

University of Maine School of Law

University of Maine School of Law Digital Commons

DEI Newsletter

Law School Publications

10-2024

DEI Newsletter 2024 Issue 3

University of Maine School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.maine.law.maine.edu/dei-newsletter>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2 | Issue 3 | Maine Law DEI Committee Newsletter | October 2024
Contact: law.deicommittee@maine.edu



*Welcome to the Class of 2027! Read more about
Orientation on page 2.*

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

In the Spotlight:

Orientation

NALSA Fall Social

2nd Annual Day of Service

PG. 3

Upcoming Events

Events Around Town

Student Affinity Groups

Living Room Library

Welcome Back!

The DEI Committee is tasked with listening, assessing, and recommending actions by Maine Law that will improve inclusion, equity, and justice within our community and beyond. We are launching this newsletter to share relevant news, events, programming, and curriculum with the Maine Law community. Our goal is to elevate, inspire, and invigorate this work throughout our community. We would love your feedback and would be delighted to highlight events within and beyond our Maine Law community. Please email law.deicommittee@maine.edu.

In the Spotlight

❖ Orientation

Faculty and staff attended a DEI workshop presented by [Mindbridge Center](#) as part of an in-service day. This training focused on the neuroscience behind the biases and assumptions that occur when we're trying to process a lot of information quickly and how to interrupt them.

During the new student orientation, Professor Sara Cressey and 3L Aysha Vear led a discussion of the "From Safe Spaces to Brave Spaces" article, as well as guidelines for engagement that the 1L class would like to use.

New students also participated in an "All That We Are" exercise in which students were asked to move to a designated space in the room if they belonged to a certain group. As different types of identities and experiences were listed for the groups, students had a chance to see where they shared similarities and differences with their new classmates.

❖ Native American Law Society Kicks Off the Semester with a Fall Social



Students chatting at the fall social.

The law school's newest student organization, the Native American Law Society (NALSA), celebrated the start of the school year with a gorgeous fall evening. Co-chairs Holly Fain (3L) and Cheyenne Acree (3L) hosted the grassroots event with support from the Multicultural Law Society.

It was a wonderful night of community building and learning with a special outdoor screening. The show began with a pre-show entitled "[Conversation with Native Americans on Race](#)," which was followed by a screening of the documentary "[Warrior Lawyers](#)." Guests enjoyed charcuterie, smoked meats, and treats provided by Two Fat Cats Bakery and Standard Baking Company. NALSA hosted a virtual and in-person raffle, with proceeds to provide support for its professional, educational, and community activities. All raffle items were sourced from Native-owned businesses and curated toward celebrating and embracing Native culture. NALSA raised over \$400 for their efforts.

The organization's mission is to increase the Native American Law student population, to provide greater visibility to indigenous legal issues that affect Native communities, and to better leverage relationships forged between the law school, the legal community, and Native populations state-wide.

Students can join the NALSA mailing list to learn about future events or learning opportunities [here](#).

❖ 2nd Annual Day of Service

On September 20 1L students were invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Day of Service as part of their Orientation+ programming. Students could choose among seven different volunteer opportunities in Portland assisting local organizations. This year's partner organizations were: [Volunteer Lawyers Project](#), [Maine State Archives](#), [Ronald McDonald House](#), [Portland Trails](#), [Presumpscot Land Trust](#), [Maine Needs](#), and [EqualityMaine](#). Eighty-three 1L students participated - and we couldn't be more proud of the work they did!



Student volunteers pose at the EqualityMaine offices.

Upcoming Events at Maine Law:

- Sept. 15 - Oct. 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Oct. 1 - Oct. 31: LGBTQ+ History Month
- October 8: *Externship and Pro Bono Fair*, 12-1:30pm in the Living Room
- October 9: *Issues in Family Law: LGBTQ+ Law and Policy Group Panel and Networking Event*, 5-7 pm in the Living Room and Moot Court Classroom
- October 10: *International Law Society Discussion*, 12:15-1pm in the Moot Court Classroom
- October 14: *Indigenous Peoples' Day*
- October 14-17: *Wellness Week*

Around Town

- **October 10: *Trans Workers, Gender Diversity, and the Union: A Trans 101 Conversation for the Labor Movement***, 6 pm at USM. [RSVP here](#). Co-sponsored by OUT Maine.
- **October 14: *Children's Museum and Theater of Maine Open to All - Indigenous Peoples' Day***, 9 am-4 pm. Includes an outdoor exhibit and performance by the Burnurwubskek Singers. Reservations required.
- **October 14: *Free admission to the Portland Museum of Art***.
- **October 26: *EqualityMaine's Great Pumpkin Ball***, 6 pm at the State Theatre.

Student Affinity Groups

Multicultural Law Society (MLS):
multicultural@maine.edu

Black Law Student Association (BLSA):
BLSA@maine.edu

LGBTQ+ Law and Policy Group:
lawlgbt@maine.edu

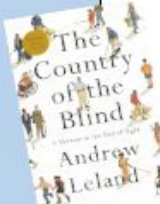
Women's Law Association (WLA):
wla@maine.edu

Native American Law Students Association (NALSA):
nalsa@maine.edu

Living Room Library

Perspectives from our community, for our community






THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND - ANDREW LELAND

"This moving and thoughtful book recounts Leland's experience of losing his vision due to retinitis pigmentosa. He wrote this book in middle age as he gradually transitions from the world of the seeing to the "country of the blind" (the reference is to an H.G. Wells short story). The book is far more than a description of one man's experience with the progressive onset of blindness. He also examines the stigma of and narratives around blindness in our culture (and others) and forces us to challenge our own assumptions about what it is like to move in the world as a blind person"

- Prof. Deirdre Smith

Category: Memoir, Disability, Biography



KLARA AND THE SUN - KAZUO ISHIGURO

"This book was about what it truly means to love. It's set in a dystopian future where AI is used for companionship for humans. It made me really think about what life would be like with this technology--both the bad and the good."

- Aysha Vear

Category: Science Fiction, Dystopian, Artificial Intelligence

WE ARE LADY PARTS (TV SHOW)

"This comedy about a female Muslim punk band has such heart, fully realized characters, and plenty of punk. Smart, funny, sweet - one of my recent favorites."

-Emily Wheeler

Category: Feel Good, Sitcom

