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2010 Annual Report

Deirdre M. Smith Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic
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— C U M B E R L A N D —

Legal Aid Clinic

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Established in 1970, the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic (“Clinic”) is a program of the University of Maine School of Law providing free legal aid to low-income individuals in Maine. All legal representation is provided by third-year law students specially licensed under court rules to practice with supervision by the Clinic’s faculty, which is comprised of experienced members of the Maine Bar. The Clinic’s mission is two-fold: educating law students through an intense, high-quality clinical and mentoring experience while providing pro bono legal services to indigent Maine citizens.

The Clinic serves clients with legal matters pending in state, probate, and federal courts and before administrative agencies. The majority of our clients reside in the following counties: Cumberland, which includes clients incarcerated at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham, (42%); Androscoggin (35%); and York (16%). Significantly smaller numbers reside in other counties. We provide full representation for clients with matters in Southern Maine courts and “unbundled” legal services for Prisoner Assistance clients with matters throughout Maine. Cases in the Supreme Judicial Court and federal courts may arise anywhere in the state. In recent years the Clinic has assisted a growing number of clients with Limited English Proficiency and/or who were born outside of the United States. During 2010, our clients’ countries of origin included Djibouti, Somalia, Iraq, Germany, Mexico, Brazil, and Uganda.

The Clinic provided varying levels of legal assistance to more than 677 clients during 2010. Family law (not including Protection from Abuse (PFA) matters) represented the largest case type handled by the Clinic last year with 157 matters (23%). This category includes cases in probate, federal, and tribal courts as well as in Maine District Court. PFAs represent an additional 33% of our caseload (226 cases), for a total of 383 family-related cases last year. However, student attorneys in all clinic programs worked on a wide range of case types, as described below. The Clinic’s priorities are helping clients where the client has a need for legal assistance and there is an opportunity for a student to gain a valuable educational experience.

The Clinic finds its clients through a number of routes. On a daily basis, the Clinic receives many calls from individuals seeking legal representation. When a student attorney has an opening in his or her caseload and the client is qualified, we may accept the case. However, an increasingly number of clients come to the Clinic by way of referrals. Several clients were referred to the Clinic from other organizations including KIDS Legal, the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Legal Services for the Elderly, Safe Voices (formerly the Abused Women’s Advocacy Project), Volunteer Lawyers Project, and others. We also receive a significant number of referrals from courts, especially the Androscoggin County Probate Court, which has appointed the Clinic as counsel on several complex cases involving parental rights, guardianship and other issues. The United States District Court for the District of Maine and the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services referred several criminal matters. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court referred two appeals during 2010.

A total of forty-four law students enrolled in Clinic courses during 2010. In addition, the Clinic hired five student interns for the summer of 2010 as part of the Summer Intern Program. As a result, the Clinic was able to provide much-needed representation to individuals on a year-round basis.

GENERAL PRACTICE CLINIC

My student attorney did an amazing job on my case. I was very satisfied with the representation. You got me the best gift in the world—my child! Thank you!

-- client, General Practice Clinic

The bulk of the legal services provided through the Clinic are by students enrolled in the General Practice Clinic, which is a six-credit litigation clinic. Each semester, the General Practice Clinic enrolls twelve students, each of whom represent from five to ten individuals in cases in a various areas of the law.

As mentioned previously, the largest area of practice in the Clinic is family law. The family law caseload, however, is varied. While the majority of cases in the General Practice Clinic involve disputes regarding parental rights and responsibilities, child support, and divorce, the Clinic has also taken on cases involving guardianship, termination of parental rights, adoption, *de facto* parents, Hague Convention rights, and grandparents' visitation. In addition to the work on family law matters, a portion of the General Practice Clinic caseload involves a wide range of criminal matters. The Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services and United States District Court appoint the Clinic to represent indigent criminal defendants. Criminal matters handled by Clinic students in 2010 included defending individuals facing charges ranging from identity theft to operating a vehicle after suspension to cocaine trafficking. Other areas of legal services in the General Practice Clinic 2010 caseload included consumer law, collection defense, asylum, foreclosure, administrative appeals, housing, small claims, property, wills/estates, and several other miscellaneous issues.

Client Story: Ashley¹

Ashley, a young woman who had been representing herself for more than a year in a contested parental rights and responsibilities case regarding her three-year-old son, contacted the Clinic after her child's paternal grandparents, who were represented by an attorney, sued her to obtain sole parental rights and responsibilities of the child. After the Clinic entered its appearance on her behalf and filed a motion with the court challenging the grandparents' standing to seek such an order, they quickly reversed course and dropped the suit. The Clinic then assisted the client in negotiating an agreed-to final parental rights order with the child's father.

The Clinic's appellate work continued in 2010 providing our students with invaluable opportunities to develop their appellate skills while providing representation to low-income clients with important appeals. A Clinic student argued before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in September 2010 in the case of *Raynes v. Department of Corrections*, 2010 ME 100. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court appointed the Clinic as counsel in a second case, which remains pending.

Some of the others matters handled by General Practice Clinic students in 2010 included:

* The Clinic continued its work in the immigration area and successfully pursued an affirmative asylum petition upon behalf of a young gay man from Djibouti who fled the country due to persecution for his sexual orientation.

¹ The names of all clients mention in this report have been changed.

* The Clinic represented a woman in a divorce case in which she was trying to relocate out-of-state with her children to begin a new life after sustaining years of abuse by her husband. After a full-day trial, the court agreed that such relocation was in the best interests of the children.

* The Clinic accepted a referral from the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project to represent a brain-injured Somali woman involved in a bitter parental rights action. The student attorney had to deftly negotiate the complexity of the Maine Somali community in order to locate witnesses willing to testify about the extensive abuse suffered by our client.

* Among its criminal defense cases, the Clinic represented a woman who pled guilty to engaging in credit card fraud during a time when she was struggling with addiction. The woman, who had successfully conquered her addiction through treatment, was worried that a jail sentence would have a negative impact on her young autistic child for whom she was the primary caretaker. After a contested sentencing hearing, the court ordered a fully-suspended sentence, restitution, and probation.

* The Clinic accepted two cases in 2010 that involved both divorces and foreclosures on the marital real estate.

* The Clinic was appointed by the Federal District Court to represent an individual who was subpoenaed to testify at the grand jury and intended to assert his Fifth Amendment right to refuse to testify, and to represent another individual who was a target of an investigation but wanted to explore pre-indictment co-operation.

* The Clinic represented a woman in a complex post-divorce case involving allegations of contempt, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. The Clinic located a *pro bono* guardian ad litem who did a thorough investigation of the allegations and issued a report substantiating our client's concerns. The Clinic was then able to negotiate a fully-favorable court order that will provide ongoing protection to the client and her young daughters.

PRISONER ASSISTANCE CLINIC

“The service was very helpful and kept me focused so I could prepare instead of freeze in court. It was much appreciated!”

-- client, Prisoner Assistance Clinic

In January 2003, the Law School launched the Prisoner Assistance Clinic, which was funded for its first three years by a discretionary grant from the Maine Bar Foundation and to a lesser extent through a contract with the Maine Department of Corrections. The origins of the Prisoner Assistance Clinic stem from funding restrictions imposed in the mid-1990s by the Legal Services Corporation precluding Pine Tree Legal Assistance from providing any civil legal services to prisoners. However, prisoners have family, consumer, and other civil legal matters, many arising from the circumstances of their incarceration. The Justice Action Group, the Maine Bar Foundation, and others identified this as a gap in access to justice and concluded that providing services through the Clinic would be a cost-efficient way to close this gap.

Students provided legal assistance to 210 prisoners during 2010. This three-credit clinical course, supervised by Clinical Professor Jim Burke, places an emphasis on interviewing, counseling and providing “unbundled” legal services meaning that the student attorneys provide the prisoners

the information, forms, and advice that they need to represent themselves in civil proceedings. The Clinic also provides full representation to some prisoners for matters that are in Southern Maine courts and in which the prisoner is unable to advocate for himself or herself. The program is popular with students, corrections staff, and prisoners alike.

Prisoner Assistance Clinic students travel to the Maine Correctional Center in Windham every week to meet with prisoners with a wide range of civil legal problems. Students had 443 client meetings at the prison in 2010. Most of the matters involve family law, such as parental rights and child support, and probate-related proceedings, including guardianship.

Client Story: Sandra

Sandra was in a pre-release program and nearing the end of her incarceration for charges relating to longstanding problems with substance abuse when she first contacted the Clinic's Prisoner Assistance Program. Sandra had not had any contact with her son, Jason (now 10), for several years because her ex-husband refused to set up any visits with Jason. Sandra allowed her ex-husband to dictate when she could see her son because she was afraid to enforce the visitation rights she had been awarded in the divorce. Sandra was wracked with guilt because her other child had died in a car accident that occurred while Sandra was driving. Sandra was also worried that, if she pursued visitation, her ex-husband (who was in the financial position to hire a lawyer) would try to terminate her parental rights entirely. However, after several meetings with a Clinic student attorney to discuss her rights, Sandra made it a goal to re-establish her relationship with Jason. Her student attorney filed a motion to enforce Sandra's parental rights, and, through negotiations with her husband's attorney, set up a road map for Sandra and Jason to reconnect. Sandra began having regular phone calls and exchanging letters with her son, and these interactions have been extremely positive. As a result, Sandra's life has renewed focus and purpose. While in the pre-release program, she obtained a professional carpentry certificate and lined up a job, apartment, and drivers license in anticipation of her release. And then shortly after her recent release, she saw Jason for the first time in years and took another important step towards reconnecting with her son. The Clinic continued to represent Sandra through the conclusion of her family law matter to ensure that her efforts to re-establish her relationship with Jason remain on track. Sandra wrote to the Clinic: "Thank you all very much for all you have done for me with this case. Your time and patience is greatly appreciated."

Many prisoners have consumer-related questions, particularly in the area of bankruptcy, or have questions about advanced health care directives and powers of attorney. Other matters range from public benefits to housing to employment to personal injury defense. In particular, the Prisoner Assistance Clinic has been receiving an increasing number of requests for assistance from disabled inmates who need assistance qualifying for Social Security benefits, so that they can, upon release from custody, begin to receive such benefits and access to the necessary medical treatment to help them stay out of trouble and avoid returning to prison.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC

My student attorney was very kind to me! He helped me with my case and answered all of my questions and calls. I wouldn't ask for a better lawyer. I know he will be a great lawyer in the future! Thank you so much!

-- client, Juvenile Justice Clinic

The Juvenile Justice Clinic, launched in the fall 2006, enrolls up to five law students each semester, who work under the supervision of Associate Clinical Professor Christopher Northrop and who have the opportunity to work with troubled youth on a number of levels. The Juvenile Justice Clinic provided services to more than 141 clients through the Juvenile Justice Clinic in 2010. This includes 37 teens and young adults through the Street Law Project, and more than 104 children in the Maine Juvenile Court.

Individual Representation

The primary focus of the Juvenile Justice Clinic caseload is the direct representation of juveniles with pending delinquency matters in state courts. Student attorneys appear in Juvenile Court each week and represent juveniles in the various proceedings that may arise, such as arraignments, detention hearings, plea negotiations and trials. In 2010 the Juvenile Justice Clinic provided full representation to approximately 45 children who were facing charges including Arson, Burglary, Robbery, Theft, Aggravated Trafficking in a Scheduled Drug, Terrorizing, and Criminal Mischief.

In their work on behalf of their juvenile clients, student attorneys work closely with social service agencies, legal aid providers, schools, and other community representatives to develop and implement personalized, holistic, and targeted programs for each juvenile client. Such programs are designed to ensure that the juveniles avoid incarceration and recidivism and get back on track to finishing their education and to developing important life skills to ensure continued success. Accordingly, important components of an individualized plan may include treatment for underlying substance abuse or mental health problems, an appropriate educational program, suitable housing and other services for the client, and in many instances, his or her family.

Lawyer of the Day Program

On several occasions in 2010, Juvenile Justice Clinic student attorneys served as “Lawyer of the Day” in Biddeford District Court, providing basic legal representation to unrepresented juveniles who appeared for court dates. During these occasions, Clinic students assisted more than 53 juveniles, primarily in negotiations with the District Attorney’s Office.

Client Story: Tony

A Juvenile Justice Clinic student attorney was serving as lawyer of the day when he first met Tony, who was in detention at the Long Creek Youth Development Center facing multiple felony charges and probation violations. After an unsuccessful detention hearing, the student attorney was appointed to represent him. The State was looking for a judgment for long-term commitment to the Long Creek. The student attorney convinced the court to first

let Tony try a residential rehabilitation program, with some initial success. About 6 months into a 12 month program, Tony let us know he could not continue to comply with the residential program's restrictive visitation rules. He has a young child, and his ability to spend time with his son was very limited. He also had little opportunity to see his child off-grounds. Due to ongoing family issues, we knew he would not be released to his family's home. The student attorney, working with Tony's Juvenile Community Corrections Officer, was able to find placement in a family friend's house. The student got Tony enrolled in mental health and substance abuse counseling. Over the State's objection, the student convinced the court to release Tony from his rehab program. Tony thrived in his new setting. He stayed away from drugs and alcohol, caught up in school, and was able to spend more quality time with his child. Tony did so well at his new home that the State eventually reduced the felony charges to misdemeanors and allowed him to end his probation early. Tony is back on schedule to graduate from high school with his class this spring. He has been sober and out of trouble for over a year.

Guardian ad Litem Project

During the summer of 2010, the Clinic hosted a Maine Law student with a public interest fellowship through MAPIL who helped design a new guardian ad litem (GAL) project and who provided GAL services for two children in the juvenile system. Court-appointed GALs and CASA GALs are not available to represent children charged with crimes, although a number of juveniles land in the delinquency system because of family dysfunction. The Clinic has partnered with a number of other GALs in York and Cumberland County to provide volunteer GAL services to some of the highest risk youth in the delinquency system. In addition, the Clinic was appointed as the GAL for four juveniles during 2010, enabling student attorneys to gain a deeper understanding of the unique and critical role that GALs serve in court proceedings.

Client Story: Chase

At the request of the District Attorney's office and defense counsel, the court appointed a Juvenile Justice Clinic student attorney as Chase's Guardian ad litem, and ordered the student attorney to investigate Chase's home situation to see if it had risen to a level of neglect or danger that would require state intervention. When the student attorney first met Chase, he was habitually truant, flunking all of his classes, a regular drug user and often in trouble with the local police. His home life was very chaotic, and the family's extreme poverty contributed to many of his issues. However, after getting to know Chase, we soon discovered that he was very bright, a talented artist, enjoyed working with younger children and very connected to his mother. Rather than pushing the court process toward Chase's removal from his parent's custody, the student attorney did his best to build structure and support into his family. Although the results were not immediate, Chase and his family gradually accepted help from the school, from a mentor, from counselors and from the community. It took almost a full year to resolve Chase's pending legal issues. At his final court date, the Judge noted Chase's many accomplishments which included sobriety, success at school, volunteer hours helping younger children with art projects, and his disentanglement with the delinquency system. Chase's mother was very happy with the family's progress, and thrilled that the GAL decided to work to strengthen the family instead of pulling it apart.

Street Law Project

Juvenile Justice Clinic students launched a Street Law Project at the Preble Street Teen Center in January 2007, which has become another important component of the Juvenile Justice Clinic's work. Through the Street Law Project, a collaboration of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and KIDS Legal, student attorneys meet with teens and young adults at the Teen Center to provide them with legal information and advice and, in some cases, representation. The Clinic has students on location at the Teen Center every other week. The Clinic provided 37 legal consultations last year, and took on a few clients for full representation.

Policy Development Projects

One of the unique attributes of Maine Law's Juvenile Justice Clinic is that it provides students the opportunity to work on policy initiatives as well as providing direct representation to individuals. Such work offers students the opportunity to contribute to initiatives with far-reaching impact.

* With considerable support from Clinic student attorneys and a Clinic MAPIL intern, the Juvenile Justice Task Force issued its final report, and the reform initiative is now in the implementation phase with the formation of the Juvenile Justice Implementation Council, co-chaired by Professor Northrop. The Clinic's summer MAPIL fellow also conducted research for the statewide committee charged with planning the implementation of LD 1658 (the Juvenile Justice Task Force's education bill).

* The Clinic has continued to do extensive work in the area of juvenile competency, including providing direct representation, conducting a well-attended presentation at MSBA Summer Bar Meeting, and drafting legislation in conjunction with the Legislature's Criminal Law Advisory Committee. The Clinic's advocacy in the area of juvenile competency was noted in the October 2010 issue of the *ABA Journal*.

* The Clinic helped organize and host a new collaboration with juvenile defense attorneys, Maine Equal Justice Partners, and the Girls Action Group dedicated to helping detained and committed girls.

* The Clinic's work on the Disproportionate Minority Contact Project with Muskie continued in 2010. A student attorney assisted the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group in creating the new Disproportionate Minority Contact Statewide Coordinator position, which has been filled and is housed at the Law School. The DMC working groups has partnered with NAACP, a number of leaders in the immigrant/refugee community, the Portland Police Dept., Portland Schools and the Cumberland County District Attorney's office to create a pilot project in Cumberland County to address DMC issues. The Clinic also convened a DMC youth group to ensure our pilot project has their input and buy-in.

* Professor Northrop helped draft and edit practice standards for juvenile and parent attorneys for Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS). A group of law students is working with MCILS, the Clinic and the local bar to create a comprehensive practice manual for juvenile defenders.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

I went to court feeling nervous and afraid, but my student attorney made me feel powerful and positive. He explained to me what was going to happen and made me feel confident and comfortable.

-- client, Domestic Violence Project

All students enrolled in Clinic courses participate in the Domestic Violence Program, through which students attend at least one or two days of the protection from abuse (PFA) docket calls in Lewiston District Court, and represent any victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking who need representation in seeking a final protection order. The Clinic's work in this program is highly valued by the courts as the PFA proceedings are often highly contentious and emotional. With the assistance of counsel, most cases are settled without a trial. In 2010, the Clinic represented 226 clients in PFA cases. Clinic student attorneys work closely with court advocates from Safe Voices (formerly the Abused Women's Advocacy Project), a non-profit organization based in Lewiston-Auburn, to ensure that every client receives, not only legal representation in her protection order case, but also the necessary support and resources to escape violence. In addition, every Clinic student receives training, not only on the legal remedies available to victims of domestic violence, but also the dynamics of domestic violence.

Client Story: Marsha

Marsha sought an extension of a PFA order that was going to expire soon. She had been subjected to horrendous abuse during her marriage - threats with gun, held at knifepoint, rape. During the time that the existing PFA had been in effect, her ex-husband had stalked her, sent her text messages (always from someone else's phone), and left a "gift" on her birthday (a black rose on the hood of her car). The defendant, who was represented at trial, denied the continued harassment, argued that the police had never charged him with violating the PFA, and claimed that Marsha in fact had followed him. The student attorney argued that the initial abuse alone was sufficient to justify an extension of the order and put in evidence of the ongoing conduct. The court agreed that the initial abuse was sufficient and also found that in fact the Defendant had continued his abusive behavior after the PFA had issued. The court extended the order for another two years.

BUILDING COURTROOM AND OTHER ADVOCACY SKILLS

The students who participated in Clinic last year had exposure to a wide range of proceedings before state, federal, and probate courts and administrative agencies through which they gain valuable experience and honed their oral and written advocacy and negotiation skills. They appeared as counsel in the following proceedings: 12 interim hearings; 72 Protection from Abuse trials; 118 Protection From Abuse agreements presented to the Court; 111 juvenile proceedings; 8 juvenile drug treatment court meetings; 7 family law final hearings or trials; 1 Probate Court final hearing; 2 administrative hearings; 10 docket calls; 19 mediations; 8 judicial settlement conferences; 56 non-hearing proceedings before Family Law Magistrates; 29 arraignments; 17 change of pleas; 11 criminal dispositional conferences; 1 asylum interview; 2 Law Court briefs; 1 Law Court oral argument; 2 federal court bail hearings; and several other miscellaneous appearances.

CLINIC SEMINARS

All students participating in Clinic courses during the school year participate in weekly seminars. Most weeks, the students meet in small groups with a faculty supervisor to hold “case rounds,” in which students present and discuss specific problems, challenges, and questions that have arisen in their cases. During other weeks, the seminars cover substantive legal issues, information on topics related to Clinic work or hear from guest speakers. During 2010 the seminar topics included: the dynamics of family violence; case theory; discovery; client interviewing and counseling; Guardians *ad Litem*; forensic psychology; juvenile defense strategies; and criminal procedure. Our guest speakers included Maine District Court Judge Susan Oram, Family Law Magistrate Lindsay Cadwallader and Dr. Ann LeBlanc, Director of the Maine Forensic Service.

In addition to this coursework, each student is required to write a memorandum describing and analyzing a specific client counseling opportunity they had during the course of the semester. Such memoranda require students to consider and reflect on the attorney-client relationship, the ethical obligations of attorneys, the dimensions and characteristics of client decision-making, and similar issues.

OTHER INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Clinic celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2010, and it marked the occasion in March with a reunion attended by many Clinic students, alumni, and faculty, including the Clinic’s founding director, Cushman Anthony. We heard many wonderful stories about the Clinic’s first years, such as its original location in a small storefront in the Old Port when its neighbors were several sketchy bars and it had an old piano in the client waiting room, and its first victory before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in a criminal appeal brought by then-student attorneys Vernon Arey and Joseph Jabar in which they succeeded in getting all charges against their client dismissed on the basis of an insufficient complaint.

Clinic students were invited to attend several seminars and continuing education programs, including those offered by the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the Office of the Federal Public Defender. Two students, at the invitation of the Maine Judicial Branch, attended the two-day child protective training, “With the Child in Mind” sponsored by the Maine Justice for Children Task Force.

The Clinic launched a Facebook page as a way to keep students, alumni, and supporters informed of Clinic events and job opportunities.

The Clinic participated with several other legal aid providers in a highly-successful Intake Conference in October 2010, which provided programs for staff on addressing communication barriers, providing high quality assistance, and myths/facts about individual programs.

Student attorney Nicole Wakely was the Maine Law recipient of the 2010 Northeast Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel Law Student Ethics Award for “demonstrating an outstanding commitment to ethics in the course of a clinical program.” She attended an awards dinner in Boston with Professor Christopher Northrop, and the nominating letter submitted by the Clinic faculty was selected for special mention during the ceremony.

At graduation, student attorney Elizabeth Smith was presented with the 2010 Maine Law

Clinical Legal Education Association Award, “for excellence in clinical fieldwork based on the high quality of representation provided clients and for exceptionally thoughtful, self-reflective participation in an accompanying clinical seminar.”

CLINIC STAFFING

The student attorneys’ work is closely supervised by members of the Clinic faculty, all of whom complement their Clinic teaching with numerous community, scholarly, and other activities.

Professor **Deirdre M. Smith** is the Clinic’s Director and supervises students in the General Practice Clinic, as well as teaching other courses in the Law School including Evidence and Mental Disability Law. Professor Smith serves on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court’s Advisory Committee on the Rules of Evidence and several committees addressing issues of expanding access to justice in Maine. Professor Smith participated as a presenter for two professional panel discussion trainings, one for attorneys and the other for guardians ad litem, on the issue of the intersection of domestic violence and parental rights.

Clinical Professor **E. James Burke** joined the Law School faculty in May 2005 after serving as a part-time Visiting Clinical Professor for more than three years and bringing nearly 30 years of experience as a trial lawyer in Maine. He continues his work overseeing the Prisoner Assistance Clinic and the Summer Intern Program as well as supervising General Practice Clinic students. During 2010, Professor Burke served as a member of the boards of the Maine Civil Liberties Union and Foundation, and as a member of Maine State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education sub-committee and the State of Maine County Law Library sub-committee. At the Maine State Bar Association’s annual “Bridging the Gap” program for newly-admitted attorneys, Professor Burke addressed new attorneys on the topic of substance and mental illness among attorneys

The Clinic hired Associate Clinic Professor **Christopher M. Northrop** in 2006. Professor Northrop, a nationally-recognized advocate for the rights of juveniles, oversaw the design and launch of the Juvenile Justice Clinic that fall and has continued to supervise the course since that time. During 2010 he also supervised students in the General Practice Clinic and oversaw the Domestic Violence Project during the summer of 2010. Professor Northrop served as President of the New England Juvenile Defender Center, is on the Advisory Board of the National Juvenile Defender Center, and serves as chair of the Juvenile Justice Implementation Council. In February 2010, Professor Northrop attended the United States Department of Justice’s Indigent Legal Services Summit to discuss issues pertaining to juvenile law. Professor Northrop was an invited participant in the Georgetown Summer Institute on Clinical Teaching at Georgetown University Law Center. He developed and moderated a panel discussion for the Maine State Bar Association's Summer Meeting, *The Age of Reason: Representing Children With Competency Issues*. He also served as advisor and on-site investigator for the National Juvenile Defender Center’s assessment of the juvenile access to counsel and quality of representation in West Virginia.

Tina Schneider joined the Clinic faculty in 2006 as an Adjunct Clinical Professor overseeing the Domestic Violence Project and continued this work during the spring and fall semesters in 2010. When she is not supervising students in the Clinic, Professor Schneider practices law as a nationally-recognized federal criminal defense appellate attorney, representing clients in three different federal circuit courts during 2010. She serves on the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit’s Criminal Justice Act Panel Admissions Committee.

The Clinic continues to have a committed, indispensable, and hard-working staff. **Karen Murphy** serves as our Administrative Manager. **Lisa Ginn** joined us in 2009 as our Administrative

Assistant. Several students (both work-study employees and volunteers) also serve as valuable members of the team.

LAUNCHING PUBLIC INTEREST CAREERS

One measure of the program's success is our students' career choices after they graduate. Our recent graduates include staff attorneys at Maine Equal Justice Partners, Disability Rights Center, Legal Services for the Elderly, and KIDS Legal. A number of our recent graduates tell us that, as a result of their experiences working in the Clinic, they have become rostered guardians *ad litem* and/or take court-appointed work in the areas of child protection, juvenile defense, criminal defense, and issues specifically affecting low-income families. Other graduates have signed on with the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project to accept *pro bono* cases.

FUNDING SOURCES

In 2010, forty-three percent of the funding for the Clinic's programs came from sources external to the Law School. The largest single source of such external funds is the **Maine Civil Legal Services Fund**, followed by the **Maine Bar Foundation**, which provided an Annual Grant of IOLTA funds. Other significant sources of external funding during 2010 include the **Campaign for Justice**, **TD Charitable Foundation**, **Betterment Fund**, the **Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence**, and the **Muskie Fund for Legal Services**. The Clinic receives some limited funding from the **Maine Judicial Branch** and from the **Maine Commission for Indigent Legal Services** for serving as "lawyer of the day" in Juvenile Court.

For more information about the University of Maine School of Law's Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, please contact:

Deirdre M. Smith
Professor of Law and
Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic
University of Maine School of Law
246 Deering Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102
(207) 780-4376
desmith@usm.maine.edu