Maine Law
Magazine

Parents in Law
The art of balancing studies & children

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Maine Law’s D.C. links run deep

Clinical Practice
One student’s story
OPENING ARGUMENTS

John Veroneau
Partner, Covington & Burling LLP

John Veroneau, a 1989 graduate of Maine Law, is co-chair of the International Trade and Finance group at Covington & Burling in Washington D.C. He served as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (2007-2009) and previously as USTR’s general counsel, as Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Clinton Administration, as Chief of Staff to Senator Susan Collins, and as Legislative Director, respectively, for Senators Bill Cohen and Bill Frist.

What lessons do you recall best from your law school education?
I long ago forgot the Rule against Perpetuities but will forever remember Mel Zarr’s brilliant characterization of certain decisions as “concessions to the shortness of life.”

What was your path to appointment as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative?
It was a happy confluence of events. I handled trade issues for Bill Cohen when he was in the Senate. During my time at the Pentagon, I saw how governments interact at senior levels. As USTR General Counsel, I worked the details of U.S. trade law and policy. Fortunately, these experiences were seen as useful preparation for the Deputy USTR position. I can’t say I planned any of this but am grateful for how it turned out.

Do people still call you Ambassador Veroneau?
My teenage sons when they want the car.

What have you found most satisfying about your wide-ranging career?
Probably the variety of experiences and the people I’ve worked with. I shudder when I think back on how many things I did not understand when I came to Washington 25 years ago. I’ve benefited greatly from being around smart and interesting people and traveling a good amount.

You are a partner at Covington & Burling in D.C. and work around the world. Do you miss Maine?
I definitely miss Maine. I have lots of family here still so we come up regularly. My wife and I bought a house here a few years ago so we can visit more often.

What is it about your roots in Maine that gives you an advantage in the world of international trade and finance?
My Maine roots and upbringing taught me to focus on listening more than talking. I suppose that has helped me better understand the person sitting across the table from me.

What advice would you give to an aspiring international lawyer?
Many practice areas now have an international component. My colleagues handling antitrust matters spend a good deal of time advising clients on competition issues in Europe, Brazil, and China. So the opportunities for practicing “international law” are expanding to many areas of law. A second language and experience living abroad are useful for lawyers interested in a global practice.

You worked in Congress, in the Executive Branch, and in private practice. What has been your most memorable work experience?
Probably a trip to Cambodia in 2007 when I was Deputy USTR. In 1980, I had taken a college “gap year” to work in refugee camps with Cambodians who had fled to escape Pol Pot’s genocide. Being there some 27 years later, representing my government in trade discussions, was a memorable book-end to my gap-year experience.

Do people still call you Ambassador Veroneau?
My teenage sons when they want the car.
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Staying connected with Maine Law
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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 following us on Twitter, twitter.com/umainelaw, and visiting our web page, mainelaw.maine.edu.

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COVER PHOTO
Maine Law student Bill Adams at a Parents in Law event.
Story: Page 19. (Derek Davis photo)

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Dear Friends,

Tradition and transition. These themes intertwine for the 2014-15 academic year, at a dynamic moment for the University of Maine School of Law. In a time of change, both here at Maine Law and in the broader world of legal education, we draw strength from a solid foundation of core values. The Law School’s commitment to Maine is unwavering. Our excellence in research, in sustaining a collaborative law school community, and in promoting justice are valued traditions. And our longstanding commitment to quality teaching and practical skills resonates more than ever with the needs of today’s legal profession.

These core values are a touchstone for our path ahead, even as we continue to adapt to changing legal and economic environments, and as valued professors retire and hand the torch to the next generation of Maine Law faculty.

In the life of a law school, some transitions cannot pass by without marking the occasion and expressing a collective thanks. On April 10, 2015, the Maine Law community will come together to honor six senior faculty members in transition. Professors Tom Ward, Nancy Wanderer, and Jim Friedman retired in the past year, and Professors Mel Zarr, David Cluchey, and Marty Rogoff, are in the process of phased retirement. Together, these professors represent 215 years of teaching at Maine Law. They have helped shape Maine Law’s identity and standards of excellence in teaching, research, and public service in Maine. I hope you will join us in April for this celebration and opportunity to honor our colleagues.

Strong alumni leadership is in transition as well. Frank Bishop (’07) is the new president of the Maine Law Alumni Association, building upon the successful leadership of his predecessor, Peter DeTroy (’72). Craig Nelson (’69) has taken the lead as President of the University of Maine School of Law Foundation board, following David Evans (’78) and his excellent work during the Foundation’s formative years. Both organizations continue to provide critical support, energizing our annual fund and building our endowment funds.

On a personal note, I look forward to a new relationship with the Maine Law community and particularly with our distinctive students. Earlier this year, I announced my retirement as dean as of July 2015. This is a transition, not a farewell. After ten years as dean, I will remain at Maine Law as professor – to resume my teaching and research with enthusiasm, and to widen my public service and policy efforts. A search committee, chaired by Maine Law Professor Jeffrey Maine, is conducting a vigorous national search for the new dean.

Change in leadership can be healthy for any institution. I believe the timing is right for the University of Maine School of Law to begin a new chapter after my decade as dean. Maine Law is well positioned to thrive in the coming years. We have recruited top-notch faculty and staff; expanded collaboration with Maine’s judiciary, organized bar, and public and private institutions; and seen numerous enhancements to the school’s program of legal education. We will continue to train 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 Maine Law. 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.

Peter Pitegoff
Dean, University of Maine School of Law
4 questions for the Dean

Q. You have been Maine Law dean for a decade. What are some notable developments at the Law School during this time?

A. Maine Law has expanded experiential learning opportunities, including the creation of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic, a successful seven-year run with the Intellectual Property Clinic, and growth in externships and summer fellowships. We have increased scholarship aid and maintained a vital student body, despite declining applications to law schools nationwide. New post-professional LL.M. (Master of Laws) and J.S.D. (Doctor of the Science of Law) degrees complement the core J.D. program. Most notably, Maine Law has reclaimed its autonomy of years past. The Law School has realigned its position within the University of Maine System, gaining greater responsibility and control over its public identity and its tuition, budget, and position management. The next step, we trust, will be further progress toward a new interdisciplinary center for graduate and professional education.

Q. Can you say more about the possible new graduate and professional center?

A. Law schools today, including Maine Law, must develop new models for delivery of legal education and for sustainability. An intensive study is underway, led by the University of Maine System Chancellor, to determine the feasibility of a new graduate and professional center. The initiative would consist initially of an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Law School and the graduate business programs at the University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine and with the wider community of Maine businesses and nonprofit enterprises. The realignment potentially will build on the natural synergies between law and business, contribute to economic development in Maine, widen the universe of potential philanthropic support, lead eventually to a new facility, and return to closer collaboration with Maine’s land grant university.

Q. What subjects will you teach?

A. Forty years ago, I was certified as a secondary school social studies teacher after studying education at Brown University, and I later practiced law in economic development. For thirty years, I have been involved with legal education, as a professor and (for the last 17 years) an administrator. I look forward to returning to my role as teacher. My core teaching will be in Corporation Law and in the Legal Profession and Ethics. I hope to teach smaller courses in nonprofit organizations and in policy topics such as education, welfare and employment, and urban and rural revitalization. I am sure to teach about community development finance, which will be the initial focus of my research.

Q. How will you keep busy after stepping down as dean?

A. Teaching and related research will demand much of my attention. Public service has always been important to me, personally and professionally. I will continue to serve on the board of directors of the community development finance institution Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI), and I will look for other volunteer opportunities as well. At Maine Law, I will be active in faculty governance and hope to be a resource for the administration and the new dean. And, of course, I look forward to quality time with my wife and our two adult sons.
In Brief

Judge James Haines named Godfrey Professor

The University of Maine Law School is honored to welcome the Hon. James B. Haines, Jr. as the Edward S. Godfrey Distinguished Visiting Professor for the 2014-2015 academic year. He retired in January 2014 as Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine.

Judge Haines graduated from Williamette University College of Law, summa cum laude. He clerked for the Hon. Eugene A. Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Haines worked in private practice in Washington state and in Maine between 1977 and 1990, except for 1980-1983, when he served as a professor at West Virginia University College of Law. He was appointed to the bankruptcy bench in August of 1990.

WLA honors Professor Deirdre Smith ('94)

The Women’s Law Association at the University of Maine School of Law selected Maine Law Professor Deirdre Smith as the recipient of its annual Outstanding Alumna Award. She was honored at a reception in November 2013.

Professor Smith is a 1994 graduate of Maine Law. She is an accomplished scholar, an excellent teacher, and, since 2004, Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. Through the Clinic, student attorneys are specially licensed to practice law and provide free representation to low-income individuals and families.

Under the leadership of Professor Smith, the Clinic has expanded since 2004 to include clinical courses in the areas of Juvenile Justice and Refugee and Human Rights, in addition to programs in general practice for clients in need, for prisoners, and for victims of domestic violence.

2014 Commencement: 96 graduates

The University of Maine School of Law awarded J.D. degrees to 96 students, and post-professional LL.M. degrees to six students on May 17, 2014.

The Hon. Angus King, Jr., United States Senator and former Governor of Maine, was the keynote speaker. King offered the Maine Law graduates several pieces of advice.

“Take more risks. It’s OK to fail,” King advised. “We are most constrained not by other people, not by rules, not by government, but by the little man that sits on our shoulder and says you can’t do that, you can’t try that.”

Eleanor Baker, co-founder and managing principal at the accounting firm Baker Newman Noyes, received the 2014 L. Kinvin Wroth Award for distinguished service as an alum. Graduating student Stanley R. Tupper III of Jefferson, Maine, was the student speaker.

Judge John Nivison named federal magistrate judge

John Nivison ('85) was appointed in 2014 as federal magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court in Maine.

Nivison started the job in January, replacing a fellow Maine Law alum, Magistrate Judge Margaret Kravchuk, who retired from the bench.

Judge Nivison presides primarily in U.S. District Court in the Margaret Chase Smith Federal Building in Bangor. He practiced with the law firm of Pierce Atwood from 1985 to 1999, when he was appointed by Gov. Angus King as a judge on the Maine District Court.

He was Chief Judge of the Maine District Court from 2005 to 2007. Judge Nivison was then appointed to the Maine Superior Court by Gov. John Baldacci.

Judge Nancy Gertner delivers Coffin Lecture

Judge Nancy Gertner, a Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School and a retired federal judge, delivered the 21st Annual Frank M. Coffin Lecture on Law and Public Service on Oct. 21, 2013. She spoke at the Abromson Community Education Center in Portland. The disconnect between the aspirations of the law, and what it actually delivers in real life, was a central theme of Gertner’s talk. Judge Gertner served as U.S. District Court Judge in Massachusetts from 1994 to 2011.

The lecture series, sponsored by the University of Maine School of Law, honors the late Judge Frank M. Coffin, longtime federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, former member of Congress, and renowned leader and mentor in public service.
Maine Law students excel in moot court competition

University of Maine School of Law students Joseph Mendes and Rob Connelly knocked off several highly renowned law schools en route to a 2nd place finish in February at the Tulane Mardi Gras Sports Law Invitational.

The duo of Mendes and Connelly made it all the way to the seventh and final round of the moot court competition, losing narrowly in the finals to Cardozo Law. The event was held Feb. 26-28, 2014, in New Orleans. The annual event is one of the longest running appellate competitions, and the only sports law competition in the nation.

Another moot court team, John Moran and Henry Murphy-Beck, made it to the final 8 out of 24 teams at the Charleston School of Law National Moot Court Competition.

Tina Schneider receives Thomas P. Downing Award

Tina Schneider, an adjunct professor and clinical supervisor at the University of Maine School of Law, was named the 2013 recipient of the Thomas P. Downing Award, which honors individuals in the legal aid field for their dedication to poor and vulnerable Maine residents.

Since 2006, Schneider has been the faculty supervisor of the Protection from Abuse Program in Lewiston District Court. The program is part of Maine Law’s Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic.

The award was established by the family of Tom Downing, a staff attorney at Pine Tree Legal Assistance who died of brain cancer in 1985 at the age of 43. At a ceremony in December 2013, Schneider received the award from Diana Scully, Tom’s widow, who is the executive director of the Maine Bar Foundation.

New director of admissions: Caroline Wilshusen

Caroline Wilshusen ’07 joined Maine Law this summer as Director of Admissions. An advocate for equal access to justice and for children in the legal system, Wilshusen had served for several years as Executive Coordinator of the Justice Action Group in Maine.

She has been in private practice since 2008, focusing on the representation of adolescents in juvenile court; the provision of services as a guardian ad litem; and representing parents in parental rights actions where care of a child is in dispute. She is also a rostered mediator for the courts in domestic relations matters.

Wilshusen is a former law clerk for Justices Roland Cole and G. Arthur Brennan of the Maine Superior Court. Prior to practicing law, she was a performing artist in New York City.

Maine Law publishes Asylum: How to Apply for Asylum in the United States

In early 2014, the University of Maine School of Law and the nonprofit Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) published an online guide for immigrants seeking asylum in the U.S. from persecution, torture, rape and other threats in their home countries.

Asylum: How to Apply for Asylum in the United States is the first comprehensive guide of its kind for asylum seekers in Maine who are not represented by lawyers.

“This manual is not a substitute for the help of an experienced immigration lawyer,” said Maine Law Professor Anna Welch, who runs the law school’s Refugee and Human Rights Clinic. “Unfortunately, thousands of refugees cannot afford a lawyer, and there are not nearly enough lawyers accepting these cases for low or no fee. This guide is intended to help bridge the gap. For unrepresented asylum seekers, the guide provides the tools they need to navigate a daunting and complex system.”

Welch said the guide was a response to a sharp uptick in the refugee population in Southern Maine. ILAP has seen more than a 400 percent increase in asylum seekers since 2009. They are from countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and African nations such as Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. ILAP matches asylum seekers with attorneys willing to take their cases, but the organization is forced to turn away about half of the people seeking assistance. Students at Maine Law also represent a limited number of immigrants, free of charge, under Welch’s supervision at the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic.

Contributors from the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic include Dominika Blok, Braden Clement, Jennifer Gillies and Katherine Power; and Bowdoin College student Hannah Wurgaft. Contributors from ILAP include Susan Roche, executive director, and Noel Young, asylum coordinator. Claude Rwaganje, executive director of Community Financial Literacy, also provided invaluable input into the creation of the manual. The manual has been translated into Arabic, French and Spanish.
Emerged from more than three decades of war, oppression and isolation, the women of Afghanistan are speaking up and fighting for their rights and future, Dr. Sima Samar said during her visit to Maine this year.

But they need the support of the international community to prevent them from being forgotten again, said Dr. Samar, a prominent champion of women’s rights in Afghanistan.

“We have achieved a lot in the past 13 years, with a lot of sacrifice by the people of Afghanistan and the international community,” Dr. Samar said, referring to the period since U.S. and allied troops arrived in the country. She said more than 3 million Afghan girls are now in school, and women make up 25 percent of the Afghan Parliament, but the movement “still has a long way to go.”

Dr. Samar visited Maine on March 17-19, 2014, as the lecturer for the Justice for Women Lecture Series, hosted by the University of Maine School of Law. She participated in a number of community events, as well as delivering the lecture on the evening of March 18, to a diverse and enthusiastic crowd of about 500 people at the Abromson Community Education Center in Portland.

Since 2004, Dr. Samar has served as chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. She is also founder of the Shuhada Organization, dedicated to the welfare and progress of Afghan citizens, with a primary focus on the empowerment of women and children. The organization operates 55 schools and 15 clinics and hospitals. Dr. Samar served in the Interim Administration of Afghanistan and established the first-ever Ministry of Women’s Affairs. She is a recipient of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation’s Profile of Courage Award, and is one of the central subjects of the 2004 documentary, Daughters of Afghanistan.

“Dr. Samar spoke about the challenges faced by women in Afghanistan.

“We lost a lot in Afghanistan, in the past 35 years,” said Dr. Samar, whose husband was kidnapped and killed in 1979 because of his resistance against Soviet rule. “We lost our educated people. When I go anywhere, including Bangladesh and the Philippines, I see Afghans.”

The Taliban regime, which rose to power in the 1990s, “closed everything down for women,” Dr. Samar said. Women were routinely beaten in public, and local leaders ordered families to keep their windows covered, so women would not be seen. This past decade has witnessed a gradual restoration of women’s rights, particularly in education. There are shelters in the cities, to safeguard abused women and children. A new law passed in 2009 criminalized acts of violence against women, yet it is rarely implemented.

That momentum remains fragile, however. As the United States continues to draw down its military presence, Dr. Samar has urged American and international leaders to remain invested in Afghanistan, while the nascent government, army and police forces earn the trust of the public. People in her country do not want to be ruled by outsiders, she said, but they also do not want to be isolated, opening the door to another civil war, or the resurgence of the Taliban.

During her visit to Maine, Dr. Samar spoke at Deering High School to an assembly of students from all three of the city’s high schools. Portland Mayor Michael Brennan presented her with a key to the city. She spoke to other local high school students, college students and community members at CIEE in Portland. At the Law School, Dr. Samar was the featured speaker at a lunchtime panel titled “Afghanistan Futures: Local and Global.”

The University of Maine School of Law is committed to promoting social justice in Maine and around the world. The Law School established the Justice for Women Lecture series in 2010 with leadership and support from attorney and civic leader Catherine Lee. The Lecture Series is supported in part by the generosity of community partners, including CIEE, and other donors.

Previous lecturers were the Hon. Unity Dow (2012), the first woman to serve as a judge on Botswana’s High Court; and Leymah Gbowee (2013), an activist and women’s rights advocate who won a Nobel Peace Prize for helping to end civil war in Liberia.

The Justice for Women Lecturer in 2015 will be Ruchira Gupta, founder and president of Apne Aap Women Worldwide. Based in India, Gupta’s organization works to end sex trafficking by increasing choices for at-risk girls and women. The Lecture will be held on March 19, 2015, at the Abromson Community Education Center.

For information about supporting the series, please email the Law School at mainelaw@maine.edu.
Maine Law thanks everyone who participated in the following 2013-14 events:

Selected Speakers


Prof. Anna Akbar, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law. *National Security’s Broken Windows.* September 13, 2013.


Prof. John Nagle, University of Notre Dame School of Law. *America the Beautiful: The Role of Law in Protecting Scenic Landscapes.*


Prof. Mel Zarr, University of Maine School of Law. *Reflections on My Role as Legal Advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* April 23, 2014.

Who’s Governing Privacy? – Maine Law Review Symposium. February 21, 2014. Dennis Hirsch, Capital University Law School; Christopher Wolf, Hogan Lovell; Adam Thierer, George Mason University; J. Trevor Hughes, International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP); Omer Tene, IAPP and College of Management School of Law, Rishon Le Zion, Israel; Ira Rubenstein, New York University School of Law; Joris van Hoboken, New York University School of Law; Bryce Clayton Newell, University of Washington.

Afghanistan Futures: Local and Global. March 19, 2014. Dr. Sima Samar, 3rd Annual Justice for Women Lecturer and Chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission; Thomas Barfield, Boston University; Bill Nemitz, Portland Press Herald; Charles Norchi, University of Maine School of Law.


Selected Conferences & Panels

Maine Trial Lawyers Association Panels: *Criminal Law* (October 29, 2013) and *Civil Law* (November 5, 2013).

Clinical practice: One student’s story

Helping a young immigrant was a life-changing event

By Michael O’Brien ’14

Before graduating from the University of Maine School of Law in May 2014, I spent a full year working as a student attorney at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. Initially, I served as the Cushman D. Anthony Summer Fellow and engaged primarily in juvenile policy work.

After completing the summer fellowship, I enrolled for two semesters in the Juvenile Justice Clinic, under the supervision of Professor Chris Northrop. Throughout this experience, I learned valuable skills that I will carry with me throughout my career, as well as the importance of serving individuals within our community who lack access to affordable representation.

One of the most rewarding experiences during my tenure at the Clinic involved a juvenile who had recently arrived unaccompanied in America.

Every Tuesday at lunchtime, the Clinic sends a student and a professor to the Preble Street Teen Center for a program called “Preble Street Law.” This program provides an opportunity for the children at the Teen Center to seek free advice related to legal troubles they may be having. On one Tuesday last summer, a young man from southeast Africa appeared at our table and told his story to a classmate of mine.

Arriving in the United States only a few weeks earlier, he spoke of the tragic circumstances that led to his arrival in America – without any family, resources, or shelter. Now homeless and fending for himself, this young man reached out to us for help.

After the lunch hour ended, my classmate relayed the story from the young man she had just met. Moved by his positive attitude during such tumultuous times, Professor Northrop agreed to let me meet with the teenager in order to see what I could do to help him obtain a steady bed to sleep in at night.

After meeting with the young man at the Preble Street Teen Center, I wanted to do everything that I could to help him get settled permanently in Maine. Professor Northrop connected me with attorney Elizabeth Stout ’90 (who also taught family law as an adjunct professor at the Law School during Spring 2014), to see if she knew any individuals in the Portland area who would potentially be interested in serving as the teenager’s legal guardian. Stout provided me with a list of people who had, in the past, expressed interest in opening up their home to children in need. Needless to say, these weren’t easy phone calls to make. The individuals on the list did not know me or the child I was calling on behalf of. Despite this, one family agreed to think it over and get back to me.

After a few days passed, I received a phone call at the Clinic from the family that had agreed to think it over, expressing a willingness to meet with me to learn more about the process and the Clinic’s expectations. After meeting with the family in the Clinic’s conference room, they agreed to meet the young man. I facilitated the first meeting between the Portland family and the boy. They hit it off immediately.

Eventually, I accompanied the young man to the family’s home for a Sunday dinner in the fall. Before dinner, we met at the Teen Center and stopped for flowers at the market on our walk to their home. Dinner was a success, and after a few more meetings the family eventually expressed willingness to petition for legal guardianship.

Inspired by their generosity and willingness to help a child in need, the Clinic began formally representing the family in their Petition for Guardianship of a Minor. Our goals were twofold – to help connect this young man with a family who could
provide him with a loving home and to give him the opportunity to remain long-term in the United States (and obtain his green card).

The best path to accomplishing both of these goals was to ultimately petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (known as SIJS), which is a special pathway to citizenship for unmarried children under the age of 18 who are present in the United States, who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents, and for whom it is determined that it is not in the child's best interest to be returned to his or her home country. These factual findings must be made by a state court judge who possesses valid jurisdiction over juveniles. Therefore, the guardianship hearing in state Probate Court would be an appropriate forum to establish the requisite factual findings needed to accomplish our future immigration objectives.

To add an extra level of excitement to this incredible process, the federal immigration petition needed to be filed before the young man's 18th birthday or else he would age-out of eligibility. We needed to act fast, as only a few short months remained before the deadline.

After drafting and filing the Petition for Guardianship, we eventually received a hearing date in Probate Court. I served as counsel at this proceeding – and although I had appeared before various judges in Maine District Court dozens of times, this was my first appearance in state Probate Court. The probate judge brought us back into his chambers and reviewed the Petition, asking questions of the young man and the family petitioning for guardianship. At the end of our discussion, the judge agreed to grant legal guardianship to the family. Additionally, he signed the factual findings that we had drafted for use in our future immigration petition.

After the hearing, the homeless young man who we met at the Teen Center now had a warm bed to sleep in and a loving, supportive family. But our mission was far from complete.

With very little time until the young man's 18th birthday, we had only one shot to successfully complete his petition for SIJS. Although I was enrolled in the Juvenile Justice Clinic, Professor Northrop allowed me to collaborate with Professor Anna Welch at the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic to complete the immigration portion of the process.

Professor Welch and I worked diligently to complete the various forms and obtain the documentation necessary to petition for SIJS. The young man was not in possession of his birth certificate, which was required to apply for a green card, so we communicated with friends and extended family from his home country to obtain the proper documentation. This was no easy task – and threatened to sabotage our entire effort, because our client had a fast-approaching birthday. Fortunately, we received the document in time to file. Meanwhile, another Student Attorney volunteered to complete our client's Fee Waiver, to help speed the process along.

On the morning of his big interview, I took time to reflect upon how far we had come together. En route to the office of the Department of Homeland Security, I realized that this young man had given me as much as I had given him. Together, we had persevered and grown.

As I sat alongside the young man during his interview, it became clear to me that he was being approved. The young man has become a long-term permanent resident of the United States, with a loving and supportive family. In addition, he has established a new program at the Teen Center called New Mainers, with the mission of helping other young new arrivals get settled in Portland. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to help him along the way.

When I enrolled as a first-year student at Maine Law, I never dreamed that I would engage in such meaningful work before graduation. Professors Northrop and Welch provided me with the practical skills, legal knowledge, and encouragement that I needed to be successful, and I am forever grateful for all that they have taught me inside the classroom and the courtroom.

I encourage everyone who attends Maine Law to participate in the clinical experiences, and those in the community to support the Clinic’s incredible mission.

Michael O’Brien graduated from Maine Law in May 2014. He began work this fall as a Legislative Analyst in the Maine State Legislature’s Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.
Taking Aim at Debt

Professor Lois R. Lupica is leading a ground-breaking study designed to find the best ways to help people mired in crippling debt

Maine Law Magazine

The recent recession has taken a toll on low-income Americans. Low, stagnant and declining wages, coupled with a lack of savings has meant that many consumers have used credit cards to bridge the gap between income and expenses. Credit card issuers know this, and, not surprisingly, target the customers they feel will be the most profitable – those that are unable to pay their balance in full every month. This means that hundreds of thousands of Americans are one life-interrupting event (e.g., job loss, divorce, health crisis) away from default. Currently, over 30 million consumers have at least one delinquent item on their credit reports listed as “in collection.”

Such widespread financial distress has had “a profound affect upon the low-income population in Maine” says Maine Law Foundation Professor Lois R. Lupica. “And where there are financial problems, other legal problems follow, such as divorce, evictions, and an increased need for government benefits.”

But what is the best way to assist the millions of people with legal issues stemming from serious credit and financial-related problems? Legal Services Organizations such as Pine Tree Legal Services are under-funded, and thus do not have the resources to provide help to all who need it. Typically, lawyers who provide pro bono representation are “putting out fires” – seeking protection from abuse orders, or arguing criminal appeals. Few pro bono lawyers have devoted much attention to helping clients sort out their financial obligations, and it is clear that there will “never be enough lawyers to assist everyone who needs help repairing their credit, negotiating with debtors, litigating debt collection, and, when necessary, filing for bankruptcy,” Lupica notes.

How best to assist people in financial trouble is the focus of a groundbreaking new study, the Consumer Financial Distress Project, designed and led by a team of three academics who include Professor Lupica, Professor Jim Greiner at the Harvard Law School and Professor Dalié Jiménez at the University of Connecticut School of Law. The Study is a unique partnership with the three law schools, the Maine Judiciary, Pine Tree Legal Services, the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office, a major financial counseling company, and a national credit-reporting agency.

The Study, designed to find out how and when legal aid is most effective, is a kind of triage framework to determine how to best deploy limited legal services.

Funded, in part, by the National Science Foundation, the Study, designed to find out how and when legal aid is most effective, is a kind of triage framework to determine how to best deploy limited legal services.

Professor Lois R. Lupica in the classroom.
our finite legal services dollars?” We currently do not know what type of assistance is most effective, and when it should be provided. For example, do you most need a lawyer at the stage where you are forced to negotiate with creditors? Or when it’s time to speak in open court? Or is professional help most needed at the credit report repair stage? We want to know the pressure points when people are most likely to fail – so we know exactly where and when to deploy scarce resources.”

Since the Study’s inception two and a half years ago, about 50 Maine Law, Harvard Law and UConn Law students have been involved as research assistants. In 2012-2013, Maine Law students enrolled in the Consumer Credit Seminar worked with Harvard Law and UConn Law students to research the civil law in Maine on debt collection, the small claims process, evidentiary requirements and inter-disciplinary learning on how best to present complex instructions in a way that is accessible and comprehensible. The students were assigned to one of four teams: Civil Procedure, Debt Collection Law, Evidence, and Access to Justice. Sarah Hodges ’14 enrolled in the Consumer Credit Seminar for two semesters, was a member of the “Access to Justice” team charged with transforming legal research memorandum into self-help materials.

“Being involved in Professor Lupica’s Consumer Credit Seminar … allowed me to work with the group that created innovative pro se materials that unrepresented defendants can use to defend themselves against creditors’ claims,” Hodges says. During the academic year, the students met weekly with their teams, either in-person or telephonically, learning as much from each other, as they did from their three Professors.

Laura Shortill ’13 notes, “it was a pleasure to be a part of a talented group of sophisticated legal minds working together to develop the research bank.”

Katie Foster ’16 was the Study’s research assistant this past summer. Joining the team two years into the project, Foster was quickly oriented, and tasked with the job of developing and testing, through cognitive interviews of potential Study subjects, self-help materials for people burdened by medical-related debt. As Foster notes, “It is exciting to see the project progress and to have the opportunity to work through a concept to the testing stage. It is especially rewarding to watch as an unrepresented defendant at small claims court is shown the materials for the first time and is able to understand the concept and feel empowered after reading the draft. It further proves the validity and usefulness of the materials and the need for a project like this in order to better educate consumers.” Since 2012, dozens of Maine Law students have worked on the Study, logging with their Harvard and UConn cohorts, over 2500 hours.

The self-help materials the Study researchers are developing and testing are innovative and surprisingly simple. They feature a genderless, raceless and relatable cartoon figure, designated “Blob,” who is shown being empowered with information as he/she navigates the small claims court debt collection process. One set of cartoons shows the meaning of the statute of limitations (by using an egg timer running out of sand). Another explains the evidence needed to sue on a credit card debt, and how a consumer can assert their rights with debt collectors and their attorneys, as well as before a judge. “Research on conceptual and procedural knowledge has taught us that a pro se defendant does not have to understand the business records exception, for example,” observes Lupica. “They just have to say the right words at the right time. If we can direct pro se litigants to ask, ‘has the case been proved?’, the judge can then assess the evidence before him or her, and determine whether or not to dismiss the creditor/plaintiff’s claim.”

The study will also examine allegations of widespread abuse in the debt-collection industry. Many owners of the original debt, such as credit card companies, sell the debt; the new debt collectors, however, often have no supporting data to show how much is owed, the interest rate, and who owes the debt. Debtors often are afraid to go to court, and so the debt buyer may receive default judgments—perhaps for inaccurate amounts—and so on to garnish the debtor’s wages or seize their assets. Lupica’s study wants to examine whether these abuses are happening, and on what scale. Rachel Deschuytner ’14, a student volunteer research assistant noted the importance of committing “time and legal expertise in this area of the law, because credit is such an important part of everyday life.”

The Harvard Center for the Legal Profession (CLP), where Lupica, Greiner and Jiménez are affiliated faculty members, supports this research project. CLP’s central mission is to conduct groundbreaking, empirical research on the rapidly changing structures, norms and dynamics of the global legal profession, of which questions of access to justice and the availability of legal counsel are central. The Study is also supported by grants from the American Bankruptcy Institute Anthony H.N. Schnellmend Endowment, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Endowment for Education and the National Science Foundation. ML
Coming out of one of the nation’s smallest law schools, Tim McCormack ’01 didn’t expect to run across too many of his fellow Maine Law alums when he went to work in Washington, D.C. in the early 2000s, first as a policy advisor to Sen. Susan Collins, and then as a lawyer in private practice.

Yet there they were. John Bean ’03, Amanda Wood ’01, Matt Walker ’01 and, later, Justin Weiss ’06, were just some of McCormack’s contemporaries whose careers had also led them to Washington, D.C. Once there, they became part of a larger network of Maine Law alumni from earlier years, a group that includes Martha Casey ’82, David Evans ’78, Frank O’Toole ’70, Charlie Cragin ’70, Mary Bell ’74 and Ron Battocchi ’74.

McCormack recalls his wife coming home one day from her job at the U.S. Department of Labor, and asking whether he knew a guy named Richard Ewell, who happened to work in the same office.

“I know Richard,” McCormack said. “He was in my class at Maine Law.”

For a small school, Maine Law packs quite a punch in the nation’s capital. Alumni are thriving in a wide variety of fields in Washington, including private practice, politics, government agencies, public policy, and business. More than 150 alums live, work, or are retired in the Washington metropolitan area. Only Massachusetts and, of course, Maine itself boast a higher concentration of Maine Law graduates.
The Law School has hosted an annual alumni reception in Washington for many years, and the administration is taking full advantage of the connections and job opportunities in the city. Beginning in the spring of 2015, Maine Law will launch its Semester in D.C. Externship Program, matching students with positions in federal agencies of their choice. Externs earn academic credit while working alongside seasoned attorneys.

As more Maine Law graduates make their way to Washington, there are more connections to leverage in networking, which can be critical for interview opportunities and long-term success.

“I really encourage people to look at D.C. There is good work down here, and a great alumni network of Maine Law folks,” said McCormack, 45, who recently joined the Board of Directors for the Maine Law Alumni Association.

At the Phillips and Cohen law firm, McCormack specializes in the representation of whistleblowers who work to recover money from companies that have defrauded the government.

“Maine is a small place, and a lot of people want to live in the Portland area. For that reason alone, the competition is less intense in Washington. There is also a lot of appreciation for people who have the kind of solid, nuts and bolts education you get at Maine Law.”

The lure of the Hill

In the early 1980s, the Maine Law alumni network in Washington, D.C. was small but lively when Martha Casey took a job on Capitol Hill.

A Massachusetts native and Democrat, Casey had always been interested in politics and public policy. She worked as a Congressional aide before coming to Maine Law, and she imagined returning to the city after graduation, possibly to work in the Justice Department.

“I remember sitting in the law library the night that Ronald Reagan became president,” Casey said. “I thought to myself, I guess I won’t be working in that department.”

Her boyfriend at the time took a clerkship in Washington, and after many phone calls in the spring of 1982, Casey landed a job in the office of Massachusetts Congressman Brian Donnelly, who soon earned a spot on the House Ways and Means Committee. Casey worked as legislative counsel to Donnelly until 1987.

“I was there for tax reform, Medicare and Medicaid. I became a healthcare expert without really intending to,” Casey recalled.

That expertise propelled Casey into her next career move as a prominent lobbyist for hospitals and other clients in the healthcare industry. As a consultant with O’Neill, Athy & Casey, she represents Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston Medical Center, and Massachusetts General Hospital, among others. From her firm’s headquarters on the historic Dupont Circle, Casey has been a leading advocate for hospitals in every budget battle.
since the Reagan era. Casey has also expanded into education, with clients including Harvard College and Northeastern University. She volunteers her time on the board of directors of the University of Maine School of Law Foundation.

While the Maine Law contingent in Washington was not as large in the 1980s as it is today, Casey made time to get together with fellow alumni in the city, including David Evans, John Veroneau ’89, and Jane Earley ’74.

Evans, a member of the Maine Law class of 1978, also fondly recalls those gatherings. They met once at a Chinese restaurant, and other times at apartments or townhomes.

“It was a lot of fun. We’d share stories about Maine, talk about family and jobs,” Evans said. “This was long before it became more organized, with Maine Law receptions and the Dean coming to town, bringing people and updates from the school. Those events are huge now.”

The steady growth of a lawyers’ town

Evans is a partner at Clifford Chance US LLP, the American headquarters of the multinational law firm based in London. He specializes in project finance, utility regulation, and commercial contracts.

Evans has been involved in energy and finance matters his entire career, including positions as Staff Counsel to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigating the accident at Three Mile Island, as Chevron’s chief natural gas lawyer, as Vice President and General Counsel of an independent power developer, and as a partner in two major law firms. He has also remained deeply engaged with Maine Law. Evans was president of the University of Maine School of Law Foundation for a number of years, taking a leadership role in fundraising and advocacy from 2007 to 2013.

His first opportunity in Washington was as a participant in an honors law graduate program run by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Evans describes it as a classic path for an aspiring lawyer. Work for a federal agency. Get experience. Earn a reputation for high quality work. Move on to the next step in your career.

“That is one thing that always struck me about government agencies. There is a lot less bias than people face at big East Coast firms,” Evans said. “To the people making hiring decisions in the government, the only question that matters is—Can you do the job? It doesn’t matter if you went to Maine Law or Harvard or Yale.”

Both Casey and Evans have encouraged Maine Law graduates to seek employment in Washington, and they have been delighted as the numbers of alumni in the metropolitan area have gone up.

“For years we always asked each other: Why can’t we get more Maine Law graduates to Washington?” Casey said. “Then, gradually, more people started coming down. We started getting more calls from people looking to make connections, which was great.”

“It has really taken off in the last 15 years. The government response after 9/11 created whole new swaths of the D.C. economy, and those jobs are going to young professionals. My neighborhood in Arlington has developed entirely in the last 15 years, and almost all new residents are under 35.”

The statistics support Casey’s perspective. Washington’s economy, driven largely by growth in government agencies and contractors, has flourished over the past decade and a half, while other cities were stagnant. Since 2001, Washington has enjoyed the lowest unemployment rate among the largest 10 metropolitan areas in the nation. For overall job growth between 2001 and 2012, Washington ranked second, adding more than 150,000 jobs. Only Houston fared better.

The terrorist attacks of 2001 motivated Brian Tomney, class of 2006, toward a career change and a move to Washington. A 13-year veteran paramedic for the City of Portland, Tomney was at work on 9/11 when the FBI located the car of Mohammed Atta at the Portland Jetport shortly after the attacks. He traveled with other paramedics and firefighters to two FDNY funerals in New York City, and visited Ground Zero about a month after the attacks, when the wreckage was still burning.

“I woke up on New Year’s Day 2002 and said, I’m going to law school and then I’m going to work for the Justice Department,” Tomney recalled.

It was an ambitious path from which Tomney never wavered. He enrolled at Maine Law in 2003, interned at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Portland as a rising 2L, and then in the U.S. DOJ’s Counterterrorism Section as a rising 3L. Tomney was selected for the DOJ Honors Program
Staying connected: Outreach builds Washington relationships


“Our talented and generous network of D.C. alumni, in both the private and public sectors, provides advice, encouragement, and jobs to our students and recent graduates,” said Peter Pitegoff, Dean at Maine Law. “Additionally, many opportunities in D.C. involve public service, which is a signature attribute of Maine Law and a powerful draw for our graduates.”

For many years, leaders at Maine Law have paid close attention to D.C. and have nurtured those important connections to the city.

Maine Law’s annual alumni reception in Washington brings together a large and enthusiastic crowd of alumni and friends. It is one of the most anticipated events of the year for friends who often don’t have extra time throughout the year to catch up with their former classmates. The 2014 reception was held on April 30 at the AGC Townhouse on Capitol Hill.

The Law School has a faculty and student exchange agreement with Howard University Law School, and faculty members maintain active relationships with the other law schools in Washington.

Faculty also engage with the federal government with respect to policy development and funding opportunities, including support for domestic violence prevention work done by our Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, and for Professor Lois R. Lupica’s wide-ranging Consumer Financial Distress Project.

Maine Law’s Semester in D.C. Externship Program launches in the spring semester of 2015. The program is designed to assist law students in identifying and securing full-time, semester long externships with a federal agency of their choice. To complement their field placement experience, students will enroll in a seminar on government practice taught by Washington lawyer Jane Earley ’74, who is working with Maine Law to launch this pilot program.

Following his graduation. He was among five individuals picked to work in the Criminal Division, out of several hundred applicants.

After three years as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division’s Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, in 2009 Tomney was promoted to a job involving the highest levels of national security. As Counsel for Rule of Law to the Deputy Attorney General, Tomney oversees U.S. prosecutors who work hand in hand with prosecutors in Afghanistan and Iraq. The mission is to build the capacity of those countries to successfully prosecute drug trafficking, terrorism, and other crimes.

“I’ve enjoyed living and working in D.C. My experience is that people either really love it here and thrive in this environment, or they get chewed up,” he said. “Compared to Maine, the biggest drawback for me is that the beach is at least three hours away, and it can be five hours away, depending on traffic.”

“What has helped me most is that I knew exactly what I wanted to do,” Tomney said. “When I cross Pennsylvania Avenue to work every day, I look around, I look at the Capitol, and I think about how fortunate I am, and why I came here.”

‘The Maine connections are real’

McCormack, the qui tam lawyer with Phillips and Cohen, took his own unique path to D.C., as part of the youth movement to the city in the early 2000s. He arrived in Washington in 2003 after clerking for federal judges in Maine and Vermont.

Like many Maine Law alumni who now call D.C. home, McCormack thought he would work in the city for a few years and then look for a job back in Maine.

“I was actually planning to go to work for a firm in Portland, but one of my co-clerks convinced me to think about Washington. She had worked on the Hill for many years, and said, ‘Go down to D.C. Maine will always be there,’ ” McCormack said.

With help from Maine Law alumni working in the office of Sen. Susan Collins, McCormack interviewed for a job, and the timing could not have been better. McCormack had studied forestry at the University of Maine, and Collins needed an advisor on forestry and agriculture.

After his year as an advisor to Collins, McCormack decided he wanted to be more of a “nuts and bolts” lawyer. His next career step was away from Capitol Hill and into private practice. He joined Goodwin Procter LLP, specializing in complex commercial litigation. While there, he met his wife, Lisa Wilson. McCormack then moved on to Phillips and Cohen, where he has played key roles in successful whistleblower cases involving hospitals, a medical device company, government contractors and pharmaceutical companies.

“I’ve been very fortunate. I met my wife and started a family here, and I have a job that is challenging and tremendously rewarding,” said McCormack, father to youngsters Natalie and Ben. “It is a really cool combination of working with clients who are at a place in life where they need help, and at the same time they are trying to do the right thing.”

McCormack, Casey, and Evans all agreed that the Maine Law alumni network is an expanding and effective tool for job-hunting, and for those simply testing the waters in Washington.

“The Maine connections are real,” Casey said. “We love it when we can show a job seeker around or answer questions. We are going to go out of our way to help those people.”
Kate Shorr ‘10, who grew up in Portland, has seen the results of the Maine Law alumni network first-hand. Shorr was selected as a Congressional intern in Senator Susan Collins’ office during her last semester as an undergrad at the University of Maine in Orono, where she majored in Political Science. The internship sent her to Washington in the spring of 2004, and she immediately fell in love with the city.

During her internship, Shorr worked closely with Maine Law alumnus Steve Abbott ‘91, the Senator’s Chief of Staff. Following the internship, Abbott offered Shorr a permanent position in the office, first as a staff assistant and then as the Senator’s State Scheduler and Executive Assistant. Shorr says that Abbott and other lawyers she worked with urged her to pursue her law degree, and in 2007 she decided to return to her native city of Portland for law school.

“The Hill, you are just surrounded by lawyers. Everywhere you turn there are lawyers doing really cool things with their degrees,” said Shorr, who was part of the pre-law program at the University of Maine.

“Steve Abbott and the other lawyers in Sen. Collins’ office were great mentors. Tim McCormack was there at the time, and he sort of took me under his wing when I was an intern. Being surrounded by so many lawyers, the idea of law school never left my thought process.”

After graduating from Maine Law in 2010 – with the nation mired in a historic recession following the financial crisis of 2008 – Shorr was anxious to move back to Washington, despite not having a job lined up. She moved to D.C. and slept on a friend’s couch, waited tables and joined a temp agency. All the while, she worked the phones and email, reaching out to Maine Law alumni in the area to seek advice, grab a cup of coffee, or ask to help make a connection for a potential job. That is how she met Amanda Wood, a 2001 Maine Law grad. At the time, Wood was working for the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and offered Kate advice on networking and gave her names of other alumni in the area to contact.

Ultimately, Shorr joined powerhouse law firm Foley & Lardner’s government affairs practice group in its Washington office. She worked at the firm for two years before making her next Maine connection in the summer of 2012 when she attended a Washington reception for Angus King, who was running as an independent to replace retiring Senator Olympia Snowe.

Shorr kept in touch with the King campaign that fall and after King was elected, he hired her to join his new office as a member of his senior staff. Shorr currently serves as Senator King’s Director of Scheduling, and also assumes the title of Legislative Counsel when necessary to handle various legal issues and analysis as they arise.

“It has been quite a ride, and I’ve enjoyed all of it. I see myself staying in Washington for a very long time,” Shorr said. “I do love it here. There is so much going on, but it’s not overwhelming. I go up to New York and I get overwhelmed. Washington is a very livable city with a ton to do.”

Evans agreed. He especially likes the variety of opportunities, such as the chance to mingle with and learn from people who come from around the world.

“You can have a virtual U.N. sitting together for dinner. It is truly an international city,” Evans said. He loves to run and bike along the Canal. Evans also enjoys the weather in Washington, although he loves returning to Maine, where he now spends much of his summer. His mother lives in Maine, and he has a sister nearby in Massachusetts.

McCormack lives in D.C. proper. The neighborhood has a cohesive and friendly vibe, with the Metro only three blocks away, he said.

“I definitely miss Maine, the size, the collegiality. But D.C. has so many opportunities. My wife and I both have jobs that are not available in other places. If you are going to live in the city, this is a pretty good one,” he said.

Attending Washington National baseball games at Nationals Park is a favorite activity for Shorr, her boyfriend, who also works on Capitol Hill, and their friends, including Wood, who now works as the Director of Employment Policy at the National Association of Manufacturers. Shorr has also stayed close friends with fellow 2010 Maine Law graduates, Mike Anderson and Nick Lund, who also both live in Washington. Anderson most recently worked for BAE Systems, and is now pursuing his LL.M. this year at George Washington University. Lund is a nature writer and lawyer with the National Parks Conservation Association.

“It’s pretty amazing to have so many Maine friends in D.C. Nick was the first classmate that I met at Maine Law. Mike was the Vice President of the Student Bar Association, and I was President. Amanda has become one of my really good friends here. It is fun to live in a city like Washington but have friends here that you have that history with, you know?” Shorr said.

“There are so many Mainers here that it gets to the point where my D.C. friends joke about it. They’ll say, ‘jeez, Kate, you Mainers are everywhere.’ It’s true, we are.” ML
Law school is rigorous. The demands are mentally and physically draining, and you must be able to think on your feet at all times. Some Maine Law students share a background that makes them uniquely suited for the challenge: They’re parents.

They have to find the balance between legal research and lunch packing, oral arguments and doctor’s appointments, networking events and Little League games.

They could all use extra support. That was the idea behind Parents in Law. Created in 2013 by Betsy Wakefield ’16 and other members of her first-year class, the organization connects students who also happen to be parents. Participants lean on each other for social and academic support, and they also sponsor events for the entire Maine Law community, including a toy drive, a spring scavenger hunt, a regular coffee series, and a cookout this September at Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth. The group has been an instant success at Maine Law, which has a national reputation for being welcoming to older students and students from diverse backgrounds.

We asked Parents in Law members to share some of the joys and challenges of their dual roles.

**Jamie Bryant**

“Balancing parenting and law school has been an interesting challenge, but my kids are learning the value of hard work and the possibility of dream fulfillment at any age. The biggest challenge, by far, is spending so much time away from them while working to ensure they don’t resent my choice to seek a new career. The Parents in Law group put on a scavenger hunt last spring that provided my kids the opportunity to explore the law school where I was spending all of my free time, while meeting other kids whose parents were doing the same thing. It was a fantastic opportunity that really put the school in a positive light for them.”

Jamie Bryant is a second year law student who moved to Maine with her family in 2008. She is married with a son, 10, and a daughter, 6. Before enrolling at Maine Law in 2013, Jamie had been an Arabic Linguist in the Army and then a stay-at-home mom.
Ryan Woodward

“I was prepared to begin Law School with two children as much as I could be. I was not expecting to have my third child born in the middle of my 1L year. After my child was born, I was grateful to receive food, clothing and support from people I met thanks to Parents in Law. This is what makes Parents in Law great. Being a parent and student can be stressful, but it’s a testament of good time management and a great support team, if you don’t want to feel overwhelmed. I’m blessed to have a great wife and kids to support me at home. I’m also very thankful to know that I’m not alone at the Law School. In a very competitive environment, there is a group of people who understand when a child is sick, and I have to go to the doctor, or when my wife is working and I have to watch the children. They don’t judge me or question me. They understand and are there to help, because tomorrow it may be one of them with the sick kid and Parents in Law will be there.”

Ryan Woodward is a 2L student at the University of Maine School of Law. He is married with three children, ages 4, 2, and 8 months. He is a graduate of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. Before moving his family to Maine to attend school in 2013, Ryan was a police detective in Georgia.

Betsy Wakefield

“Once I decided that I was going to be heading to law school with a toddler, I began shoring up as much support as I could. I started Parents in Law with the idea of creating a group that would, at the very least, let students with children know they are not alone. Having to study at home has been challenging and I’ve worked hard to try to include my daughter with whatever I’m learning. My Property book became her companion for stroller rides around the neighborhood. Negotiations in my household have also taken on an entirely new tone. But the balance is never perfect. The most challenging times have been when my daughter clings to me, saying she doesn’t want me to go to school or the library. It has also been difficult watching classmates attend social and alumni gatherings where they are building their networks. But it just makes me work harder to network when I get the chance. When I am exhausted to my core, I think about the example I’m setting for my daughter – that at any age you can pursue your dream. When she looks back at this time in her life, I hope it is with pride and understanding.”

Born and raised in Maine, Betsy Wakefield graduated from Brandeis University and spent over 10 years in the insurance industry as an underwriter. She is married with a vivacious 3-year-old daughter. Betsy enjoys poker, plays a weak game of golf, and in the summer she prefers to sleep in a tent and hike.
Maine Law students balance studies with children

**Star Bergh**

“*My experience as a parent in Law School has been multi-faceted. I’m a single mother who is constantly juggling two lives: mine and my 8-year-old daughter’s. She has school, dance, gymnastics, homework, playdates and doctor’s appointments that must be fit in with my classes, work, homework and housework. The stress and exhaustion has had me placing the milk in the cupboard and the cereal in the fridge, sending my daughter to school with my laptop cord in her lunchbox and looking for my phone all over the house while talking on it. There is no doubt the law school journey is made crazier because I am a single mother, but I couldn’t imagine going through it without my kiddo. Her presence is a daily reminder of the big picture, and she is the first one to make fun of me when I put the ice cube tray in the microwave instead of the freezer. The creation of Parents in Law has brought a sense of solidarity to my experience. The group is a source of academic and emotional support that I have come to rely on. How do I approach the precarious balance between parenting and law school? One day at a time.”*

*Star M. Bergh is a second year law student with a focus on Criminal Law. Star and her 8-year-old daughter have fallen in love with Portland and intend on staying after graduation. She is a graduate of Husson University where she majored in Criminal Justice.*

**Bill Adams**

“*I have gone from the grueling shift work of an industrial setting to taking on the tough work of learning the law, most of the time from behind a desk. I have learned a new kind of tired, and I find myself mentally exhausted at times. But this is the biggest joy, as well as the biggest challenge of this adventure. Other noteworthy joys are building a foundation of knowledge that I will use for the rest of my life and watching my 10-year old son learn and practice the law (of our house) alongside me. His reasoning and arguing skills have improved dramatically in the last year. Balancing everything is a challenge, but my wife, a third-year medical student, keeps us incredibly organized with calendars and charts. We are not missing a beat. Quality time is the key; we have to schedule it in, and we make sure to do it. Whether it is coaching my son’s soccer team, a trip to the beach, or a family game.”*

*Bill Adams, a 2L at Maine Law, describes himself as an old and graying father in a blended family made up of his lovely wife, seven-month-old son, 10-year-old son, and 17-year-old daughter. After graduating from Maine Maritime Academy, Bill spent five years sailing as an engineer before taking a shore-side position. Eight years later he decided, with the support and encouragement of his wife, to change careers.*
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kasey Boucher:

“I really liked the idea of having a small school where I could form personal relationships with the professors and a large percentage of the student body, rather than just being another number in a larger school.”

2L (Class of 2016)
Hometown: Lewiston, Maine
Undergrad: Boston University
Major: B.S. in Business Administration; dual concentration in finance and law

What did you do prior to coming to the University of Maine School of Law?
I worked for State Street as a portfolio accountant and played women’s professional hockey for the Boston Blades.

You have been a standout ice hockey player. Can you tell us a little bit about your journey as an athlete, beginning with high school? Do you still play?
I certainly had a different high school experience than most people. I went to North American Hockey Academy (NAHA) in Stowe, Vermont, which was only during the hockey season. The classes consisted of one-on-one tutoring and were based on the classes that I was enrolled in back at Lewiston High School. Going to NAHA opened up the opportunity for me to reach personal dreams, including playing hockey in college for Boston University.

I also received the opportunity to play for the U-18 Team USA national team in 2008, with whom I won a gold medal at the IIHF world championships. I also was fortunate enough to represent the country at both the U-22 and senior team levels for various international tournaments. I played for the Boston Blades, which is the only American team in the Canadian women’s hockey league. I am extremely grateful for the experience I had with hockey, and it has had a huge impact on the person I am today. Unfortunately, I have not been playing recently, but I would like to start again soon at a much less competitive level and play just for fun.

Why did you choose to attend Maine Law?
It definitely helped that Maine Law was close to home, but that was not the only factor in my decision. All the feedback I received about the school was great. The small size also definitely helped. Although I loved how big Boston University is, law school is a greater step toward my career. I really liked the idea of having a small school where I could form personal relationships with the professors and a large percentage of the student body, rather than just being another number in a larger school.

What has been most helpful to you in making the adjustment to the life of a Maine Law Student?
It was actually a lot easier of an adjustment than I was expecting. I knew it was going to be a lot of work, but it is certainly manageable. I think the availability and approachability of staff and other students has been an enormous help for me.

When you are not at school, how do you like to spend your time?
I am certainly a coffee addict, so I often do my school work either at a coffee shop or next to my coffee pot at home. When I’m not doing work, even though Portland is not huge in size, there are so many options for anyone. The entire city has a warm and friendly vibe. I also have started to enjoy running now that I am done playing hockey competitively. The drive from my hometown is less than an hour, and I still am constantly learning about new restaurants or places to go.

If you could tell a prospective student one thing about Maine Law, what would it be?
When I was a prospective student, I knew Maine Law had a reputation of being a great school, but I didn’t realize how great it was until classes began. The faculty and students are always willing to help one another. All of my professors are approachable and truly want their students to succeed. Lastly, the camaraderie among the small group of students really makes a great learning environment for everyone.
Chris Monroe:

“I chose Maine Law based upon the caliber of the faculty, the collegiality of the student population, and the school’s emphasis on clinical exposure and the practical application of the law.”

2L (Class of 2016)
Hometown: Whitefield, Maine
Undergrad: Illinois Institute of Technology
Major: Political Science
Grad School: MBA, Kellogg Graduate School of Management
Grad School: MA, United States Naval War College

What did you do prior to coming to Maine Law?
I served as a senior officer in the United States Navy.

What were some of your assignments during your 20 years of service for the Navy? How many countries and continents did you visit?
I was the Commanding Officer of a guided missile destroyer based in Japan. With a crew of nearly 300, the ship conducted operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Ashore, I served as a Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations in the Pentagon and as the Maritime Branch Chief in the current operations directorate of United States Central Command in Tampa, Fla. In this capacity, I planned and monitored maritime operations throughout the Middle East. During my 20+ years on active duty, I visited 37 countries on five continents.

What are some of your best memories as the Commanding Officer aboard the USS Curtis Wilbur, and what were the biggest challenges in that job?
The most poignant time in command was in March 2011 when the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. The ship was at sea, and we immediately proceeded to the epicenter to search for survivors. As the first U.S. Navy ship to arrive, we patrolled the massive debris fields and catalogued photos of vessels adrift. Shortly after one of our photos appeared on a Navy website, a 14-year-old Japanese girl recognized her family’s fishing vessel, and she contacted U.S. Navy officials. The Japanese Coast Guard located the vessel based upon our coordinates, and our combined efforts helped safeguard at least one Japanese family.

Why did you choose to attend Maine Law?
I chose Maine Law based upon the caliber of the faculty, the collegiality of the student population, and the school’s emphasis on clinical exposure and the practical application of the law. Despite national trends in post-law school employment, the demographics of the Maine bench and bar signal potential opportunities in the legal profession. Having traveled extensively throughout the world and relocated over a dozen times during my military career, I cannot think of anywhere else that I would rather practice law than in my home state of Maine.

What has been most helpful to you in making the adjustment to the life of a Maine Law Student?
A supportive group of student colleagues is immensely important for acclimating to any law school, no matter how extensive your background or prior life experience.

When you are not at school, how do you like to spend your time?
I enjoy skiing, sailing, hiking, kayaking, and various other outdoor adventure activities.

Do you have specific career goals at this point?
As a 2L, all facets of the legal profession excite me. I am currently considering a career in corporate litigation, with a particular focus in business or maritime law.

If you could tell a prospective student one thing about Maine Law, what would it be?
I would tell prospective students to look beyond the four walls of the institution and consider the judicial temperament of the bench and collegiality of the bar where the school is located. As the only law school in the state, Maine Law is uniquely positioned to maintain close relationships with the attorneys, the state and federal judiciary, and all levels of government. For aspiring law students, this presents an opportunity to build a professional support network not only after graduation, but immediately upon matriculation.
MAINE LAW BOOKSHELF


Edited by: Prof. Donald N. Zillman, Aileen McHarg, Adrian Bradbrook, and Lila Barrera-Hernandez
Publisher: Oxford University Press (2014)

The laws and environmental impacts related to “fracking” for oil and gas, storage of nuclear waste, and other pressing energy questions of our time are the subject of a new book that was edited by a University of Maine School of Law professor.

Professor Don Zillman was the lead editor and a contributing author to The Law of Energy Underground: Understanding New Developments in Subsurface Production, Transmission and Storage. The book was published in spring 2014 by Oxford University Press, the world’s leading academic publisher.

The Law of Energy Underground explores the rapid development of new technologies for extracting energy from beneath the earth’s surface, and for the underground storage or disposal of hazardous byproducts such as spent nuclear fuel. The book examines different regulatory responses to these developments, both here in the U.S., and around the world. Zillman and his fellow authors also assess the environmental impact of energy extraction technologies such as “fracking.”

“The book considers a wide range of issues from the new technologies for oil and gas production to reduction of climate change through carbon capture and storage to permanent storage of nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel,” Zillman said.

“Who owns extraction or storage rights? Who is responsible for protection against environmental harms, or the settlement of international disputes? These are some of the complex legal issues that we tackle in the book.”

Professor Zillman wrote the chapter on nuclear waste disposal in the United States and other nuclear nations. As lead editor, he was also responsible for the gathering of 23 chapters by 35 authors from 22 nations, as well as preparing the Introduction and Conclusion for the book.

Professor Zillman is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Maine Law. He previously served as Dean of the Law School, from 1991 to 1998, and more recently as President of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. He specializes in energy law and military law and has written over 50 law review articles and been author or editor on 12 books in those areas. At Maine Law, he also has also taught Property, Constitutional Law, Torts, and Legal Writing.

Off and Running: A Practical Guide to Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing

Authors: Professors Angela C. Arey & Nancy Wanderer
Publisher: Wolters Kluwer (2014)

Professor Angela Arey, director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at Maine Law, and Professor Emerita Nancy Wanderer, the founder of the program, have published a new legal writing textbook for law students in Maine and around the nation.


Here is the summary of the book:

“Off and Running is a unique text for the first semester of the 1L legal writing and research course, designed to guide students through their development of the essential skills needed to practice law. Using a single, classroom-tested fact pattern, the authors demonstrate in concrete steps how a first-year associate might approach a legal problem. Students practice these steps and skills on other fact patterns, as they read about this fictional associate.

“Using this fresh approach and a plain-English writing style, the authors introduce essential concepts and skills related to objective legal writing and legal research, with a particular emphasis on the professional and ethical representation of clients. Students learn how to think like a lawyer.”

Prof. Wanderer, the founder and longtime former director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at Maine Law, describes the book as the culmination of her 19 years of teaching and program development. Because of the book’s practical and straightforward approach, she and Prof. Arey hope it will help both new and experienced legal writing professors get their students “off and running” as skilled legal researchers and writers as quickly as possible.
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Legal Writing
Professor Angela Arey’s book *Off and Running: A Practical Guide to Legal Research, Writing, and Analysis for Aspiring Lawyers*, co-authored with Professor Emerita Nancy Wanderer, was published by Wolters/Kluwer in 2014. Professor Arey directs the legal writing program and continues to provide faculty support to Maine Law’s moot court program.

Professor Dmitry Bam’s forthcoming article “The Constitutionality of American Recusal Procedure” will be published in *Mississippi Law Journal*. The article argues that recusal procedures used by many American courts, including the United States Supreme Court, are unconstitutional. Professor Bam has presented the article at Marquette Law School, to the International Legal Ethics Conference in London, and to the Maine Judicial Council. A previous article, “Voter Ignorance and Judicial Elections,” was published in the *Kentucky Law Journal*. He is currently researching the relationship between Alexander Hamilton’s ideas about the judiciary and the modern practice of judicial elections. He also continues to work with the Maine Board of Bar Overseers on revisions to Maine’s ethical rules for lawyers.

Clinical Professor James Burke continues to work with students at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, and helped organize Maine’s 2014 Access to Justice Symposium. He also chaired a presentation on ethics and malpractice and on stress management at the Maine State Bar Association’s Bridging the Gap Program. In May, Professor Burke presented at the closing session at the MSBA Family Law CLE on the topic of representing clients from different cultures in family court. A key focus of that presentation was on ways to make other cultural norms comprehensible to our courts, and to make our court culture understandable to other cultures. In June, he was part of a panel presentation at a Pine Tree Legal Assistance retreat, discussing the questions and problems of the “difficult client,” including clients with serious mental illness.

Professor David Cluchey has entered phased retirement but has remained active in the life of the law school. This fall, he is teaching Business Associations and International Finance, chairs the Curriculum Committee, serves on the Dean Search Committee, and is the law school’s faculty representative on the Working Group of the University of Maine System Business/Law Initiative. He also serves on the Board of the Russian-United States Legal Education Foundation (RUSLEF), and through RUSLEF, Maine Law has hosted Russian exchange students each of the last four years.

Professor Christine Davik’s article, “We Know Who You Are and What You Are Made of: The Illusion of Internet Anonymity and its Impact on Protection from Genetic Discrimination,” was published by the *Case Western Law Review*. That article reflects her broader research interests involving the intersection between technological innovation and the control of information. Her current research project addresses attempts by website owners to limit the use of non-copyrightable data on publicly accessible websites. Recently, Professor Davik was invited to present the Constitution Day Lecture at the University of New England. Her talk, entitled “A Bad Connection: Deficiencies in Protection From Genetic Discrimination and its Negative Impact on Public Health,” identified and evaluated current gaps in protection under the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 wrought by advances in data gathering technology.

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Former Interim Law Library Director Christine Iaconeta has shed the “interim” from her title and is now the director of the Donald L. Garbrecht Law Library. In that capacity, she will continue steering the library through its transition from the hardcover past into the digital future. She also is working on a forthcoming book, *Maine Legal Research*, which will be published by Carolina Academic Press.

Professor Lois R. Lupica had another busy year. Along with two law school professor colleagues (one from Harvard Law and the other from UConn Law), many student research assistants, and in collaboration with Pine Tree Legal Services, she has been working on the Consumer Financial Distress Research Study, a large empirical study of the effectiveness of different ways of solving the problem of financial distress. The project draws upon Professor Lupica’s longstanding interests in consumer credit, bankruptcy and poverty law. The project has already produced one published article, “Access to Justice: A Randomized Control Trial of Credit Counseling, Legal Representation, and Debt Collection Processes,” in the *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*, and one article about to be published, “Lay Deployment of Professional Legal Knowledge.”

Former Judge, and now Edward S. Godfrey Visiting Professor, the Honorable James B. Haines, Jr. retired from the bench after twenty-five years as a federal bankruptcy judge. He will be teaching Bankruptcy, Federal Courts, Pre-Trial Practice, and Secured Transactions. Since retirement, he has continued to appear as a faculty member for programs of the Federal Judicial Center and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. In addition, he is currently helping write bench books on criminal and civil procedure for the Republic of Kosovo.
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professor Lupica has presented her work at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association’s Annual Conference, the American Bankruptcy Institute’s Winter Leadership Conference, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges’ Annual Meeting, and the Edward Thaxter Gignoux Inns of Court in Portland, Maine, as well as several other venues. Professor Lupica and her fellow researchers recently secured a major additional grant from the National Science Foundation, and the project will continue to unfold for several more years. Professor Lupica’s other major research project addresses unsecured creditor distributions in consumer cases filed under the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. Like the access to justice project, this study has produced a series of publications. The most recent, “Unsecured Creditor Distributions under BAPCPA” (with economist Michael Donihue of Colby College) is undergoing an economics journal peer review process. Professor Lupica is on sabbatical during the 2014-15 academic year. She is spending the Fall as Scholar-in-Residence at the American Bankruptcy Institute.

2013-14 Professor of the Year (by student vote) Jeffrey Maine spent part of his year updating his two casebooks: The Fundamentals of Federal Taxation: Problems and Materials (with John A. Miller) and Intellectual Property Taxation: Problems and Materials (with Xuan-Thao Nguyen). He and Professor Miller also wrote “Wealth Transfer Tax Planning for 2013 and Beyond,” which was published in the BYU Law Review, and he continues to work on multiple publications in the field of intellectual property taxation. Meanwhile, he also continues to convince scores of students, despite their initial expectations, that what they really want to do in life is become a tax lawyer.

Clinical Professor Chris Northrop continues to teach in the Juvenile Justice Clinic and to serve as a leader in the national community of juvenile defenders. He is an annual speaker at the Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit, which he also helps organize, and he also gave presentations at the New England Region’s Juvenile Justice Reform Conference, the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the New England Juvenile Defense Center. This fall, he’ll give talks in New Hampshire and Louisville. He also serves as the President of the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the co-president of the New England Juvenile Defense Center, an advisory board member of the National Juvenile Defender Center, and a member of the Maine Justice for Children Task Force. In May, Professor Northrop received the Maine Youth Transition Coalition Collaborative Annual Award for work with children aging out of state custody.


Professor and Associate Dean for Research Dave Owen is currently completing an article addressing potential lessons from Maine’s Penobscot River Restoration Project for dam policy and law. That article, “Trading Dams” (co-authored with The Nature Conservancy scientist Colin Apse), will be published in the UC Davis Law Review, and was one of two environmental law articles selected for presentation at the 2014 Harvard-Stanford-Yale Junior Faculty Forum. The other article selected for presentation at that forum was “Interdisciplinary Research and Environmental Law,” which Professor Owen co-authored with University of Maine economist Caroline Noblet. Professor Owen also published “Taking Groundwater” in the Washington University Law Review, and he is currently researching the roles of regional offices within the United States federal government. Professor Owen gave research presentations at Berkeley, Denver, and San Diego law schools, Bates College, to the National Association of Attorneys General, and at the Maine Stormwater Conference. In the classroom, he is currently piloting (with Legal Writing Professor Angela Arey) a new upper level writing workshop course, serving on the board of directors of the Maine Bar Foundation, and trying, with very little success, to improve his performance at the MAPIL Auction karaoke night.

Dean Peter Pitegoff served as moderator for two panel discussions at the American Bar Association’s annual mid-year Deans Workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, in February 2014. One session addressed the issue of law schools navigating wider institutional realities, and the other addressed particular challenges for small public law schools. Also that month, he presented a talk to the Maine Investors Group in Portland, discussing the trajectory of legal education and Maine Law’s role in economic development. He and Professor Deirdre Smith presented a talk on “The Changing Legal Academy”
at the Edward Thaxter Gignoux Inns of Court in Portland in November 2013. Dean Pitegoff served on a panel on “The Future of Legal Education” at the New England Bar Association Annual Meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and also participated in a panel presentation on the “Landscape of the Profession” at the Maine Federal/State Judicial Conference in Bangor, both in October 2013. He joined the Executive and Finance Committee of Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI), a Maine-based national leader in community development finance, where he has been a director and chair of the Governance Committee for a number of years. Dean Pitegoff continues to serve on the Justice Action Group board, a coalition in support of access to justice for Mainers in need.

While Professor Martin Rogoff has entered phased retirement, he continues to write, teach, and, with Professor Norchi, maintain Maine’s connections to the world beyond the United States’ borders. His current research focuses on direct democracy in France, and an article (“La democrazia diretta in Francia,” in Diritto Pubblico Comparato ed Europeo) and book chapter (“La Democrazia Diretta” (with Elisabetta Palici di Suni Prat & Eloy Garcia Lopez), in Le Frontiere del Diritto [G. Giappichelli, ed.]) are both forthcoming. Professor Rogoff continues to teach comparative law, and he also both teaches and serves as an informal mentor for Maine’s LL.M. and foreign exchange students.

Associate Professor Sarah Schindler continues to work on a series of research projects at the intersection of land use, environmental, and local government law. Her most recent article, “Architectural Exclusion,” was just accepted for publication in the Yale Law Journal. The article considers legal responses to the use of architecture and urban design for exclusionary purposes. Her previous article, “Banning Lawns,” examines the dark side of turfgrass, and argues that lawn bans (already a reality in Las Vegas) are worthy of serious consideration. That article appears in the George Washington Law Review. Another recent article, “Of Backyard Chickens and Front Yard Gardens: The Conflict Between Local Governments and Locavores,” 87 Tulane L. Rev. 231 (2012) was selected for publication in the Land Use and Environmental Law Review as one of the five best land use law articles of its year, and a followup essay was recently published in the Wisconsin Law Review. She currently is pursuing two research projects, one concerning pop-up restaurants and the sharing economy for the University of Chicago Law Review’s online symposium, and the other on legal management of private urban spaces dedicated to public use. Her recent presentations have included talks at Columbia Law School, the University of British Columbia, the University of Washington, and the University of Wisconsin, in addition to a fall presentation at TEDxDirigo on laws, norms, and guerrilla gardening. Professor Schindler was also selected as Pace Environmental Law Center’s Distinguished Young Scholar for 2013. Her interest in local land use law extends to her teaching and her community advocacy, and she has helped organize several events designed to promote pedestrian and bicycle use within Portland.

Professor and Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Director Deirdre Smith is one of Maine’s leaders in bringing new technologies into the classroom, and she has given her colleagues multiple presentations on technologically-enhanced teaching. She continues her work as Chair of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court’s Rules of Evidence Advisory Committee, and she participated in a panel discussion, “Judicial Notice and Other Under-Used Evidentiary Measures” at the Maine State Bar Association Summer Meeting. She presented on “Electronic Evidence and the Right to Confrontation,” at the Federal Rules of Evidence Advisory Committee’s Annual Symposium, which Maine Law hosted in April. In addition to managing the Clinic and teaching, Professor Smith continues to research the intersection of mental health and evidence law. Her article, “Dangerous Diagnoses, Risky Assumptions, and the Failed Experiment of ‘Sexually Violent Predator’ Commitment” will be published in the Oklahoma Law Review. She presented the article at the AALS Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education in Chicago. Another article, co-authored with psychologist 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” will be published in The International Journal of Law and Psychiatry early this winter.

Visiting Professor Jeff Thaler continues to write articles and teach courses that draw upon his experience as a renewable energy lawyer, as well as serving as legal counsel for the University of Maine’s energy and environmental projects. He is currently piloting a new “Administrative Law Practicum” course, which is designed to simulate experiences associated with practice before Maine and federal regulatory agencies. He also has written “The Seas Are Changing: It’s Time to Use Ocean-Based Renewable Energy, the Public Trust Doctrine, and a Green Thumb to Protect the Seas from Climate Change” (with J.L. Patrick Lyons), in the Spring 2014 Ocean and Coastal Law Journal; “In the Public Trust: Climate Changed Sea Levels and Ocean Wind Power,” published in 31 Delaware Lawyer 20 (2014); a book review entitled “Hubris Games: Analyzing Success and Failure of Large-Scale Energy Projects,” in Energy Research and Social Science, and two white papers: “Roadmap for Permitting and Leasing for Maine Offshore Wind Energy Projects” and “Roadmap for Permitting and Leasing for Maine Marine Hydrokinetic (MHK) Power Projects.” He recently has given presentations at Cornell Law School, Williams College and, on several occasions, in Maine. He also has continued to direct the program “Resettling Refugees and Immigrants in Maine” in Portland for Williams College students.
Legal Research, Writing, and Analysis for Aspiring Lawyers, has now been published and is in classroom use. The legal writing program she built is a strong and increasingly important part of the Maine Law Curriculum, and she leaves it in good hands.

Associate Clinical Professor Anna Welch continues to build Maine Law’s new Refugee and Human Rights Clinic, where students represent clients seeking asylum or other humanitarian-based immigration status and also engage in broader immigrants’ rights advocacy projects. Under her guidance, student attorneys (assisted by a Bowdoin College fellow) produced and circulated a comprehensive brochure summarizing immigration relief available to unaccompanied minor children who have fled abuse or persecution in their home countries and are seeking refuge in Maine. The clinic also published a series of “Know Your Rights” fact sheets for Maine’s immigrant workers; and a pamphlet, “A Guide for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence,” which aims to provide Maine’s domestic violence victims with information about their rights. She presented at the National Immigration Professors’ biennial conference at UC Irvine, the AALS Clinical Conference in Chicago and at numerous CLE events across Maine, 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 Portland-based Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project. She also teaches immigration law, and she and coauthor Jennifer Lee Koh have written an article, “Teaching Immigration Law: Integrating Skills and Collaborating across Law Schools,” about some of their innovative classroom initiatives. Aside from her clinical practice, teaching, and community outreach, her research focuses on problematic evidentiary rules governing immigration hearings.

Associate Professor of Legal Writing
Sara Wolff is the newest addition to the Maine Law faculty. Professor Wolff joins the Law School from the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, where she served as a long-term clerk. Before clerking, Professor Wolff worked for many years in Washington, D.C. as a law firm associate and then in the Chief Counsel’s Office to the IRS. She also taught legal writing, to rave reviews, as an adjunct at Maine Law.

Professor Jennifer Wriggins used her 2013-14 sabbatical to pursue a series of research and service projects. Her primary research focus has been flood insurance, and her article “Flood Money: The Challenges of U.S. Flood Policy Reform in a Warming World,” is forthcoming in the Penn State Law Review. Another article, “In Deep: Dilemmas of Federal Flood Insurance Governance and Reform,” will be published in a symposium issue of the UC Irvine Law Review. She has presented her work at New York University Law School, American University Law School, U.C. Irvine Law School, and at the Annual Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference. Her current research projects focus on flood insurance policy, inclusion of race and racism into law schools’ first year torts curriculum, and the intersection of tort law and racism following President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Great Society reforms. She also authored an op-ed on flood insurance reform which was published in Talking Points Memo. During her sabbatical, she served on a working group for the Family Law Section of the Maine State Bar Association, which reviewed the Uniform Parentage Act, a project which is ongoing. Also, she gave a presentation to the Maine Attorney General’s summer 2014 CLE program on recent developments in same-sex marriage law. She chaired the AALS Torts and Compensation Systems section and organized a joint panel with the AALS Insurance Law Section on the intersection of tort and insurance law.

Professor Mel Zarr is teaching Criminal Law and Civil Procedure concurrently this fall, and is enjoying the opportunity to integrate the curricula of the two courses. He also has spoken several times about his experiences representing the NAACP Legal Defense Fund during the 1960s, including a lecture at Maine Law to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, an interview on Senator Angus King’s radio show, and a talk at the Federal Bar Association’s September meeting.

Edward S. Godfrey Professor and Associate Dean
1970

1974
The Hon. George N. Bowden was honored as the drug court Judge of the Year for the State of Washington for 2013.

1976
The Hon. Margaret J. “Peggy” Kravchuk retired in January after serving for nearly 30 years on the state and federal bench in Maine. Judge Kravchuk served as a state prosecutor, as District Attorney for Penobscot and Piscataquis counties, as judge of the Maine District Court, and as a justice of the Maine Superior Court before her appointment as U.S. Magistrate Judge in 2000. She was the first woman to be named to the federal judiciary in Maine.

Ira Waldman was named among the top 10 most highly regarded lawyers in the world for real estate law in 2013, by Who’s Who Legal. Waldman is a partner at Cox Castle Nicholson in Los Angeles.

1977
James M. Bowie received the Distinguished Service Award from the Maine Law Alumni Association. The award recognizes Bowie’s contributions to the legal profession and his support of the University of Maine School of Law. A founding partner in the Portland law firm of Thompson & Bowie, LLP, Bowie is a member of the University of Maine School of Law Foundation Board, and formerly served on the Board of the Alumni Association.

1978
Eleanor Baker received the 2014 L. Kinvin Wroth Award at the Maine Law commencement ceremony on May 17. Baker is co-founder and managing principal at the accounting firm Baker Newman Noyes, and is a respected civic leader in Maine. 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.

1983
Elisabeth Belmont, MaineHealth Corporate Counsel, received the 2014 David J. Greenburg Service Award, awarded annually by the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA). The award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the growth and life of AHLA through his or her leadership, vision and service.

1984
Pat Scully was named CEO at Bernstein Shur in Portland. Scully has represented energy clients and has been involved with the management of the firm for more than 20 years.

1987
Andrew Landry was recently named partner at Preti Flaherty. Working from the firm’s Augusta office, Landry practices with the firm’s Energy and Telecommunications Group and Climate Strategy Group. He has a broad background in energy and utility law and corporate law.

1991
Judith Berry announced that her son, Christopher Berry, has become a full partner at her firm, which is now known as Berry Law P.A. The firm is located in Gorham. Judith Berry is a fellow in the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and the American Academy of Appellate Attorneys.

1992
Elizabeth Connellan Smith, an attorney with Verrill Dana, was inducted into the American Bar Association College of Workers’ Compensation Lawyers. Smith is the first and only Fellow inducted into the College from Maine. Her practice focuses primarily on defending claims brought against Maine employers.

1994
Professor Deirdre Smith, Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Maine School of Law, was named Outstanding Alumna for 2013 by the law school’s Women’s Law Association. An accomplished scholar and teacher, Professor Smith has been Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic since 2004.

1996
Dan Mitchell was recently selected as co-chair of the Litigation Practice Group at Bernstein Shur. Mitchell also serves as co-chair of the firm’s Data Security Team and is a member of the Business Law Practice Group.

Ronald W. Schneider, Jr. was named co-chair of the Labor and Employment Practice Group at Bernstein Shur.
**CLASS NOTES**

**1997**  
Alison Beyea joined the ACLU of Maine as Executive Director. Beyea has been admissions director for Maine Law; Senior Attorney for the Justice Policy Group at the Muskie School of Public Service; and staff attorney at Pine Tree Legal Assistance. In 2003 she co-founded KIDS Legal, a legal assistance program that helps low-income children in Maine.

Mark Fischler, chairman of Plymouth State University’s Criminal Justice program, received the university’s 2014 Distinguished Teacher Award.

**2000**  
Katherine “Kate” Murray accepted a position with the U.S. Army, Civilian Human Resources Agency, in Germany, where she expects to live for the next three to five years.

2002  
Mikell Reed Carroll works for the Department of State at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She was awarded a Meritorious Honor Award from the Department of State for her work during the 2013 visit of Secretary of State John Kerry to Vietnam.

Sandra “Sandy” L. Guay is a partner at Woodman Edmonds Danylik Austin Smith & Jacques, and serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Muskie School of Public Service. Guay co-authored an article, “Changing Times: Shifting Rural Landscapes,” published by the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law. Her co-author was Professor Mark. B. Lapping, Distinguished University Professor, USM and Muskie School of Public Service.

Sarah C. Mitchell rejoined Skelton, Taintor & Abbott as a shareholder. Mitchell represents family law clients throughout southern, central and mid-coast Maine, and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys.

**2003**  
Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte, the author of Nowhere: A Story of Exile and survivor of the 1990 Baku pogroms against Armenians, continues to address issues of conflict resolution and peace for the Armenian people. She recently presented her book at the European Parliament in Brussels and spoke to parliamentarians on the Nagorno-Karabakh humanitarian situation as well. Turcotte went back to Armenia in September for the first time in 23 years for official visits, book presentations, and to visit where she lived as a refugee.

Natasha Baker, a partner at Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP in San Francisco, was elected as member of the board of directors of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, for a three-year term.

**2004**  
Kate Knox was elected to the board of directors at Bernstein Shur. She is a member of the Legislative and Political Law Practice Group, where she focuses on lobbying, campaign compliance and election law.

Latha Sgritta McDowell was named a Rising Star in Elder Care Law by North Carolina Super Lawyers magazine. She is a partner with Walker Lambe Rhudy Costley & Gill, PLLC in Raleigh, N.C.

Philip R. Saucier has been elected shareholder at Bernstein Shur. Saucier is a member of the firm’s Municipal and Regulatory Practice Group and the Legislative and Political Law Practice Group. He is chair of the Maine State Bar Association, Municipal Section.

**2007**  
Paul Greene launched his sports law firm, Global Sports Advocates, in Portland in February 2014. A former sportscaster, Greene has represented athletes in more than 20 sports worldwide. He handles a wide range of matters including Olympic eligibility, contract disputes and Title IX violations.

Amy T. Robidas opened her own firm, Robidas Law, LLC, in Portland in March 2014. The firm is on family law and criminal defense.

Megan Sanders was appointed Chief of Staff in the Office of the President at the University of Maine. She also maintains her previous role, serving as Vice President for Human Resources at the University of Maine.

**2009**  
Travis Brennan joined Berman & Simmons, a statewide law firm based in Lewiston. He will handle a wide range of personal injury cases.

Nicolas T. Carter has joined Jones, Kuriloff & Sargent, LLC, in Ellsworth. Carter most recently served as the statewide bankruptcy expert for the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General’s HomeCorps initiative. He was also the owner of Carter Legal Services in Portland, a business that provided consumer protection and bankruptcy counsel.

David Kallin, along with his wife Emily, and their children, 9-year-old Nathan and 7-year-old Madeline, hiked the 2,185-mile Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine. Kallin, who graduated first in his class at Maine Law, is an attorney with Drummond Woodsum in Portland. His practice focuses on land conservation, land use and natural resource law.

Nicholas R. Loukes has joined Monaghan Leahy LLP in Portland as an associate. Loukes focuses on commercial lending, real estate, and corporate law.

Molly Watson Shukie has been elected partner at Linnell, Choate & Webber, LLP, in Auburn. Shukie concentrates her practice in the areas of family law and workers’ compensation, and she also serves as a guardian ad litem.

Alyssa Tibbetts recently joined the municipal practice at Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry in Portland. Tibbetts previously was assistant town manager for the town of Cumberland.

**2010**  
Stephanie Green recently joined the commercial practice group of Curtis Thuaxter LLC. Green practices in the areas of commercial loan transactions, real estate and asset purchases, landlord and tenant disputes and corporate law.

David Morse recently launched a solo practice, Morse Law, in Westbrook. Morse focuses on family law, bankruptcy, debtor rights, and landlord tenant law.

Adam Shub, an attorney with Preti Flaherty, was recently elected Vice Chairman of the Real Estate Commission for the State of Maine. The Commission is responsible for licensing real estate agencies and brokers, adjudicating alleged broker misconduct and imposing sanctions, and for setting curriculum for continuing real estate education requirements.

**2012**  
Justin Costa, accountant and former McKusick Fellow at Maine Law, was elected to the Portland City Council in November. He served for the past six years on the Portland School Board, including the past two years as chair of that board’s finance committee.

Alison Meyers is working for Kristine Hanly ‘09, at Hanly Law in Portland. Meyers’ focus is on criminal defense and family law.

**2013**  
Danielle Anne B. Cardona is employed as a Compliance Officer and Legal Consultant at JPMorgan Chase in New York.

**2014**  
Elisa Paylor started her own practice, E. Paylor Law, LLC, in May 2014. Her office is located in Augusta. Paylor, who holds a Master of Business Administration degree and has 10 years experience in business insurance, is focusing on business law.

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.
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To make a gift to the Annual Fund, go to www.mainelawalum.org, send your gift to the Maine Law Annual Fund, 246 Deering Ave., Portland, ME 04102, or contact Deborah Lorenzen, Administrative Specialist, Advancement and External Affairs by email at deborah.lorenzen@maine.edu, or by phone at (207) 228-8411.

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2013-14 Annual Fund Support for the University of Maine School of Law

This 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!

### Gifts/Pledges

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Purpose of Allocations by Percentage</th>
<th>Donations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships/Fellowships/Student Support</td>
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<td>Legal Aid Clinic and other Law School Programs</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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<td>Alumni Relations/Administration</td>
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### Annual Fund Allocation of Resources

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<td>Legal Aid Clinic and other Law School Programs</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Loyal Supporters of the University of Maine School of Law include

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<th>Donors</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<td>Alumni</td>
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<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Loyal Supporters of the University of Maine School of Law include: Alumni, Friends, Foundations, Law Firms, Other Organizations.
This report delineates gifts and pledges received between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. All Annual Fund gifts or pledges received after June 30, 2014 will be included in the Philanthropy Report for 2014-15. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Please contact Deborah Lorenzen if you notice any errors or omissions at 207-228-8411 or deborah.orenzen@maine.edu.
A message from Bob Laskoff ’70

As an Alum of Maine Law, albeit a little older than most of you, I urge you to consider the unique opportunity of including the University of Maine School of Law in your estate plan. Many times during the year Jackie, my wife of 47 years, and I discuss where we are in life and what made that possible. The answer won’t surprise you.

Please join us by giving something back and leaving a legacy for future generations. Although there are many ways to express your appreciation for what Maine Law has and continues to do for its alums and the State of Maine, the opportunity to provide for Maine Law into its future and beyond my own lifetime is special.

Jackie and I have both made provisions for Maine Law in our estate plans, and I hope you will do the same!

There are many different ways to make a planned gift. Some of them include:
• Outright Bequests
• Gifts of Appreciated Stock
• Charitable Gift Annuities
• Charitable Remainder Trusts
• Charitable Lead Trusts
• Other Planned Giving Vehicles, including gifts of life insurance, retirement plan assets, and commercial or residential real estate

For more information, please contact Tina Simonetta Samuels in the Maine Law Advancement Office at (207) 780-4342 or tina.samuels@maine.edu.

Thank you for considering a legacy gift that will forge a way for future generations.

Bob Laskoff ’70
University of Maine School of Law Foundation Board Member

Join us in honoring six Maine Law professors who have made a difference

Please save the date:
Friday, April 10, 2015
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Marriott at Sable Oaks, South Portland, Maine

Do you have favorite memories or photos of these six professors? We’re collecting them for the event. Please send submissions to Frances Smith at frances.smith@maine.edu

To learn more, visit www.mainelawalum.org/faculty or call (207) 228-8411
The University of Maine School of Law, located in the coastal city of Portland, is a small school with a regional impact and a global reach. As Maine’s public and only law school, Maine Law serves as a force for the common good, while preparing graduates for careers as leaders inside and outside the traditional legal profession.

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