M.M., minor child v. Mark Kimpson. The decision held that the admission of race-based earning tables in a lead poisoning case to reduce damages is unconstitutional, where a Hispanic child was seeking recovery for lead poisoning and the defense lawyer tried to argue that the child had a lower earning capacity. Professor Deirdre Smith’s piece “The Disordered and Discredited Plaintiff: Psychiatric Evidence in Civil Litigation,” 31 Cardozo L.Rev. 749, 821 (2010) was also cited in Judge Weinstein’s opinion to support the argument that use of race-based statistics should be discontinued.

Professor Melvyn Zarr remains very active while phasing toward retirement. In fall of 2015 he taught Criminal Procedure to the first year students and was a member of the team that developed the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure that went into effect on July 1, 2015. Professor Zarr will teach a course, Federal Courts, in the fall of 2016.

Professor Donald Zillman’s article, “Small Towns, Big Projects,” with Maine Law alumnus Simon Beirne, ’15, and student Elizabeth Elsbach, ’16, was featured in the book Sharing the Costs and Benefits of Energy and Resource Activity: Legal Change and Impact on Communities, published by Oxford University Press. Also forthcoming this year by Professor Zillman is the book, Living the World War (with Elizabeth Elsbach). Volume two of this book is already in the works and Professor Zillman is also working on the much anticipated revision of Maine Tort Law, originally published in 1992.
New job? Written a book? Received an honor or award? What about moves, marriages, kids and other personal milestones? Let your classmates and the Maine Law community hear about your latest news. Send an email to lawalum@maine.edu.

focuses on family law. King has worked with Andrucki since 2007 as an associate attorney.

Wayne R. Douglas of Ocean Park was nominated by Gov. Paul LePage and is now serving as a justice of the Maine Superior Court. Judge Douglas was appointed to the Maine District Court bench in 2002 by former Gov. Angus King, for whom he had served as chief legal counsel.

1974
Robert Moore, president and CEO of Dead River Co., announced that he will retire in 2016. Moore has been with Dead River since 1995, when he was hired as general counsel and vice president of administration. He previously served as a senior advisor to Maine Gov. John R. McKernan Jr., and is a former Navy officer and former partner at Pierce Atwood.

1976

The Hon. Janet Mills, Maine’s attorney general, received the 2015 L. Kinvin Wroth Award at the Maine Law commencement ceremony on May 16. The award honors a Maine Law graduate who has achieved distinction in his or her career by contributing as a leader, locally, nationally or globally, and who has helped advance his or her alma mater. Mills is the first woman attorney general in Maine history.

Jonathan Sprague was appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, in Middlesboro, Ky.

1978
John Alsop, a Maine assistant attorney general working in the homicide unit of the criminal division, was profiled in March 2015 by the Kennebec Journal. The article featured Alsop’s talents as an artist.

Paula Singer retired from Thomson Reuters, which in 2012 acquired tax software developed by Singer and her husband through their company, Windstar Technologies Inc. Singer also became of-counsel to the tax law firm Vacovec, Mayotte & Singer LLP in Newton, Mass., where she had been a partner for 17 years.

1979
Judith Andrucki and Mara King, ’07, announced the opening of their new law firm, Andrucki & King, in Lewiston. The firm focuses on family law. King has worked with Andrucki since 2007 as an associate attorney.

1987
The Maine Community Foundation hired Steven Rowe as president and CEO. A former Democratic candidate for governor, Rowe served as Maine attorney general from 2001 to 2009 and in the Maine House of Representatives from 1992 to 2000, including a term as Speaker. Most recently, Rowe was president of the New Hampshire-based Endowment for Health.

Brenda Buchanan of Westbrook published her first and second novels, Quick Pivot, and Cover Story. The books are the first two installments of a mystery series featuring fictional Portland journalist Joe Gale. Buchanan continues her work as a partner at Warren, Currier & Buchanan in Portland.

Elizabeth Stout launched the Maine Community Law Center in Portland while maintaining her solo practice as a family law attorney, guardian ad litem, and mediator. The MCLC is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to providing legal services to all Maine people, especially those who earn too much to qualify for legal aid but not enough to afford full-price services.

Christopher Keating of Tuftonboro, N.H., was named executive director of the Administrative Office of the Courts for the state of New Hampshire. Keating served as executive director of the New Hampshire Public Defender’s office for 11 years before being tapped in 2012 to head the state’s Judicial Council.

1994
Peter Carlisle, managing director of Olympics & Action Sports, was inducted into the Maine Sports Hall of Fame. Carlisle has been an agent for Olympic gold medalists Seth Wescott and Michael Phelps and presides over the global agency that has represented the most Olympic medalists and marketable Olympic athletes since 2002.

1996
The Sun Journal newspaper in Lewiston profiled Jamie Belleau, a partner with Traflon, Matzen, Belleau & Frenette, and head coach of the Lewiston High School boys’ hockey team.

1999
Timothy Bailey was named New England regional director of field operations for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, responsible for supervising I&A field activities in New England. He also was selected to the National Intelligence University’s Leadership and Management program.

2000
Lance E. Walker of Falmouth was nominated by Gov. Paul LePage and is now serving as a justice on the Maine Superior Court. Judge Walker was appointed to the Maine District Court bench in 2014 after being a partner in the firm Norman, Hanson & DeTroy in Portland.

2001
Adam Cote was promoted to the rank of major in the Maine Army National Guard’s 133rd Engineer Battalion. Cote has served in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He is a cofounder and CEO of Thermal Energy Storage of Maine, a company working with utilities and renewable-energy providers to promote Thermal Energy Storage (TES) and off-peak heating and cooling systems. Cote previously practiced law at Pierce Atwood.
The ACLU of Maine presented its 2015 Justice Louis Scolnik Award to Sara Gagne-Holmes of Readfield. Gagne-Holmes is a senior program associate with the John T. Gorman Foundation. The award honors members of the legal community who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the protection of civil liberties.

2003
Kenneth Albert, who holds dual advanced degrees in law and nursing, replaced Sheila Pinette in February 2015 as director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Albert previously served as director of the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the CDC.

2004
The Women’s Law Association of the University of Maine School of Law recognized Katherine Knox of Bernstein Shur as the 2014 Outstanding Alumna Award Recipient. Knox focuses her practice on lobbying, campaign compliance, and election law. She is general counsel for the Maine Democratic Party, an adjunct professor at Maine Law, and a member of the National Association of Women Lawyers.

2007
Mara King announced the opening of the new law firm, Andrucki & King, with fellow Maine Law alumnus Judith Andrucki, ’79. Located in Lewiston, the firm focuses on family law. King has worked with Andrucki since 2007 as an associate attorney.

Matthew J. Libby joined Preti Flaherty as an associate in the firm’s Boston office. His practice focuses on a range of litigation matters, including commercial litigation and professional liability. Libby previously served as assistant district attorney in Plymouth County, Mass.

Nancy McBrady of Cumberland, formerly an attorney at Preti Flaherty in Portland, became executive director of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine.

Maine Law’s Class of ’15 donated two picnic tables, located outside the Law Building, to the school. Pictured are Betsy Boardman and Joanna Bridges, members of the class.

2008
Benjamin K. Grant of Portland was promoted to partner at McTeague Higbee, a Topsham-based law firm. Grant joined the firm in 2008, focusing on labor and workers’ compensation law.

Matthew Morris recently joined Kerstein, Coren, & Lichtenstein, LLP, a full-service firm in Wellesley, Mass. He is a partner in the firm’s tax and estate planning department. Previously, Morris was an associate at M. Robinson & Company, a boutique tax firm in Boston, where he specialized in the resolution of federal and state tax controversies.

2013
Jamie Levenseler joined Crandall, Hanscom, & Collins, P.A. in Rockland as an associate. Levenseler focuses on real estate, business law, and estate planning.

Kasia Park joined Drummond Woodsum, practicing in the trial services group at the firm’s Portland office. She represents clients in a range of complex and commercial litigation matters. Park previously was an attorney at Pierce Atwood, where she was honored as Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year at the firm’s first annual Pro Bono & Community Service Award Ceremony.

2014
Kevin Decker joined Bernstein Shur in Portland as an attorney in the firm’s litigation and dispute resolution, energy, and municipal and governmental services practice groups. Decker previously served as law clerk to the Hon. William J. Kayatta Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Jacqueline Moss and Elizabeth Fuller Valentine were hired as the first staff attorneys for the Maine Community Law Center in Portland. The nonprofit law firm is dedicated to providing legal services to all Maine people.

Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan joined the National LGBTQ Task Force in Washington, D.C., as the new Trans/Gender Non-Conforming Justice project director. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Rodriguez-Roldan has been a leading advocate for transgender and gender nonconforming people.

Ari Solotoff joined Bernstein Shur in Portland as an attorney in the firm’s business and corporate governance practice groups. His practice will focus on helping businesses and nonprofits realize their goals by addressing their general corporate transactional and governance matters.

2015
Conor Shankman joined Bernstein Shur in Portland as an attorney in the firm’s litigation and dispute resolution practice group. His practice will focus on assisting organizations that need litigation support and counsel in data, privacy, and technology integration.
Student Stories  |  Maine Law supporters make it possible

What did you do prior to coming to Maine Law? I worked as a professor of wildlife ecology and conservation biology, high school principal, and as a systems analyst.

Why did you choose to attend the University of Maine School of Law? I immediately liked the people I talked to at the school. I liked the idea of attending a small law school and then practicing in the close-knit legal community in the state of Maine. Also, as a mom of three young kids, I was happy to know that there were a lot of families at Maine Law (students, faculty, and staff).

What has been most helpful to you in making the adjustment to the life of a Maine Law Student? My fellow students are awesome. They are smart, friendly and enthusiastic. When people ask me how I like law school, the first thing I always do is brag about my awesome classmates. The student groups, especially the Parents in Law group, are also supportive and full of suggestions and advice on classes, job, etc.

Kristina Rozan, '16
Berlin, New Jersey
Undergrad: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
(mechanical engineering)

The faculty and staff at Maine Law could not be more helpful and always welcome questions of all sorts.

What are you looking to do after graduation, and how has Maine Law helped to facilitate that goal? I wish I could answer this question more directly, especially since I will be graduating in 2016. But, many topics interest me. Maine Law has helped me to make lots of connections inside and outside the Law School. So whatever I decide to do after graduation, there will be people to reach out to help make it happen.

For someone who is considering attending Maine Law, how would you describe the student community here? The students here are friendly, smart, and hard-working. They say lots of interesting things in and out of class. They are also supportive and full of suggestions and advice on classes, job, etc.

What did you do prior to coming to Maine Law? I was heavily involved at USM, serving as a co-founder and president of USM’s Queer Straight Alliance, helping to organize and chairing the USM College Democrats, and serving as a student senator. The highlight of my undergraduate career was serving as USM’s first student vice-president.

Why did you choose to attend the University of Maine School of Law? Many mentors and community members convinced me that Maine needed young people to stay in-state and lead. I also couldn’t find myself leaving Portland, a city I live in and love, nor could I leave such a beautiful state.

What has been most helpful to you in making the adjustment to the life of a Maine Law Student? A culture of collaboration rather than competition. Beyond the glitz and glamour of fake legal dramas, the law, especially here in Maine, can be a profession grounded in compassion and concern for your own clients, the community, and even opposing counsel (most likely represented by a classmate or fellow Maine Law grad).

What are you looking to do after graduation? I hate the word, but essentially lobbying and administrative, state, and local government law. I personally prefer to call it “white hat advocacy” or public interest lawyering, but, “You say tom-ay-to, I say tom-ah-to.”

For someone who is considering attending Maine Law, how would you describe the student community here? It’s collaborative. And, yes, it may be small but it really offers you an opportunity to breathe and not worry about whether the other person is looking to undercut you in class. Studying the law here is not a competition. Studying law here is about engaging with your professors and your fellow students to help each other better understand the law.

What did you do prior to coming to Maine Law? I worked in corrections, both residential and prison settings, as a case manager.

Why did you choose to attend the University of Maine School of Law? Maine Law has a collegial atmosphere that you cannot find at many law schools. At Maine Law you have the opportunity to cultivate your passion for the law, in a field that interests you, with the support of faculty and professionals who have the network and connections to support your interests.

What has been most helpful to you in making the adjustment to the life of a Maine Law Student? The support of the faculty and legal community, and their willingness to embrace students and their interests, but also support from my peers. Fellow students, with whom we compete academically, still at the end of the day want to see you do well.

De’Anna Mills, '17
Aurora, Colorado
Undergrad: Metropolitan State University of Denver
(criminal justice & criminology)

What are you looking to do after graduation? I hope to stay in Maine and practice. Right now I would like to do work surrounding human trafficking, indigent legal defense, prisoner’s rights and juvenile outreach.

If you could tell a prospective student one thing about Maine Law, what would it be? Maine Law has a great network of faculty and professionals who are looking to support you through your education and your employment in the future. There is no better place to find connections and support than in a school that values you for not only your academic skill, but your interests and life experience.

Marpheen Chann, '17
Naples, Maine
Undergrad: University of Southern Maine
-political science-
2014-15 Annual Support for the University of Maine School of Law

The Annual Philanthropy Report is a testament to the enthusiasm and loyalty of the University of Maine School of Law’s alumni and friends. Every gift matters, and this report demonstrates how our collective philanthropic synergy impacts the people and programs that define the Maine Law experience. Thank you for your generous support this past year!

TOTAL GIFTS AND GRANTS: $947,770

- **Access and Affordability:** $282,362
  Student support, i.e. Scholarships, Fellowships, Awards and Loan Repayment Assistance

- **Program Support:** $534,058
  Gifts and grants for Clinical Programs, Student Experiential Learning, Student Publications, Student Groups and Student Life

- **Other Support:** $131,350
  Gifts supporting Maine Law Events, Faculty Quality and the Law Library

2015 BY THE NUMBERS

A look at how giving and endowment distributions impact overall expenditures:

- **Scholarships/Fellowships**
  - Endowment/Gift Funded: 22%
  - Base Budget: 78%

- **Operations/Event Support**
  - Endowment/Gift Funded: 6%
  - Base Budget: 94%

- **Compensation**
  - Endowment/Gift Funded: 8%
  - Base Budget: 92%

Our Student Body in 2015

- **262** Number of students
- **73%** Resident Students
- **27%** Non-Resident Students
- **49%** Males
- **51%** Females
- **12%** Student diversity
- **90%** Students receiving some form of financial aid
- **$7,100** Average scholarship awarded
Supporting the Maine Law Annual Fund

To make a gift to the Annual Fund, go to www.mainelawcommunity.org/give, or send your gift to the Maine Law Annual Fund, 246 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME 04102. For more information contact the Advancement Office at 207-228-8411, or lawalum@maine.edu

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2015 Commencement: 77 graduates

The University of Maine School of Law awarded J.D. degrees to 77 students, and post-professional LL.M. degrees to three students on May 16, 2015, at a commencement ceremony held at Merrill Auditorium in Portland.

Tom Allen, former six-term U.S. Congressman from Maine, was the keynote speaker. Allen encouraged the graduates to think about the legacies they will leave in the world, based on virtues such as kindness, courage, honesty, and the depth of their personal and professional relationships.

Honorable Janet Mills, Maine’s first woman Attorney General, received the 2015 L. Kinvin Wroth Award for distinguished service as an alum. Graduating student Elizabeth Boardman of Granville, Ohio, was the student speaker.
Showdown of the Deans’ tennis match raises scholarship funds for students

In June 2015, days before Dean Peter Pitegoff formally turned over the reins of the Maine Law deanship to Dean Danielle Conway, the two squared off in the “Showdown of the Deans,” an exhibition tennis event that added a playful twist to the law school’s annual fundraising campaign. Pitegoff and Conway, both avid tennis players and fans of the game, played on Sunday, June 21, at the Woodlands Club in Falmouth. Although Conway got out to an excellent start, Pitegoff rallied and took home the first Dean’s Cup. Maine Law solicited votes, at $20 apiece, for ‘Team Pitegoff’ and ‘Team Conway.’ The school also offered court side seats and other perks to donors. As the state’s public law school, Maine Law relies on donations from alumni, friends, and businesses to fund scholarships and to support programs, easing the financial burden for students.
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Harold J. and Peter J. Rubin Scholarship Fund

In 1995, the Justice Harold J. Rubin Scholarship Fund was established at the University of Maine School of Law. Judge Rubin was a trial attorney in Bath, Maine, for nearly 30 years and served as a Justice of the Superior Court in Maine for 15 years. The fund established to honor his memory was initially created with gifts from Judge Rubin’s wife, Dorothy M. Rubin, and from his two children, Peter J. Rubin and Adelle S. Rubin. Income from the fund goes to rising third-year students at Maine Law who show skill and commitment to trial practice.

In April 2015, the family mourned the passing of Peter J. Rubin. Peter practiced law with Bernstein Shur in Portland for more than 40 years, rising to become its president and the senior member of its litigation group.

He was a close friend to the Law School. In honor of his life, the scholarship fund bearing his father’s name has been amended, and is now the Harold J. and Peter J. Rubin Scholarship Fund.

The following individuals and entities honored the lives of Justice Harold J. Rubin and/or Peter J. Rubin in 2014-15 with a gift to the scholarship fund:

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The Judge and the Law Student

The Clancy family’s belief in Maine Law inspired them to give others a chance, just as the Maine College of Law did for Judge Frank B. Clancy.

Judge Frank B. Clancy never met law student Dan Keenan. They weren’t even born in the same century. But across the years, the legacy of one is having a direct impact on the other.

Clancy, who left school after eighth grade to support his family by working in a foundry, aspired to higher education and public service. He followed a rigorous program of self-education until he could go no further on his own. The Maine College of Law – the predecessor to the modern-day University of Maine School of Law – saw his potential and took a chance on admitting him. Upon earning his degree in 1910, Clancy returned to New Hampshire, where he became a trusted lawyer, municipal judge, and one of the most respected civic leaders in the history of Nashua.

Fast forward to 2015. Through her estate plan, Katherine Clancy O’Neill, the judge’s daughter, made a generous bequest to the University of Maine School of Law, honoring Maine Law’s role in her family history. Her gift is being used today to keep a public legal education accessible and affordable.

Dan Keenan, a member of the Maine Law class of 2016, is a Clancy Scholar.

“This past summer I interned for Judge Sawako Gardner, of the Portsmouth Circuit Court, as well as for a local attorney in Portsmouth. I’m a representative for my class within the School’s Student Bar Association and active in a number of clubs, including the Student Ambassador Program for current and prospective students,” he said.

Judge Clancy and Katherine Clancy O’Neill never met Dan or the countless other Maine Law students who will benefit from their legacy. Their belief in the University of Maine School of Law inspired the Clancy family to give others a chance, just as the Maine College of Law did for the judge. Please, join them. Invest in the future by including Maine Law in your estate plans.

Bequests, gifts of life insurance, and retirement plan assets are ways to honor the tradition and ensure that Maine Law continues to provide a quality legal education to students from Maine and beyond.

To start the conversation, please contact the Office of Advancement and External Affairs at 207-228-8411, or lawalum@maine.edu. Learn more online at mainelaw.maine.edu/giving/
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