What is your pre-Maine Law background?
I grew up in Milo and Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, where my parents owned a hardware store and travel agency, and my father also was an engineer on the Canadian Pacific Railroad. In a dramatic departure from the family hustle, I studied philosophy at the University of Maine. I explained to my skeptical father that with a degree in philosophy I could do anything. My father queried, “Can you become employed?”

Why did you choose Maine Law?
Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, Leigh Saufley ’80 sold me on it. I was living in Maine the summer after completing my first year of law school “away” when she interrogated me about my choice in law schools. It was the first of many times I would appear before her without many good answers to her questions. She emphasized the exceptional faculty and the sense of community between Maine Law and the bar. As always, she was right, and I was lucky.

What is involved in your current work?
When I’m not on the bench presiding over a court proceeding, I spend a great deal of time reading case files and writing opinions, which I thoroughly enjoy. One of the more satisfying aspects of my job is presiding over citizenship ceremonies. Witnessing the joy of new citizens and their families is inspiring. I also get to work closely with my gifted law clerks, Maine Law graduates Marc Veilleux ’99, who serves as my career clerk, and Katie Bressler ’18. John Fogarty ’19 will be joining my chambers soon. I shared with John that when it gets around the federal judiciary that John Fogarty is clerking for me, I will basically be the coolest judge in the country.

Was there a particular Maine Law faculty member who influenced you?
Professor Nancy Wanderer was a great influence. In addition to her remarkable professional skills, Nancy possesses an unusual combination of intellectual honesty, charity of spirit, and grace that should serve as a model to everyone. She chose me to be an instructor in her legal writing program during my 3L year. Nancy made me feel like I belonged at the party; that I had a verse to contribute. And for that I am forever grateful.

Is it true that you own a Harley-Davidson motorcycle? Do you have any other unusual interests?
I ride a Harley-Davidson Screaming Eagle Fat Boy. I’ve been a motorcycle enthusiast for as long as I can remember. I used to ride with former Chief Justice Dan Wathen ’65, but he would often want to swap motorcycles, which made me terribly nervous for my motorcycle. In terms of “unusual” I suppose collecting vintage manual typewriters would qualify.

Why should students consider Maine Law?
In the valediction Professor David Gregory presented at our commencement ceremony, he urged us to “look at reality with a cold, hard, steely-eyed gaze” so as not to corrupt reality. Maine Law trains clear thinkers with critical faculties and sends them into the world armed with the tools necessary to meet it on its terms, and when necessary, to help set the terms. Having found myself in some pretty big rooms of late, I can attest that a Maine Law education travels well.
Maine Law trains clear thinkers with critical faculties and sends them into the world armed with the tools necessary to meet it on its terms, and when necessary, to help set the terms.

Judge Lance E. Walker ’00
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Staying connected with Maine Law
facebook.com/umainelaw

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

You can also stay up to date by visiting mainelaw.maine.edu; following us on Twitter (@umainelaw); and Instagram (@umainelaw).

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COVER PHOTO: The Mills Family
From left: Paul Mills ’77, Governor Janet Mills ’76, Peter Mills ’73, and Nancy Mills ’82.
Nadra Edgerley photo.
Maine Law’s Future is Bright

Dear Community Members,

If you are a long-time reader of the Maine Law Magazine and a supporter of Maine Law, you may notice that there have been a few changes at the Law School recently. A new (interim) dean, new faculty, new staff, a high-profile report by the Committee on the Future Direction of the Law School. Yes, it has been an exciting summer and fall!

And the excitement is just beginning. We welcomed an outstanding class of first-year students to our halls. At the same time, we continue to develop new J.D. and non-J.D. programming to enhance our rich curriculum, explore technological innovation to make our classes more accessible, and look for new ways to collaborate with others in the University of Maine System, including the interdisciplinary University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center.

Despite the buzz, one thing remains constant: our commitment to ensuring a high-quality and affordable legal education for our students. In other words, there have been no changes to Maine Law’s core mission or its identity as Maine’s public and only law school. Maine Law remains dedicated to providing an excellent program of legal education so that our graduates are not only prepared to practice law, but have the skills necessary to become leaders both in and out of the state.

This issue highlights our dedication to academic excellence and showcases the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. For example, one thing that sets Maine Law apart from most other law schools is our close connection to our alumni and the state bench and bar. In fact, it is this bond with Maine’s bench and bar, and Maine Law’s network of alumni, that attracts many students to the Law School. The lead story profiling the Mills family demonstrates this principle in action. Governor Janet Mills ’76 has served the people of Maine as a prosecutor, a legislator, a teacher, and as the state’s attorney general. She has been a trailblazer, and her education at Maine Law prepared her for a career in public service. Likewise, her brother Peter Mills ’73 has served in the Navy, and the State Senate, practiced law throughout the state, and, since 2011, has worked as the Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority. Nancy Mills ’82, Peter’s wife, is a justice for the Cumberland County Superior Court. In addition, sibling Paul Mills ’77 has moderated more than 200 town and school district budget meetings in 16 towns and school districts in Franklin and Somerset counties and has written more than 300 articles on public affairs.

Maine Law takes great pride in its mission of public service, and all of the students and alumni who embrace this mission. In fact, the Mills family is just one example of our many alumni who serve in all levels of our state government, including Cabinet positions, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, and the Maine Senate and House of Representatives. And we continue to offer courses, externships, fellowships, and other opportunities that provide students with pathways to public service and leadership.

While Maine Law’s past is filled with many prominent state leaders, the school’s future also looks bright. The University of Maine System Board of Trustees created the Committee to Advise on the Future Direction of the Law School. In this issue, you will hear from Professor Deirdre Smith ’94 who co-chaired the Committee with Kurt Adams ’97. In July, the Committee submitted its report, which reaffirms all the incredible work done by our students, faculty, and staff despite a fast-changing legal education landscape. More importantly, the report identifies potential areas of growth and development for the Law School with additional support and funding. We are working closely with the Board, the Chancellor, and UMS/USM leadership to implement these proposals.

We also highlight a few of our many alumni who have chosen to serve the public as prosecutors. Natasha Irving ’09, Amanda Doherty ’08, Jackie Sartoris ’10, and Grant Whelan ’18 are all wonderful examples of the great impact our alumni have in all of the courtrooms in Maine.

Finally, this issue celebrates the great work of Maine Law’s incredible adjunct faculty. Because of the Law School’s close ties to the state’s bench and bar, our students have access to experienced professionals who believe in the Law School’s mission and are passionate about teaching. The adjunct faculty are truly outstanding, and they bring a wealth of real world experiences into the classroom. It was nearly impossible to choose just a few adjuncts to highlight, but this issue spotlights the work of Gerald Petruccelli, Ginny Lee ’05, Judge Peter Cary, Jamesa Drake, Kaighn Smith ’86, and Diane Kenty.

Dmitry Bam,
Interim Dean
Maine Law Class of 2019: 76 J.D. graduates

The University of Maine School of Law awarded J.D. degrees to 76 students, as well as 12 LL.M. degrees, at a commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 25th. Four of the graduates were also awarded the Law School’s Certificate in Information Privacy Law.

Joseph Cassidy ’00, president of Southern Maine Community College, was the keynote speaker. He discussed the varied career paths available to those with a law degree as well as the need for lawyers in Maine’s rural areas.

“For there to be justice and equity of experience, there must be legal representation in all parts of Maine,” said President Cassidy. “These are important communities and they are well worth investing in. I am proud of Maine Law for its demonstrated leadership in this area in establishing the Rural Lawyer Project. I know the students who participate in those rural fellowships will enjoy their experiences, and I trust that many of them will decide to stay and live and practice in rural Maine.”

Also at commencement, the Law School presented the 2019 L. Kinvin Wroth Award to the Hon. Lance Walker ’00, U.S. District Judge for the District of Maine. The award, named after former Law School Dean L. Kinvin Wroth, 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.

“Here’s Maine Law’s secret sauce: the school remains grounded upon the strong sense of community so vividly on display in communities throughout our state,” said Judge Walker while accepting the award. “Maine Law abides the truth that ultimately, we’re all in this together, so act accordingly.”

Pat Thompson was selected by her classmates to be the student speaker.

“So today, as we walk across this stage to receive the diplomas we worked so hard to achieve, momentarily reflect on what this opportunity affords us,” said Thompson. “Think about the power we are receiving and also our tremendous responsibility to lead. Be empathetic to those around us. Start small if we have to, but start.”

Symposium focuses on rural access to justice & healthcare

Over a hundred attorneys, judges, healthcare professionals, and legal scholars gathered in Waterville in April for a holistic discussion on the access to justice and healthcare issues that challenge Maine’s rural communities. The “Ensuring Equal Access to Justice in Maine’s Rural Communities Symposium” was presented by the Maine Law Review at the University of Maine School of Law in partnership with Colby College.

Symposium participants took a strategic look into Maine’s rural realities with two days of panel discussions and presentations. Day one (April 26) focused on access to justice, and day two (April 27) focused on access to healthcare. The keynote address was presented by Lisa Pruitt, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Law at UC Davis School of Law. Professor Pruitt is a national expert on the intersection of law with rural livelihoods.

The symposium also featured the following speakers and panel discussions:

**Featured speakers:**

> Professor Maybell Romero, Northern Illinois University Law School
> Professor Nicole Huberfeld, Boston University School of Law and Boston University School of Public Health
> Professor Hannah Haksgaard, University of South Dakota School of Law

**Panels:**

> Criminal Justice in Maine’s Rural Communities
> Ensuring Access to Justice in Maine’s Rural Communities
> National Panel on Access to Justice Issues
> Legal and Political Issues in Rural Healthcare

The Class of 2019 on the steps of Portland City Hall.
Distinguished alumni honored at Reunion Weekend

The University of Maine School of Law presented two Distinguished Service Awards to outstanding alumni during Reunion Weekend in May. Patrick Scully ’84 and Elizabeth Stout ’90 were both honored for their significant contributions to Maine Law and their communities.

Maine Law hosted its annual Reunion Weekend May 17-18. More than 100 alumni attended the reunion and enjoyed a range of activities including a reception at Rising Tide; lunch with the Dean and faculty members; a CLE course taught by Interim Dean Dmitry Bam; and a lobster bake on Peaks Island.

Distinguished Service Awards are presented annually by the Alumni Engagement Committee of the University of Maine School of Law Foundation Board. The recipients are chosen for outstanding achievement, exceptional service to the advancement of the Law School, and service to the community.

Elizabeth Stout ’90

Elizabeth Stout has had a career that has spanned work as an assistant district attorney, a business litigator, an assistant attorney general, an adjunct professor at Maine Law, and since 2002, as a family law attorney, guardian ad litem, and mediator.

She is currently the executive director of the Maine Community Law Center (MCLC), a nonprofit she created in the fall of 2015 to serve the people of Maine, to provide legal assistance at affordable rates, and to improve the practice of law across the state for the benefit of Maine residents. The MCLC also serves as an incubator for new lawyers and routinely hires Maine Law graduates.

Pat Scully ’84

Pat Scully has spent his entire legal career as a valued member of Bernstein Shur. He started with the firm in 1984, right out of Maine Law, initially in litigation, then in municipal and administrative law with a focus on energy regulatory work. Pat has been a partner since 1990, chaired the firm’s Municipal Practice Group for 10 years, and served on its Board of Directors for 20 years. Pat served as CEO of Bernstein Shur for six years.

In 2016, Pat joined the University of Maine School of Law Foundation Board. In this role, he has worked tirelessly on fundraising projects that, through his time commitment, dedication, and leverage of personal connections on behalf of Maine Law, have brought in over $125,000 in commitments that will support the Law School’s programs and operations over the next five years.

Information privacy law program earns recognition

The International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) designated the University of Maine School of Law as a Tier One law school in the area of information privacy law. This designation recognizes the breadth and depth of Maine Law’s privacy offerings.

This research project by the IAPP is the first of its kind and was initiated in an effort to better understand how privacy is taught at American Bar Association-accredited law schools in the U.S. For the study, the IAPP tiered schools according to their curriculum offerings in privacy law. The project included 203 law schools, and Maine Law was one of only a few schools to be ranked in the top tier.

“This designation reflects our school’s strong commitment to the study of information privacy law and to helping students acquire the practical skills and knowledge needed in this area to become successful practitioners and future leaders in this growing field,” said Interim Dean Dmitry Bam. “We hope to continue to build on that commitment in the coming years and expand the program.”

“Maine Law’s innovation and national leadership in privacy law is another example of why our state’s only law school is a strategic asset,” said Dannel P. Malloy, chancellor of the University of Maine System. “I want to congratulate the faculty, staff, and stakeholders who have helped Maine Law become one of only a few law schools in the country to earn top tier recognition from the International Association of Privacy Professionals.”

Maine Law has long been an academic leader in offering a curriculum focused on Information Privacy Law. The program recognizes the multidisciplinary nature of privacy law and also the importance of providing real world, practical work experience opportunities for our students.

“Given the fast pace of technological innovation and the increasing centrality and importance of personal data in the global economy, all lawyers need to know how to handle privacy and cybersecurity issues,” said Professor Jennifer Wriggins, co-director of the Information Privacy Law Program. “Maine Law’s program gives them the essential tools to do just that.”

Save the Date

Maine Law Reunion Weekend 2020 is scheduled for Friday, June 12-Saturday, June 13. All alumni are invited to attend.
Lecture focuses on legacy of Judge Coffin

In recognition of Judge Coffin’s centennial year, the 27th annual Judge Frank M. Coffin Lecture on Law and Public Service focused on the judge’s own life and his substantial contributions to the public good. Maine Law held a special two-part program celebrating his extraordinary legacy.

On October 17, Dr. Richard J. Maiman, Judge Coffin’s biographer and emeritus professor of political science at the University of Southern Maine, presented the 2019 Coffin Lecture at the Portland Museum of Art. The next day a panel composed of former Coffin Clerks and Coffin Family Law Fellows discussed their diverse public interest experiences and Judge Coffin’s impact on their careers.

Video recordings of the lecture and the panel discussion are available on Maine Law’s YouTube channel.

The Judge Frank M. Coffin Lecture on Law and Public Service 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, renowned leader and mentor in public service, and beloved friend of Maine Law.

Save the Date

The 2020 Judge Frank M. Coffin Lecture on Law and Public Safety will be presented by Lee Gelernt, Deputy Director, ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project on Oct. 29, 2020 at the Abromson Community Education Center.

MCJPAL co-chairing task force on juvenile justice system

The Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law (MCJPAL) at the University of Maine School of Law is the co-chair of a new task force to examine the state’s juvenile justice system and develop recommendations for a continuum of care for system-involved youth and those at risk for becoming involved in the justice system.

Established through a collaborative effort between Maine legislators, the Department of Corrections, and the state Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, the task force has the goal of producing a final report of findings and recommendations in early 2020.

Chaired by Rep. Michael Brennan, D-Portland, Department of Corrections Commissioner Randall Liberty, and Jill Ward of MCJPAL, the task force brings together state government leaders from multiple agencies, legislators, the Judiciary branch, practitioners, and impacted communities. The task force will work with national experts to assess the efficacy of the current system and develop recommendations to improve outcomes for system-involved youth.

The group will study ways Maine can develop a more comprehensive, coordinated continuum of care that more effectively targets resources to meet individual needs in ways that support families and strengthen communities.

The work of the task force will be guided by LD 1108, legislation introduced by Brennan, and previous work of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

MCJPAL

The Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law at the University of Maine School of Law was established in June 2017 with a grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation to support Juvenile Justice Clinic students and faculty in their policy work. Through ongoing coordination of and collaboration with partners and stakeholders, MCJPAL works to advance efforts to reduce harm to and increase positive outcomes for current and former system-involved Maine youth.

In this coordinating role, MCJPAL provides the platform for the Juvenile Justice Reform Work Group, a core group of juvenile justice professionals and advocates who work to identify and examine juvenile justice policies, programs, and practices designed to reduce inappropriate detention and confinement and increase fairness in the juvenile justice system. The MCJPAL is also the Maine member of the National Juvenile Justice Network.
Maria Luisa Aguilar Rodriguez, International Advocacy Officer at the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center (Centro Prodh) in Mexico, presented the eighth annual Justice For Women (JFW) Lecture on March 27. She discussed “The Human Rights Crisis in Mexico: Origins, Impacts, Opportunities.”

Aguilar Rodriguez is a Mexican human rights advocate. She has spent the last eight years working to promote accountability for human rights violations at two of Mexico’s foremost human rights organizations. She joined Centro Prodh after working at a grassroots organization in the State of Guerrero in Southern Mexico, a state notorious for its violence and human rights abuses. At Centro Prodh, she focuses on access to justice and reparations for victims of human rights violations. She advocates for new judicial mechanisms aimed at combating impunity and also works on cases related to women’s and indigenous rights, torture (especially sexual torture against women), and enforced disappearances. She holds a B.A. in International Affairs from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education and an M.A. in Human Rights in Theory and Practice from the University of Essex, UK.

The JFW Lecture Series brings speakers to Maine each year to discuss their work and strategies to promote justice for women and girls. Maine Law established the series in 2011 with leadership and support from attorney and civic leader Catherine Lee of Lee International. To support the lecture series, visit www.mainelawcommunity.org/donatejusticeforwomen.

Courage is Contagious Award

The 2019 Courage is Contagious Award was presented during the lecture to Lucky Hollander.

Hollander has worked in human services for more than 45 years, focusing on child and family outreach services and child advocacy. In 2013, she developed a project called Hopeful Links, which focuses on making sure unaccompanied minors from war-torn countries (mostly Central Africa) have meaningful adults in their lives, safe housing, legal assistance, emotional and medical care, and the support they need to be successful. She was inspired to create Hopeful Links after meeting an unaccompanied minor who needed a place to live and learning there were many other children in Portland who have been sent here alone for their safety. She has done extensive training and community organizing locally and nationally on issues of child abuse and prevention, domestic violence, and the use of focus groups to develop programs and community initiatives.

She is the fourth recipient of the Courage is Contagious Award. This award is presented annually at the Justice For Women Lecture to an outstanding woman leader who demonstrates a commitment to the mission of the Justice For Women Lecture Series.

Save the Date

The 9th Annual Justice For Women Lecture will be presented by Emtithal “Emi” Mahmoud of Sudan on March 25, 2020 at the Abromson Community Education Center.

Previous JFW lecturers

> Hon. Unity Dow (2012) – the first woman to serve as a judge on Botswana’s High Court.
> Leymah Gbowee (2013) – an activist and women’s rights advocate who won a Nobel Peace Prize for helping to end civil war in Liberia.
> Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda (2016) – CEO and head of mission of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (Zimbabwe).
> Zainah Anwar (2017) – Director of Musawah and Founding Member and former Executive Director of Sisters in Islam (Malaysia).
> Hon. Albie Sachs of South Africa also participated as a special lecturer in 2013.
Maine Law’s PreLaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program marked a fourth successful year in 2019. The goal of the PLUS program is to bring more diversity to the legal profession in Maine and around the country. Since 2016, Maine Law has welcomed undergraduate students of color, immigrants, students challenged by poverty, first-generation college students, and students from rural areas to explore if law school is a path for them.

These students undertake a rigorous, three-week curriculum, taught by Maine Law professors and staff, that introduces them to core legal concepts, legal research and writing skills, and the legal profession. The students also have the opportunity to observe and learn from the Maine legal community through courthouse observations, law firm receptions, and visits to the Statehouse.

With support from the Maine Law community, including alumni, friends, law firms, and foundations, the Law School was able to continue this important program for another year. Our fourteen PLUS scholars for the 2019 program came from as far away as California and as near as Portland to explore their interests in law and their voices as future leaders.

The students were overwhelmed by the support and mentoring they received from the Law School faculty, and the access and welcome they received from the Maine bench and bar. From this experience, many of the PLUS scholars found the confidence they were seeking to strive toward their professional goals.

Among this past summer’s highlights:
> A keynote address by Felix Hagenimana ’18 who shared his story of surviving the Rwandan genocide.
> Judge Peter Cary hosted scholars for a morning at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine.
> Local attorneys conducted mock interviews.
> Judges Keith Powers ’73 and Jed French ’94 hosted the scholars in criminal court. Scholars observed in custody initial appearances, during which Judge French, the prosecutor, and the lawyer of the day met with the scholars to explain the proceedings and answer their questions.
> Judges Rick Lawrence and John Beliveau hosted the scholars in Lewiston District Court to observe protection from abuse hearings. Judge Beliveau met with the scholars in chambers to answer their questions about the proceedings. Scholars were also able to observe a trial during this visit.
> Scholars participated in a field trip to Augusta where they met with Governor Janet Mills ’76 and Representative Andrew McLean ’20 and also took a tour of the State House. The tour was led by Maine’s Secretary of State, Matthew Dunlap.
> Chief Justice Leigh Saufley ’80 hosted the scholars at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, where they observed an appellate oral argument. At the conclusion of the oral argument, the two attorneys spent time answering the scholars’ questions.
> Scholars attended a networking reception hosted by Bernstein Shur.

Maine Law continues to be grateful to the Maine legal community for its enthusiastic support of this program. Having concluded the funded grant period, Maine Law PLUS relies on your contributions to sustain this vital pipeline effort, the purpose of which is to promote diversity and inclusion of Maine’s bench and bar.
Strengthening Maine Law’s Arctic collaborations

By Charles H. Norchi  
Benjamin Thompson Professor of Law

Geography favors the University of Maine School of Law. Our state strides two international borders – Canada and the Atlantic Ocean. We sit on an extensive coast in a city with an international port and a vibrant blue economy. Because of our exceptional location, our Law School has a maritime tradition unique among American law schools. The reach of Maine Law has extended across maritime routes to Europe and beyond. We have had longstanding student exchanges and research collaborations in Canada, Ireland, and France. And, as of this year, the Law School has collaborations – which will directly benefit our students – in Iceland, Norway, and Greenland. The reach of our school now extends to the Arctic.

Maine Law’s Arctic activities began in 2016 when the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental organization, met in Portland. I was a member of the host committee, which entailed organizing an affiliated conference – the Maine Arctic Forum. The Forum brought Arctic experts from across the state, including Professor Paul Mayewski, a prominent glaciologist who runs the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. Paul and I had the opportunity to consider Arctic problems from the standpoints of our respective disciplines, and that led to an article, “The Arctic: Science, Law and Policy” in the *Ocean & Coastal Law Journal.*

We recognized the further need to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching, so we launched the Arctic Futures Institute (AFI) as a joint project of the Center for Oceans & Coastal Law, the Climate Change Institute, and the World Ocean Observatory, which is directed by Peter Neill. In June 2018, we held our first AFI teaching initiative – the Arctic Summer Institute – a week-long intensive course conducted between law firm Verizon and the Law School.

In 2018, I took a sabbatical in Iceland as the Fulbright-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Arctic Scholar. A research project with Professor Bjarni Magnússon of Reykjavik University became a jointly authored book chapter on “Geopolitics and International Law in the Arctic.” I also published general articles, “Polar Polarity: A Letter from Iceland,” and “Unlike Antarctica, There is no Arctic Treaty,” taught at the Universities of Iceland and Akureyri, presented at the Arctic Circle Assembly, and joined the board of the Journal of the North Atlantic and Arctic.

In the summer of 2019, we held our second Arctic Futures Workshop in Greenland. We brought 16 faculty and researchers from multiple disciplines to southwest Greenland through the support of the University of Maine System Research Reinvestment Fund, the USM Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF), and the University of Maine Office of the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School. Many disciplines were represented on this trip – arts, sciences, and law. Our two-person law school contingent included Visiting Associate Professor Jeffrey Thaler.

The focus of this Arctic Futures Workshop was the Kujataa UNESCO World Heritage Site. Among our goals were that our group learn about the area, interact with Greenlanders, identify common issues, and devise proposals for addressing the challenges and quality of life in the Arctic and also in Maine.

The essential impact upon the area is climate change, hence the involvement of our Climate Change Institute colleagues was critical. The workshop was a catalyst for participants to develop interdisciplinary research and teaching projects. As Professor Mayewski observed, “We’ve opened doors for everything from courses to undergraduate and graduate programs to pilot studies and research.”

Maine Law continues to develop opportunities for students to participate in vital Arctic scholarship. Students can already work on scholarship as members of the *Ocean & Coastal Law Journal* and participate in training and research opportunities through the Arctic Futures Institute. Students can also participate in the Arctic Law Project of our Center for Oceans and Coastal Law, study the field at the Arctic University of Norway, Reykjavik University in Iceland, or the National University of Ireland. And in early 2020 the Law School will launch an Arctic Law Fellows Program.

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4 *Journal of the North Atlantic and Arctic*, June 2018.
When Governor Janet Mills signed L.D. 1304 (An Act to Ease Financial Burdens for Juveniles Involved in the Justice System) into law on June 26, 2019, it was the culmination of three years of work by a coalition of dedicated Maine Law students and youth advocates. Whitney Lallas ’19 and Reggie Parson ’19 spearheaded the effort, working with the Juvenile Justice Clinic (JJC), under the supervision of the Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law (MCJPAL).

The legislation provides new protections for young people who are ordered by a judge to pay restitution. These payments will no longer go to insurance companies, as they often have in the past, but only to victims. In addition, those younger than 16 are now presumed financially unable to pay fines and fees unless the state proves otherwise. Also, juveniles who are ordered to pay restitution will now be able to have that obligation modified or eliminated when their circumstances change.

Maine Law Clinical Professor Christopher Northrop, who launched the JJC in 2006, says that until now there has been “no legal remedy, no way for these youth to ever escape this obligation regardless of the circumstances.” For many young offenders, large restitution fees, often paid over lengthy periods of time, create financial burdens that follow them well into adulthood and keep them tied to the justice system.

While the goal of restitution is to make offenders accountable to their victims, the policy fails to take the economic hardship or living situation of juveniles into account, resulting in extreme inequity. “It’s not really holding someone accountable if their parents can easily pay off their fines. What it teaches is: money buys you justice, and if you’re poor you don’t get justice,” says Jill Ward, project manager of MCJPAL. The new law is a step toward leveling the playing field.

Lallas and Parson were the driving force behind L.D. 1304, beginning when they saw their young clients, many of whom were homeless or had extremely limited resources, being pulled back into juvenile court for non-payment of fees. They quickly realized the problem required a legislative fix. “It’s a beautiful thing when a student can come back from court and say, ‘This is really wrong. How can we fix it? Not only for our client, but for all youth in Maine?’” says Northrop.

The students’ involvement included drafting and redrafting the statute, finding sponsors and co-sponsors, attracting partners like the ACLU of Maine and the Maine Association of Defense Lawyers, and testifying in support of the bill. They also encouraged their clients to bring their own stories to the legislature. Ward emphasizes that “It wasn’t just (Lallas and Parson) testifying about representing these young people, but also helping them prepare to testify and making them part of the advocacy process.”

Lallas and Parson also worked to locate available grant money, eventually connecting with the Antonia J. Daley Foundation. “As a result,” says Northrop, “a number of young adults have already been able to cover all their restitution fines and fees and clean their slates.”

Ward says, “Fostering real-world, practical opportunities to address problems that students themselves identify reflects really well on the Law School.” She adds that the partnership between the Clinic and MCJPAL, thanks in large part to generous support from the John T. Gorman Foundation, creates opportunities for students to “get outside the academic world and understand the field in a bigger picture way.”
Bringing together law, business, policy, & public health programs

Maine Law is part of an innovative new initiative called the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center (Maine Center). Located in Portland but serving students and employers statewide, the Maine Center brings together programs in law, business, policy, and public health to train the workforce of the future and grow Maine’s economy.

The Maine Center supports expanded interdisciplinary and experiential opportunities for Maine Law students. Key initiatives include expanding collaborative teaching, increasing online programming, exploring opportunities for additional clinic offerings, building relationships with international academic partners, and connecting student entrepreneurs to Maine’s booming startup scene.

In 2019, the Maine Center:

> Began exploring fundraising opportunities to support student scholarships, faculty hiring, academic programming, and construction of a new building on the USM Portland campus that would house Maine Law along with the graduate business and policy programs.
> Identified a grant opportunity to support the Rural Lawyer Project and then collaborated with Maine Law staff to write and submit the grant. Awarded in October, this grant from the Betterment Fund will fund the project for the next three years.
> Sponsored a student in the Certificate in Compliance program and pledged funds to create an online version of the program.
> Initiated a partnership with the Maine Center for Entrepreneurs and the New England Ocean Cluster to provide incubator/accelerator space for students and faculty in downtown Portland. A renovated “smart classroom” and conference room on the USM campus are already available for startup collaborations.
> Co-sponsored faculty and staff trips to Norway and Greenland to foster international collaboration between academic institutions and lay the foundation for potential student exchange programs.
> Hosted a retreat for faculty and staff from law, business, and policy programs to identify collaboration opportunities.

The Maine Center is also building its capacity to deliver continuing legal education opportunities. For example, the Maine Center contributed to the development of an October workshop on maritime port law.

About the Maine Center

The Maine Center is an academic consortium made up of four programs: the University of Maine School of Law, the University of Maine Graduate School of Business, the graduate programs of the Muskie School of Public Service, and the Cutler Institute of Health and Social Policy.

This consortium is a new strategy to address Maine’s demographic and economic challenges, grounded in the belief that public education can be a powerful catalyst for economic growth. The Maine Center fosters collaborations between the four consortium partners to develop graduate and professional education programming that is responsive to the evolving needs of Maine’s legal, civic, and business communities.

The Maine Center is a priority initiative of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees and is supported by a challenge grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation.

To learn more, visit umainecenter.org

Podcast focuses on emerging issues in law, business, & policy

In September, the Maine Center launched a podcast called “The Greater Good.” The podcast explores complex and emerging issues in law, business, and policy, and is hosted by Maine Law’s own Carrie Wilshusen ’07, associate dean for admissions. Faculty, students, and external guests discuss how these three fields contribute to the greater good of Maine and the nation as a whole.

Recent episodes featuring Maine Law faculty and students discussed: information privacy, juvenile justice, compliance, immigration and detention, and the Arctic and climate change.

You can find episodes at umainecenter.org/greatergood, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Carrie Wilshusen ’07 speaks with a guest on the Greater Good Podcast.
Building a strong future

Report recommends strategic steps for strengthening school

In early 2019, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees convened the Committee to Advise on the Future Direction of the Law School. We recently spoke with Maine Law Professor Deirdre Smith ’94, who co-chaired the Committee with Kurt Adams ’97, about the group’s work.

What was the genesis of the Committee to Advise on the Future Direction of the Law School?
At the start of 2019, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees and the Chancellor formed the Committee, a group of 12 legal community experts and stakeholders, to advise it on several key issues involving the Law School. The context for the Committee’s formation included a challenging national law school admissions climate, questions about the appropriate level of funding for the Law School, and the opportunities presented by the System’s One University Initiative and the University of Maine Graduate & Professional Center.

In the charter establishing the Committee, then-Chancellor James Page noted that while “Maine Law has a long and distinguished history of preparing lawyers for Maine and beyond, of providing the value of a quality legal education to those engaging in other pursuits, and of serving as a vital repository of the exceptional culture of high quality, ethical and civil practice embodied by the Maine bench and bar,” the school lacked a “stable and predictable funding stream sufficient to achieve its fundamental mission of providing a high-quality legal education.”

The Committee was charged with creating a report with recommendations to be delivered to the Board of Trustees in advance of its July 2019 meeting, and the charter spelled out several specific areas to be addressed in the report.

Who was involved?
Along with Kurt Adams, Maine Law Class of ’97 and CEO of Summit Utilities, I was a member of the Committee and served as a co-chair. Everyone in the Maine Law community contributed to the Committee’s work. Students, faculty, and staff participated in facilitated focus group sessions where they shared information and ideas. Many people at the Law School provided extensive support for the Committee’s work by compiling, organizing, and presenting information about the Law School, most notably: Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration Nicole Vinal, Associate Dean for Admissions Caroline Wilshusen ’07, Interim Dean Dmitry Bam, and professors Jennifer Wriggins, Jeff Maine, Andrew Kaufman, Peter Guffin, and Anna Welch. The Committee received excellent support from the System, including UMS Chief of Staff and General Counsel Jim Thelen, UMS Director of Organization Effectiveness Kim Jenkins, and Special Assistant to the USM President Joan Cohen, among many others. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni addressed the Committee during public comment opportunities.

What was involved in the creation of the report?
The Committee got to work immediately after the charter was issued. It met seven times between March and May and reviewed extensive information about the current state of legal education both at Maine Law and nationwide. The Committee also reviewed information on Maine’s legal needs. It heard presentations from faculty, staff, the Dean, students, alumni, law firms, attorneys in public and private sectors, and representatives from the Law School’s Foundation and Board of Visitors. It also heard a report on the faculty, staff, and student focus group sessions.

The Committee retained a national expert on legal trends, Professor William Henderson of Indiana School of Law, whose research focuses on the empirical analysis of the legal profession and legal education. In his report and presentation to the Committee, Professor Henderson told us that Maine Law is well-positioned to develop new opportunities for students in the rapidly evolving legal market, and he outlined some “possible avenues for exploration” as part of strategic planning for Maine Law’s future. The Committee reviewed all of the in-
One of the Committee’s key findings is that Maine Law is ‘a strategic asset of the State of Maine.’

Deirdre Smith, Maine Law Professor & Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic
As a lawyer who spent my early career prosecuting felonies in Brooklyn, New York before becoming a public servant in Connecticut, my career was already rich and rewarding before I took the helm as Chancellor of the University of Maine System this past July 1. It is an honor to share these perspectives with Maine Law’s alumni and friends in the same issue that profiles one of Maine’s most distinguished lawyer/public servant families and Maine alumni working as prosecutors.

Maine Law is one of our greatest public assets. Indeed, the entire state relies on the lawyers and public leaders who hang a Maine Law diploma and Maine Bar license on their walls to drive commerce, public policy, and civic life forward. This is among the reasons why the University of Maine System is repositioning Maine Law within UMS to better align with Maine’s public universities and give Maine Law’s Dean a voice in the System office. And with new investments in faculty and student success, innovative cross-curricular opportunities with the UMaine MBA program and USM graduate public policy program as part of the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center, and even the promise of a new home for Maine Law on the horizon, the Maine Law community can have every confidence that its best days are ahead.

As much as Maine Law merits these new investments, its future success will be amplified through its partnership with the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center’s other graduate programs. And Maine needs this partnership to be successful. The challenge of Maine’s economic landscape is well-known: a declining and aging workforce, rapidly evolving business needs, and increased competition for professionals and graduate-level students. Maine employers need MBA-degreed managers who understand the complex legal and regulatory framework in which their businesses operate, and in turn, Maine individuals and businesses need licensed legal counsel who understand the business dynamics that influence their evaluation of legal risk. Maine’s town governments and nonprofits need civic leaders who can strategically engage both business and legal professionals to find new public-private opportunities to strengthen their communities. By working through the Maine Center’s interdisciplinary consortium of graduate business and public policy programs, Maine Law will play a vital role in giving all of these leaders the foundation to be successful in their professional and civil lives.

As a lawyer who turned to public life myself, it is an honor for me as Chancellor to help lead the work to ensure that public higher education and legal education thrives in Maine. I’m proud that Maine Law will play a critical role, building on its long tradition of educating Maine’s legal and civic leaders and propelling them into their careers and community life.

Dannel Malloy, Chancellor
University of Maine System

“I’m proud that Maine Law will play a critical role, building on its long tradition of educating Maine’s legal and civic leaders and propelling them into their careers and community life.”

Dannel Malloy, Chancellor, University of Maine System
MAINE LAW: For the public good

With its wealth of public service externship opportunities and the longstanding tradition of its alumni working in state government, Maine Law plays a vital role in preparing tomorrow’s leaders.

Alumni in Maine State Government*

**Governor**
Janet Mills ’76

**Maine House of Representatives**
Donna Bailey ’86
Anne Carney ’90
Andrew McLean ’20
Victoria Morales ’05
Stephen Moriarty ’78
Ralph Tucker ’74

**Maine State Senate**
Michael Carpenter ’83
Everett (Brownie) Carson ’77
Mark Lawrence ’90
Heather Sanborn ’07

**Governor’s Office**
Elise Baldacci ’12, Legislative Director
Derek Langhauser ’87, Chief Legal Counsel
Gerald Reid ’94, Department of Environmental Protection
John Rohde ’92, Workers’ Compensation Board
Bruce Van Note ’86, Department of Transportation

**Office of the Treasurer**
Henry Beck ’14

*As of January 1, 2020.*
Maine Law offers externships that give students opportunities for valuable hands-on experience. These externships can be an important step in establishing a career in public service.

Recent Public Service-Related Externships:

- City of Portland Corporation Counsel
- The District Attorney’s Office in counties throughout the state
- The Maine Attorney General’s Office
- The U.S. Attorney’s Office
- The Federal Defender’s Office
- Office of the Governor
- Maine District Court, Superior Court, and Supreme Judicial Court
- U.S. District Court (ME), U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and First Circuit Court of Appeals
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- The Internal Revenue Service
- The Department of Homeland Security
- Maine Human Rights Commission

About the program

“The Externship Program is an important part of students’ experiential education at Maine Law, allowing them the opportunity to work in the field, alongside experienced attorneys and judges, for academic credit. These experiences uniquely prepare students for careers in varied settings, including public service, by exposing them to the day-to-day activities of attorneys practicing in these settings, allowing them to identify and develop the skills necessary to be successful practitioners upon graduation. Maine Law students extern with a wide variety of state and federal placements, including the courts, both in-state and nationally.”

– Rachel Reeves ’01, Director of Field Placement Programs

Valuable hands-on experience

“Experiencing exactly what government and public service work actually entails can be very helpful for someone considering a career in the public service sphere, because of the general perception that this type of work is monotonous and unrewarding. I worked for the Child Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General, and they gave me hands-on experience handling pre-trial matters and preparing for two full trials. I also had the opportunity to write an appellate brief as a student attorney, which is not something that many students get to experience! Anyone who’s interested in litigation or appellate work and hasn’t considered public service as an avenue for those interests should try out an externship.”

– Jamie Lynn Bice ’19

Experience & opportunities

“I externed at the Maine Human Rights Commission for two semesters. My externship was hands-down my favorite part of law school. There’s just something so exhilarating about learning hands-on while you are managing your own caseload. My externship taught me that it’s just as important to be a neutral party as it is to be an advocate. It also inspired me to pursue a job with the MHRC, which paid off! I wouldn’t be where I am today without having done the externship program, and I am extremely grateful for the experiences and opportunities it gave me.”

– Alex Brindley ’19
As they gather for a group photo shoot at the Blaine House, the warm, affectionate banter between Janet, Peter, Paul, and Nancy Mills makes it instantly clear how close this family is. Small differences, like party affiliation (Janet is a Democrat, while her brothers are registered Republicans), don’t detract from the unconditional support they offer each other and the dedication they share to serving the State of Maine.

Perhaps it’s no coincidence that Governor Mills, her brothers Paul and Peter, and Peter’s wife Nancy are all graduates of Maine Law, an institution that places an extremely high value on public service. Like their alma mater, the Mills family has collectively played a profound role in shaping public policy in the state.

Few, if any, other Maine families have made this kind of impact. Their commitment to public service goes back generations — both sets of grandparents were devoted public servants. Each of their mother’s parents served as town clerks, and their paternal grandfather was a long-time state senator. Their father, S. Peter Mills Jr., served three terms in the Maine Legislature and was U.S. Attorney for Maine for 16 years.

Collectively, the Mills family’s service to the state is astonishing. Of the five siblings, three are Maine Law alums, and four have held elected office. (In addition, sibling Dora Anne Mills was the state’s director of public health for more than 14 years.) Oldest brother Peter served in the State Senate for more than 15 years before being appointed executive director of the Maine Turnpike Authority. Since 1993, Peter’s wife, Nancy, has served as a Maine Superior Court Justice. Paul, a Farmington-based attorney, is the family historian and prides himself on having moderated more than 200 town meetings in Franklin and Somerset counties. And after a long, dedicated public service career, Janet Mills is now the Governor of Maine.

Interim Law School Dean Dmitry Bam describes Governor Mills as a “trailblazer,” and it’s true that her accomplishments, including being the first woman in Maine to serve as a criminal prosecutor, first female Attorney General in the state, and the first woman elected to be Maine’s Governor, can only be described as groundbreaking. She credits her time at Maine Law with helping her learn to “think on her feet” and her family for its unqualified support.

Maine Law boasts a prodigious number of alumni who have chosen careers in public service, including graduates who work in the Governor’s office, as well as in the State Senate and House of Representatives. With their lifelong commitment to serving the people of Maine — not to mention the spirit and focus they bring to their work — the Law School couldn’t ask for a better representative of its ethos and mission than the Mills family.
What led you to a career in public service?
After graduating from Maine Law, I entered public service as an assistant attorney general in the Criminal Division of the AG’s office. A few years later I was elected district attorney for Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. As a prosecutor I saw how the criminal justice system often failed victims of domestic violence, and I co-founded the Maine Women’s Lobby to advocate for women’s issues in the Legislature. Later, while in private practice with my brother Peter, I won election to the Maine House of Representatives. Peter and I served at the same time for a while, and I came to enjoy using my legal skills to craft public policy. The Legislature then elected me Attorney General, and I served in that position for eight of the past 10 years — a job that combines politics, litigation, and public policy.

How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?
Maine Law sharpened my research skills, prepared me to think on my feet, and brought me lifelong productive relationships with many wonderful people.

What do you see as Maine Law’s role in preparing the state’s future leaders?
The Cumberland Legal Aid and Refugee and Human Rights Clinics serve a vital public purpose for people with dire legal needs. More broadly, Maine Law teaches future Maine lawyer-leaders vital analytical and communication skills so important to developing good public policy.

What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?
Lawyers generally help one client at a time, one issue at a time. Problem solving on a broader scale, enacting and implementing public policy at the local, state, or national level, will also bring you much satisfaction, whether you are prosecuting or defending criminal cases, managing a nonprofit, or serving in elected office.

What is your proudest professional accomplishment?
Expanding health care for Maine people. Nearly 44,000 people have enrolled in the MaineCare expansion since January, and we are working on ways to provide affordable health care to small businesses and self-employed individuals.
What led you to a career in public service?
Growing up, I recall a fascination with public affairs, whether it was reading my folks’ subscription to the Congressional Record, various newspapers (some of which, such as the Evening Express, Lewiston Sun, and Press Herald, we delivered as part of our family paper routes) and news magazines, or discussions in which we would all participate, watching news coverage on television, around the dinner table, or on family trips. I began writing print, TV, and radio news stories on public affairs as a teenager, a pursuit that likely evolved from all this. Though public service in a broad sense of the term has been a career, it is by no means the only one. Peter, Janet, and I have spent much of our adult life in the private practice of law. To the extent that serving the needs of clients in a rural area of the state can in and of itself be considered a public service, that is an element as well.

What do you see as Maine Law’s role in preparing the state’s future leaders?
Instilling in its students a sense that delivering legal services to all segments of society, regardless of demographic background, is a vital mission for lawyers today.

What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?
Take advantage, whether as a volunteer or as a paid intern, of the many opportunities available in Maine today, particularly while you’re still a student.

What is your proudest professional accomplishment?
In the public sector, it would likely be my service as a moderator of more than 200 town and school administrative district meetings. I’ve facilitated discussions and deliberations on thousands of issues that have emerged in 16 towns and school districts in Franklin and Somerset counties over the past 40 years.

Paul Mills ’77
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:
> Practicing attorney in Farmington since 1977
> Moderator for more than 200 town & school district budget meetings in 16 towns & school districts in Franklin & Somerset counties
> Author of more than 300 articles on public affairs appearing in various professional and popular publications in Maine
> Election analyst for over 25 years for WGME
> Member, Maine Board of Bar Examiners since 2003
> Member, Editorial Advisory Committee of the National Conf. of Bar Examiners 2009-17

What did Maine Law prepare you for your career?
Professors and fellow students were of course brilliant, inspiring, and thought-provoking. I remain in touch with and interact with many of them even today.
What led you to a career in public service?
My father and grandfather were both Maine lawyers who made occasional forays into legislative service. Fascinated by public policy, I followed in that tradition after intervening mentorships by Harry Richardson and Hoddy Hildreth.

How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?
The first year of law school is a boot camp for life, a great preparation for any professional challenge. You learn three basic skills: policy analysis, writing with clarity, and how to advocate persuasively.

What do you see as Maine Law’s role in preparing the state’s future leaders?
Pound for pound, Maine Law is the state’s most important public institution. Lawyers everywhere are the architects of the economic and social structures that enable society to grow and prosper. To the extent that Maine Law can attract and retain the very best candidates to live here, the long-range benefit to our state is immeasurable. There is no other source for growth quite so powerful.

What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?
Get into the practice of law and gain real world experience before attempting public service. Then proceed with patience. To get elected requires humbling yourself from door to door. To pass laws in the Legislature means playing bridge with 185 other players. Success comes from learning how to make yourself indispensable to others. It requires mastering every skill that Maine Law ever taught you.

What is your proudest professional accomplishment?
Leading the 1998 overhaul of unemployment insurance, enabling Maine to become one of the few states not forced to borrow for UI during recessions. I also led two successful efforts to stop the state from incurring large and inappropriate debts to meet ordinary expenses. In 2002, I played a role in expanding Medicaid coverage to childless adults, many of whom survived only by this extension of needed care. It was taken away in 2012, but I was pleased to see it restored after my sister become governor in 2019. Returning care to this population has greatly enhanced the ability of my wife Nancy to find services for defendants served by the specialty courts that she administers for the mentally ill, for those afflicted by substance abuse, and for veterans.

Peter Mills ’73
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS
> U.S. Navy 1965-70
> Attorney at Richardson, Hildreth, Tyler & Troubh in Portland 1973-82
> Wright & Mills law firm in Skowhegan since 1982 (now Mills, Shay, Lexier & Talbot)
> President, Maine Trial Lawyers 1992-94; Fellow of American College of Trial Lawyers since 1992
> State Senate 1994-2002; Maine House 2002-04; State Senate 2004-10
> Ran unsuccessfully in Republican Gubernatorial Primaries of 2006 and 2010
> Executive Director, Maine Turnpike Authority since March 17, 2011
What led you to a career in public service?
It may sound trite, but I believe that “from those to whom much has been given, much is expected.” Life’s circumstances seem so randomly bestowed. I have been given opportunities and support and must use those benefits to help others.

How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?
I had to work harder in law school than I ever had previously. Being willing to work hard and to be prepared trumps any number of deficiencies.

What do you see as Maine Law’s role in preparing the state’s future leaders?
Maine Law is the only law school in the state. If the school attracts bright and dedicated students, they will stay here and want to make this great state an even better place. This is a small state in terms of relationships and communication. People in Portland know and work with people in Caribou. Maine Law can promote the reality that in Maine, we can accomplish goals and improve life for everyone.

What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?
Law school is the best preparation for any career. Law school provides a road map for how things are supposed to work, how they actually work, and how they could work in a better world.

What are your proudest professional accomplishments?
First, establishing (along with many others) and presiding over Maine’s first and still only Co-Occurring Disorders Court in 2005 and Maine’s two Veterans Courts in 2011 and 2018.

Second, developing (along with others) the Cumberland County Mental Health Docket and Jail-Court Committee to address mentally ill defendants in the criminal justice system.
In 2002, Valerie Stanfill ’85, then the acting Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic (CLAC), approached Jim Burke with an innovative idea: what if Maine Law students could help provide the legal assistance to which so many prisoners lacked access? At that time, Burke had practiced law for 30 years and worked extensively with the ACLU of Maine on a variety of issues, including prisoners’ rights. He describes the impetus behind his life’s work this way: “My general philosophical bent is toward the underdog.”

Stanfill was seeking a director who could make a Prisoner Assistance Clinic (PAC) a reality, and Jim Burke was a perfect fit for the role.

When Burke retired in the summer of 2019, he wasn’t simply ending a distinguished career as a clinical professor whose students almost universally speak of him in “glowing terms,” according to his colleagues. Leaving Maine Law meant moving on from a role he had spent years lovingly cultivating.

“Jim really built the PAC from scratch — he had no models to work from,” says Deirdre Smith, professor of law and director of the CLAC. For more than 15 years, this innovative program has assisted hundreds of prisoners annually with civil legal matters, while providing students with what many have described as the single most enriching educational experience they’ve had. Clinical Professor
Christopher Northrop describes the PAC as providing far more than legal education: “It touches and improves the lives of each student and every client.”

Scott Dolan ’19 credits Burke and the PAC with truly teaching him how to practice law, far beyond what he could learn in classes. Burke’s familiarity with Maine’s legal world was an enormous advantage to his Clinic students, says Dolan. “He had experience in criminal law, probate, family law, civil litigation — he knew it all. For a newbie, it was so comforting. You knew exactly what to expect, where to stand, and what to say.”

“It’s hard to put into words how influential Jim Burke was to my legal education and career,” says Ryan Rutledge ’19, who also served as a PAC student attorney. “My experience there was nothing short of incredible. I went to law school because I wanted to help people, and the Prisoner Assistance Clinic allowed me to work with people who truly needed my help.”

While the PAC has evolved over the years, its basic premise has remained the same. Each semester, five third-year law students are sworn in as attorneys. They travel weekly to the Maine Correctional Center in Windham with a faculty supervisor, where they meet with any prisoner who needs help with a civil legal matter. Some of the issues these clients face include custody and child support, probate, bankruptcy, insurance law, and even copyright law and other business concerns.

The PAC provides students with extensive practical experience in a wide variety of legal areas. “When you run into a lawyer who hasn’t met the PAC students before and they start realizing the level at which they’re working, they’re flabbergasted,” says Burke. Smith says that learning to “interview, counsel, and talk to people” is the centerpiece of their experience, adding “I don’t know a better way to develop compassion and break down prejudices than sitting down and hearing people’s stories.”

The Maine Department of Corrections has been a vital partner in this project all along, in large part thanks to what Smith describes as Burke’s tireless dedication to that relationship. “The DOC recognizes what a huge benefit the PAC is for them,” she says.

Burke says, “I’ve been told at the prison that we provide a service so valuable that it saves them from having to hire counselors and extra guards.” While providing greater access to justice for an underserved group and empowering them to advocate for themselves, this work also benefits the entire state, increasing the odds that prisoners will successfully reintegrate into their communities — all while improving day-to-day life for both inmates and prison staff.

“Maine would be much worse off without the PAC,” says Rutledge. “Law students need practical experience, and underprivileged and vulnerable Mainers deserve quality legal representation. Everyone wins.”

The Prisoner Assistance Clinic will continue its work, providing an exceptional learning opportunity to students and helping an incarcerated population that’s often overlooked by society.

In early January, Courtney Beer ’07, formerly the directing attorney at the Pine Tree Legal Assistance Kids Legal Program, took the helm as Director. Interim Dean Dmitry Bam says, “We were so fortunate to find Courtney — she’s well known and well respected in Maine, and she’ll bring many years of practice experience into the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic.”

Beer is very familiar with Burke’s legacy and CLAC’s mission.

“To say it’s an honor to follow in Jim’s footsteps is an understatement,” she says. “My experience as a student attorney in CLAC was one of the most influential experiences I had in law school. I am honored to be afforded the opportunity to continue to build and support a clinical program that provides students with learning opportunities to develop essential lawyering skills while providing incarcerated individuals critical access to civil legal services.”

Still, Jim Burke’s absence will be sorely felt. “Jim was a great clinical professor because not only did he teach a generation of students to be outstanding lawyers, he taught all of his students invaluable lessons about humility and humanity,” says Northrop. Dolan says Burke taught him that every client, no matter their circumstances, deserves the same level of help. “Jim would actually say, ‘Find love in your heart for everyone,’ and he was someone who truly practiced what he preached.” Reflecting on life after Maine Law, Burke says, “I’ll miss the students most of all. What could be better than helping people learn how to do good work?”
The value of experience

Adjunct professors share real-world lessons

By Liz Woodbury

Among the wealth of resources available to Maine Law students, one of the most valuable is access to adjunct instructors who are passionate about teaching and dedicated to the school’s mission. Talking with just a few of these seasoned professionals makes it clear how much real-world expertise they offer to their students.

“Because nearly all of our adjuncts are practicing lawyers or sitting judges, they can really focus on the practical aspects of law,” says Maine Law Interim Dean Dmitry Bam.

When it comes to experience and a dedication to teaching, it would be difficult to match Adjunct Professor Gerald Petruccelli, who joined Maine Law as a professor in 1968. What began as a one-year substitute position evolved into a career-long relationship with Maine Law. After a recent four-year hiatus from teaching, Petruccelli returned in 2019 to divide his time between his busy practice and his Civil Procedure class.

“From the time I was a kid, I never thought about any career but teacher or lawyer,” Petruccelli says. After graduating from Boston College Law School, he fell naturally into the teaching side of this equation, first at the University of Toledo and then at Maine Law, a position that moved the New England native back to “what felt more like home.” He began practicing law in 1973 but continued teaching part-time, initially as a lecturer, and later as an adjunct professor.

“The adjunct faculty can draw lessons based on the cases they are currently working on in their own practice. This immediacy makes things exciting and relevant for our students.”

Dmitry Bam, Interim Dean

Adjunct Professor Gerald Petruccelli in the 1L Classroom.
Maine Law is fortunate to have deeply experienced and dedicated adjunct faculty. Here are a few who are making valuable contributions to the education of our students.

Hon. Peter G. Cary was sworn in as the District of Maine’s fifth United States Bankruptcy Judge in January of 2014 and presently serves as the Chief Judge of the Court. He is also a panel member of the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the First Circuit, treasurer of the Maine State-Federal Judicial Council, an advisory director of the Nathan & Henry B. Cleaves Law Library, and a member of the First Circuit Workplace Conduct Committee. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and his law degree from Boston College Law School. He is certified in both consumer and business bankruptcy law by the American Board of Certification.

Jamesa Drake earned a B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and a J.D. from George Washington University Law School. She has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, litigated hundreds of appeals including cases before the First and Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the state supreme courts of Maine, Kentucky, and Oregon; and represented seven people on death row. Drake lectures and writes about criminal appellate matters and is the president of the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Diane Kenty is a full-time court administrator who manages statewide rosters of mediators for the Maine courts. Previously, she practiced law in Boston and trained as a mediator at the Harvard Program of Instruction for Lawyers. After mediating small claims cases, she began to mediate in the Multi-Door Courthouse program in the Middlesex County Superior Court, the U.S. District Court, and the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office. She also served as an arbitrator on the Commercial Arbitration Panel of the American Arbitration Association. Kenty has served on the boards of national and state ADR organizations.

Virginia (Ginny) Lee, who graduated from Maine Law in 2005, followed her career to the West Coast, where she worked as director of global privacy at Starbucks, senior attorney for privacy/security at Intel Corporation, director of platform and product privacy at Yahoo!, and head of global data privacy and director, senior corporate counsel at ServiceNow. She returned to Maine in 2018 to open her own practice. Lee is admitted to practice in Maine, Washington, and Oregon and is a registered patent attorney.

Gerald Petruccelli has taught at Maine Law for more than 40 years, as a professor of law from 1968 to 1975, a lecturer from 1975 to 1979, and since 1979 as an adjunct professor. His course offerings have included Civil Procedures, Evidence, Contracts, Commercial Law, Bankruptcy, Torts, Constitutional Law, Copyrights, and The Legal Process. In 1971 he was a special assistant attorney general in Maine, and from 1973 to 1980 he practiced law at Preti Flaherty. Since 1980, Petruccelli has worked for Petruccelli, Martin, and Haddow, LLP in Portland.

Kaighn Smith ’86, leads Drummond Woodsum’s nationwide Tribal Nations Practice Group, working as a civil litigator in the field of federal Indian law and in civil rights, labor and employment, and contractual disputes. He represents Indian nations in tribal, state, and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. After graduating from Maine Law, he clerked for Judge Frank M. Coffin at the U.S. Court of Appeals and for Justice Louis Scolnik at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Smith has won cases in areas ranging from sovereignty disputes, gaming matters, and labor relations to fishing and water rights.

Looking back, Petruccelli believes his work as a practicing attorney clearly benefited his teaching. “I taught evidence courses both before and after I had practiced as a lawyer, and I have no doubt I did better after I had actually tried a case,” he says. He also acknowledges that balancing the two can be challenging. “It’s demanding,” says Petruccelli. “What I decided at an early point was that I needed to treat every class like it was a difficult deposition or important motion hearing. They really do require a comparable kind of preparation.”

The varied experience of Maine Law’s adjunct professors is reflected in the breadth of their specialties, which range from bankruptcy law and privacy to federal Indian law. Bam says that while every professor at Maine Law has practiced prior to teaching, “The adjunct faculty can draw lessons based on the cases they are currently working on in their own practice. This immediacy makes things exciting and relevant for our students.”

Adjunct Professor Ginny Lee ’05 has a background in business and engineering, along with more than two decades in the tech industry. Her work in information privacy law has included stints at Starbucks, Intel, and Yahoo!, and it’s this experience as in-house counsel that she considers most useful to her students. “The fact that I can give them practical advice from that perspective, rather than as someone who’s worked at big law firms, is hugely beneficial to them,” Lee says.

Bam notes that many adjuncts act as mentors, forming close bonds that persist after graduation. In fact, since Lee began teaching in 2018, she has fielded many phone calls from students seeking advice as they launch their careers. “I always encourage
them to contact me for advice afterwards, and they take me up on it,” she laughs.

Since 2013, appellate attorney Jamesa Drake has balanced her own busy, highly specialized practice with adjunct teaching at Maine Law, most recently Criminal Procedure — Investigations. She says the best part of teaching is “watching former students transition to active practice,” particularly the fact that “many keep in touch and regularly reach out to knock around ideas.”

The main benefit of learning from an adjunct, in Drake’s opinion, is that “practicing lawyers know where doctrine ends and practicality begins.” In her experience, “criminal cases are affected by a client’s resources, political leanings of decision-makers, and myriad other factors.” She tells her students that managing these aspects of a case is at least as important as understanding and applying the law. “Adjuncts are uniquely situated to convey these realities.”

Students in Adjunct Professor Kaighn Smith’s classes have the rare opportunity to delve into the realities of an unusually complex legal area. “Federal Indian law is a process of this country coming to grips with its colonial history, which is fundamentally unjust,” says Smith ’86, who stresses his perspective as an advocate, both in practicing and teaching this area of law. “There are so many things about this field that turn notions of the law on its head. It tests a lot of the operating assumptions that students come into the field with and challenges them in unique ways.”

Current action in the Maine Legislature to enhance tribal sovereignty makes this a particularly exciting time for Smith, who typically spends the first two-thirds of the semester on federal law before focusing on Maine. “This is about history that is so often ignored,” he says, as well as challenging the implicit bias that students frequently bring into the classroom. At the same time, it’s important to Smith that his students understand “there is absolutely no such thing as a dumb question.”

Although he’s only been an adjunct professor for two years, Peter Cary, Chief Judge of the District of Maine’s United States Bankruptcy Court, has a longstanding relationship with the Law School. He’s been a visiting speaker in many classes over the years and has hosted several externships. “I love teaching a small group of dedicated students on a topic that is near and dear to me,” says Cary. “The thrill of engaging with smart people in the application of an incredibly complex piece of legislation — the United States Bankruptcy Code — to real world situations is so rewarding.”

Cary describes a “good day in teaching” as one in which he and his co-instructor, Barry Schklair, are able to bring their combined decades of experience in bankruptcy practice into conversation with the more scholarly aspects of the law. He especially enjoys conveying the fact that a bankruptcy lawyer’s job is essentially “designing a path to an optimistic future — an amazingly hopeful thing.”

Cary considers this direct, day-to-day experience to be a “dramatic advantage” for adjunct professors. He also believes that teaching has helped his work life: “I’m a better judge by having taught — I can really drill down into the statutory structure, because I had to in class.” Adjunct Professor Diane Kenty echoes this: “Teaching the Mediation Practicum has helped me be a better mediator. It prompts me to articulate concepts that I might not otherwise crystallize so clearly, and, of course, I feel compelled to practice what I preach!”

Kenty is a full-time court administrator who manages statewide rosters of mediators for the Maine courts. “In my full-time job, I have the opportunity to be in mediation a lot, and I try to bring that experience into the classroom though real-life examples to illustrate important learning points,” she says. She describes Maine Law students as uniquely “smart, funny, and caring,” adding that the collaboration mediation requires is a natural fit for many of them. “When I accompany students to court as they mediate small claims cases, I’m always impressed at how they rise to the challenge. I see their skills as mediators strengthen and progress in just the short span of a semester.”

There’s no shortage of admiration for Maine Law students among these instructors, and both Smith and Lee mention their pleasure at having the opportunity to “give back” to their alma mater. Smith adds, “I love the Law School — its size, intimacy, and community feel. The Maine Bar is unique, and I think it has a very high caliber of lawyers thanks to the high standards of Maine Law.”

As for Petruccelli, he’s fulfilled his childhood dreams in full. “I’ve found the student experience to be terrific, and I have so many interesting and talented colleagues. Mainly, I feel so lucky to get the opportunity to do both things I wanted to do from the start.” ML
Maine Law graduates thrive as prosecutors

The University of Maine School of Law is preparing students for careers as criminal prosecutors with unique course offerings, access to relevant externship and internship opportunities, a creative blend of hands-on skills training, and connections to the Maine legal community.

As an example of its innovative approach to education, last spring the Law School began offering a new evidence and trial advocacy course that combines the two subjects into one course. Students enrolled in the course learned the rules of evidence and then immediately put that knowledge to work in an advocacy setting. There are only two other law schools in the country that are teaching a combined course like this.

Associate Professor Thea Johnson, who teaches courses on plea bargaining, criminal law, and criminal procedure taught the evidence portion of the course.

“You learn a rule of evidence, like what’s the rule of impeachment through prior convictions,” said Johnson when describing the new course. “Then you go through and practice that skill because really the only way to learn evidence is to do it out loud. You can read the book all day, but if you aren’t practicing the rules they won’t seep into your brain.”

The trial advocacy portion of the class was taught by Visiting Professor Jeffrey Thaler and Adjunct Professor Jon Chapman.

“It took a lot of work to put together a new syllabus and new trial advocacy exercises,” said Thaler. “But in the end, students greatly improved their advocacy skills and knowledge of the evidence rules.”

Students also have the benefit of a strong externship program and access to other opportunities like internships through the Office of Career Services. In addition to providing valuable experience and building connections, the externships and internships let students see if the career is the right fit.

For Grant Whelan ’18 an internship with the Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office led to full-time employment after he graduated.

Said Whelan, “Early in my internship, I realized Cumberland had a dedicated group of lawyers and staff, and I wanted to learn from all of them.”

Another source of real-world skill-building is the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic (CLAC). While CLAC doesn’t explicitly offer prosecutorial experience, it does help students develop the fundamental skills needed to be a successful lawyer – skills like how to write well and how to advocate persuasively and forcefully.

Finally, the direct connections Maine Law students make with the Maine legal community are very beneficial for their future careers as prosecutors.

Said Professor Johnson, “If you want to be a prosecutor in Maine the best idea is to come to Maine Law because, unlike some positions, prosecution work is very, very local. The ideal prosecutor is someone who knows the community.”

As illustrated in the prosecutor profiles on these pages, the Law School’s approach is yielding success. For all of the profiled alumni, local clearly matters, with each citing the importance of helping their own communities as a top reason for their career satisfaction.

As Assistant District Attorney Amanda Doherty ’08 explained, “There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t feel like I’m working hard for the greater good of my community.”

Grant Whelan ’18
Assistant District Attorney,
Cumberland County

I chose to be a prosecutor because I wanted to have a positive impact on the community where my kids are growing up. I’m getting there.

ML
Alumni at work

Maine Law graduates are making their marks as prosecutors.

Jackie Sartoris ’10
Assistant District Attorney, Kennebec County

What is involved in your work? I prosecute regular cases and am the prosecutor for two of Kennebec County’s alternative courts: Veterans and Co-Ocurring Disorders. These courts allow defendants to enter guilty pleas then work intensively with mental health and substance use treatment providers to address the underlying issues that inform their criminal conduct. Most often, they achieve the better outcome in their plea agreement, generally avoiding a felony conviction and moving toward a better life. The skills I need: fact- and law-informed skepticism, picking battles carefully, and deference to the court.

What is the best part of your work? It’s quite rewarding to create resolutions in a criminal case that provide good outcomes for victims and defendants, but winning a trial turns out to be awfully satisfying. The work that I do in the alternative courts involves the greatest investment in each participant, so there’s a constant tension between hope and disappointment. Seeing folks truly change is remarkable. Seeing them fail is hard.

What is the greatest challenge? A prosecutor’s heightened duty is to do justice, not merely to win. To look beyond the demeanor of a particular defendant or their attorney and strive for a just result notwithstanding the occasional slings and arrows sometimes requires a deep breath. Or two.

How did Maine Law prepare you for your career? Although I never considered becoming a prosecutor while a student, Maine Law gave me the confidence I needed as a lawyer to take on new challenges and continuously grow. That experience enables me to thrive here.

Why should Maine Law students consider careers as prosecutors? It’s an incredible honor to get to do justice – it’s like being gifted a superhero power – but my colleagues themselves are the best case I could make for this career. I’m privileged to work alongside people I respect so highly, and from whom I learn every day.

Natasha Irving ’09
District Attorney, Prosecutorial District 6, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc Counties

What is involved in your work? I was elected district attorney in Prosecutorial District 6 in November of 2018. The skills of being elected district attorney and being district attorney are similar, though the day to day is very different. As an elected position, the district attorney is an executive and public policy position in which you develop, shape, and implement criminal justice policies as the chief law enforcement officer of the district, whether that is one-on-one with staff, prosecutors, and local police, or working on legislative reform at the state level. Running for office is really about connecting with voters, sharing your vision with them, and listening to their experiences and their hopes for a justice system that keeps their families safe and reflects their values. The most important skills in my work are listening skills, the ability to be dynamic and always incorporate new information into policy goals, and the ability to advocate for my community and for the ideals of justice.

What is the best part of the job? The prosecutor’s main goal is justice. Whether it is fighting for a victim’s safety and making their voice heard, or diverting a defendant into treatment instead of jail for substance use disorder or mental illness, being able to represent the values of my community through the justice system is a real privilege that invigorates me and my staff every day.

What is the greatest challenge? The greatest challenge in my work is fighting it out for a victim at trial and getting a not guilty verdict or breaking the news to a victim that we are not able to prosecute a crime due to lack of evidence that we can present at a trial. Victims deserve justice, and that is something that cannot always be accomplished through the criminal justice process.

How did Maine Law prepare you for your career? Maine Law taught me how to do a lot of work in a limited time, which is especially critical when it comes to high volume reading. You need to be able to read a lot and find what you are looking for to build your case or your argument. These skills are essential to any good and productive lawyer.

Why should Maine Law students consider careers as prosecutors? Because prosecutors make more real time decisions about justice than anyone else in the legal system. Do you seek a jail sentence for drug possession, or do you help someone get into treatment? Do you ask for cash bail that will hold a poor person in jail pre-trial, or do you ask for a pre-trial contract so they can keep their job and their home? Do you believe a survivor of sexual assault, or do you call it a “he said, she said” and close the file? Do you fight for the person that discloses sexual abuse five years after the fact, or do you say that too much time has passed and decline prosecution? These are the decisions prosecutors make every minute of every day, and if you are a caring, conscientious attorney who wants to see justice that reflects our community values, then we need you to be making these decisions.
Maine Law graduates are making their marks as prosecutors.

Amanda Doherty ’08
Assistant District Attorney (Team Supervisor), Cumberland County

What is involved in your work?
As an assistant district attorney, I review cases that are submitted to our office from police departments throughout Cumberland County, make a decision on if there is enough evidence to formally charge someone with a crime, and if there is, process the case by filing a charging instrument with the court or submitting proposed felony charges to a grand jury. I also have a unique role in our office of handling all probation violations, so I am privy to the interesting facet of a trial (to include preparing victims and witnesses for testimony) as well as an individualistic result, that still takes into account just results in a courtroom – which does not always involve a conviction.

What is the best part of the job?
The most enjoyable part of my work is being part of a law enforcement team, trying to bring justice to our communities. In our current national climate, it is often overlooked how long and hard police officers work and the passion they have for helping people. It’s a privilege to review their work, move forward with the case if appropriate, offer training to officers seeking to be the best they can be, to the benefit of us reaching fair and just results in a courtroom – which does not always involve a conviction and jail time, but rather an individualistic result, that still takes into account our role to seek justice for victims and keep our communities safe.

Grant Whelan ’18
Assistant District Attorney, Cumberland County

What is involved in your work?
Our office is organized into teams that coordinate with certain law enforcement agencies. My team works mostly with Portland and Falmouth police departments. We handle a variety of cases in a very fast-paced environment. Basic trial skills are obviously required, but relationship-building skills make all the difference as well. Ensuring a good rapport with officers and defense attorneys can save time and reduce frustration.

What is the best part of the job?
The best part is easily the people. Early in my internship, I realized Cumberland had a dedicated group of lawyers and staff, and I wanted to learn from all of them. Additionally, I enjoy anything in the courtroom. While I enjoy the research aspect of criminal work, I am happiest on my feet, making an argument.

What is the greatest challenge?
Filing the right solution in a system with limited resources. Prosecutors have immense discretion, and that comes with the responsibility to seek justice. In a substance abuse or mental health context, limited treatment availability frustrates that purpose.

Why should Maine Law students consider careers as prosecutors?
The work is challenging, and it can be more emotionally taxing than other practice areas. That is compensated by a deep connection to your community through work with law enforcement and other local organizations. I chose to be a prosecutor because I wanted to have a positive impact on the community where my kids are growing up. I’m getting there.

What is the greatest challenge?
It’s when I review a case where it is obvious that a particular defendant harmed a victim (physically, financially, sexually, etc.), but that based on the rules of evidence I am not confident that there is enough admissible evidence for a neutral fact-finder to be convinced that I proved my case beyond a reasonable doubt. It can make a prosecutor feel like he or she is letting a victim down – but we ultimately have to act in the interest of justice, which includes all levels of law enforcement following the rules set by the courts and legislature.

How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?
The most significant way Maine Law prepared me for my career was the Advanced Trial Advocacy class (now called Trial Team) that I took as a 3L. Preparing for a national competition and feeling comfortable with every facet of a trial (to include preparing victims and witnesses for testimony) was invaluable, and I find myself using the skills and tactics learned there in my everyday work life. It’s an honor for me to now coach this Trial Team as an adjunct professor and hear similar feedback from students after they graduate.

Why should Maine Law students consider careers as prosecutors?
They should consider a career as a prosecutor because of the meaningful way you can help protect public safety with your legal knowledge, and thus ensure citizens are following the laws they’ve agreed to abide by living in Maine. I worked in criminal defense in law school, and for about eight years as an attorney, and that was extremely rewarding for the time I did it. However, since I made the change three years ago to prosecution, there’s not a day that goes by that I don’t feel like I’m working hard for the greater good of my community. I’m very lucky.

Why should Maine Law students consider careers as prosecutors?
I cannot overstate how useful the trial team competition was in my professional development. Attacking a fact pattern from both sides and seeing how other students do the same was invaluable. Additionally, Professor Mel Zarr taught us the importance of a collegial bar where prosecutors and defense attorneys get along and can trust each other. I think about this often.
When I moved to Maine six years ago, I would have chuckled if someone told me that I was going to be attending law school in the near future — let alone loving the experience. I moved here for a job with AmeriCorps at an alternative high school in the area because I wanted to work with at-risk young people. (By the way, “at risk” really does not do justice to the young peoples’ incredible strength, humor, and sassiness.) At the alternative high school, I worked with some incredible social workers, and I decided to follow in their footsteps and get my master’s degree in social work at the University of Southern Maine. During my graduate program, I interned with Maine Inside Out. This program uses theater as a tool for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth to advocate for real change in the juvenile justice system. At that internship, I realized that I needed to do more to directly impact Maine’s juvenile justice system. I ended up in a conversation with Caroline Wilshusen ’07, Maine Law’s Associate Dean for Admissions. We talked about her juvenile justice background, and I somehow left that meeting with a plan to take the LSATs.

I joke with Carrie about this meeting, but deciding to attend law school was really life changing for me. I have been involved in so many remarkable projects at the Law School because the faculty and staff are genuinely excited to collaborate with students. For example, I recently had the opportunity to do an independent study with a fellow student, Emily Arvizu ’20. She and I were invited to sit at a table with incredible juvenile justice and immigration advocates to get a law passed to make the path to getting a green card easier for certain young people — and this law was eventually passed after a lot of hard work! And now, as a student attorney at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, I am looking forward to working on cases affected by this new law.

The experiences that I have been a part of are amazing, but I think ultimately the thing that has surprised me the most about this school is the incredibly supportive community. I’m a fellow for the Admissions Department, and people always ask about the dynamic at the school and if people hide books here, which they have heard about at other schools. I like to respond that we are “collaboratively competitive,” which definitely seems like two words that shouldn’t be stuck together, but it’s true. All of the students here are driven to be the best lawyers they can become, but they are also genuinely great human beings that want to cheer others on towards success.

“All of the students here are driven to be the best lawyers they can become, but they are also genuinely great human beings that want to cheer others on towards success.” — Anne Sedlack ’20
Until the month before I began my application to Maine Law, I was sure I would not go to law school. Through college and after graduation, I worked as a tutor, an energy-efficiency coordinator, a fermenter, and a bicycle courier, among other things. I had long known that I wanted a career in which I could bend oppressive systems to create justice where it was not, but I could not decide how to optimize my opportunity and skillset, nor imagine how creativity could fit in.

I knew no lawyers and no judges. I had always considered the legal system self-defeatingly academic and argumentative. A year out of college, I felt especially unnerved. I was most infuriated by human degradation of the environment and the evident disregard for the people living in areas being polluted and destroyed. I was awaiting the start of my employment on a Maine vegetable farm, traveling in the Cordillera Blanca in Peru, when I decided how I could be most useful. I applied to Maine Law as soon as I returned to the states.

My love of farming and dread of spending life indoors deferred my enrollment for a year. During this time, I was able to work with Fairwinds Farm and the Locker Project to reroute imperfect vegetables from the waste stream to hungry children in Maine. Now, though I admit that law school is more challenging than I expected, I am grateful and proud to be starting my second year at the Law School.

This summer, supported by the generosity and vision of Maine Law Professor Peter Pitegoff, I worked in Portland as one of Maine Law’s inaugural Economic Justice Fellows. Supervised by Greg Payne, a development officer at Avesta Housing and the director of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, I explored the world of affordable housing, through policy-oriented work and transactions in the development process. I researched how to effectively implement a blood lead-testing mandate for all 1- and 2-year-old Mainers, sought legal arguments to prevent lenders from circumventing Maine’s Foreclosure Diversion Program, and reviewed documents necessary for Avesta’s affordable housing developments.

I am excited by the passion for justice at Maine Law, especially visible in the various opportunities for students and in faculty research, which often punctures the academic bubble and centers on populations whose access to justice is obstructed. I trust that our community will continue to bring justice into arm’s reach for more Mainers, and I am thankful to be able to involve myself in that effort.

“I am excited by the passion for justice at Maine Law, especially visible in the various opportunities for students and in faculty research.” - Nina Ciffolillo ’21
Danielle Conway served as Maine Law Dean from 2015-19 before leaving to become Dean of the Pennsylvania State University’s Dickinson Law. During her time at Maine Law, Dean Conway was well known for the strong bonds she forged with students. We recently asked her about her experience at Maine Law.

As Dean of Maine Law for four years, you were known for being a student-focused leader. Can you speak about your impressions of the students?

Maine Law students come to the study and practice of law with energy, heart, and desire. The experiences Maine Law students bring to law school oftentimes define what they seek to accomplish in the legal profession. I found the students’ prior experiences profoundly meaningful in shaping the culture of the school and the profession.

How does Maine Law prepare students for life after law school?

The staff, faculty, and administration at Maine Law are intentional about taking a retrospective view of delivering a program of legal education. Members of the Law School community perform recursive self-critique, which facilitates transformation in programs, teaching, service, and scholarship. The willingness to self-critique is an important skill to model for law students. I believe law students observe the willingness of staff, faculty, and administrators to improve their performance, which encourages law students to do the same.

As Dean you were at the forefront of initiatives that were designed to help the school meet Maine’s access to justice needs. Can you speak to the importance of Maine Law students to the state’s future?

Maine Law students are the next generation of lawyers and leaders for Maine. They are guarantors of equity, justice, and fairness for Maine’s citizens and residents. Maine Law students will become the lawyers and leaders who will stand between justice and injustice by promoting the rule of law.

What would you like people to know about Maine Law graduates?

Maine Law students and graduates are authentic, tenacious, generous, and ambitious. These attributes, combined with a commitment to professionalism, are the hallmark of a Maine Law graduate.

Can you share a specific example of a particularly rewarding interaction with students?

I had a remarkable experience working with the editorial board of the Maine Law Review and the members of The Finch Society in producing the Maine Law Review Symposium titled “Ensuring Equal Access to Justice in Maine’s Rural Communities.” I was proud to see the development of these individuals from 1L students to upper level law students leading the planning and execution of such a vitally important symposium.

What was your proudest accomplishment as Dean?

I am proud that I was able to communicate effectively the responsibilities of a lawyer and leader: (1) to defend the U.S. Constitution; (2) to promote the rule of law; and (3) to protect the most vulnerable among us.
ANGELA AREY
PRESENTATION
> Curriculum director and teacher for the fourth annual PreLaw Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Program.

PROFESSIONAL
> Organized and hosted the annual conference of the New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers.
> Oversaw the Moot Court Program and coached three moot court competition teams, including the Craven Competition Team, which won awards for Best Brief, Best Oralist, and Best Overall Team.

PETER GUFFIN
AWARD
> Received the Maine Judicial Branch’s Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award, which is presented annually to “that person who, in a voluntary capacity, assists the Judicial Branch in fulfilling its mission of administering justice by providing an accessible, efficient, and impartial system of dispute resolution.” This honor recognized Guffin’s efforts while serving on the Task Force on Privacy and Transparency, when he “generously contributed his expertise, scholarship, and insights.”

DMITRY BAM
PUBLICATIONS
> Completed a book chapter examining United States judicial discipline procedures and problems in the disciplinary process.
> Completed a FLA. L. REV. online article exploring judicial bias and judicial partisanship.

THEA JOHNSON
PUBLICATION

PROFESSIONAL
> Serving as reporter for the American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section’s Task Force on Plea Bargaining.
> Selected as the runner-up for the Association of American Law Schools’ Section on Criminal Justice Junior Scholar Award.

CHRISTINE I. DULAC
PUBLICATIONS

ANDREW KAUFMAN
PUBLICATION

PROFESSIONAL
> Director, Maine Law’s Compliance Certificate Program for compliance professionals.
> President and board chair of the Working Group on Legal Opinions Foundation, a national organization addressing legal opinion and other law practice risk management issues.

ANTHONY MOFFA
PUBLICATION

PROFESSIONAL
> “Conserving Federal Lands in the Current (Political) Climate” at Arizona State University, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law’s fifth annual Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators (May 10, 2019).
> Provided testimony on proposed bills addressing climate change before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the 129th Session of the Maine Legislature (March, 2019).

LOIS LUPICA
PRESENTATIONS
> Keynote speaker at a number of conferences and meetings, including Victoria Legal Aid, the Fair Work Commission, the Federation of Community Law Centers, the Consumer Action Law Center, Monash University Law School, Griffith University Business School, and Melbourne Law School, among others.

JEFFREY MAINE
PUBLICATIONS

PROFESSIONAL
> Fulbright Senior Scholar, in Melbourne, Australia (spring 2019).
CHARLES NORCHI

PUBLICATIONS
> Published articles and blog posts on the Arctic, Afghanistan, geopolitics, and the law of the sea.

PRESENTATIONS
> Lectured in the U.S. and abroad on Arctic law and jurisprudence.

PROFESSIONAL
> Co-leader of the Arctic Futures Workshop in Greenland in June, 2019, with Professor Paul Mayewski, director, Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine.
> Served on the National Science Foundation Arctic Portfolio Review.
> Elected to the World Academy of Arts and Sciences.

CHRISTOPHER NORTHROP

PRESENTATIONS
> “Dual System Involvement: The Intersection Between Juvenile Justice and Protective Custody Cases” at the Maine Judicial Branch Court Improvement Project.
> Organizer and speaker at the New England Juvenile Defender Center’s Annual Summit at Maine Law.

AWARD
> Received the 2018 Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Leadership Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense from the National Juvenile Defense Center.

SARAH SCHINDLER

PUBLICATIONS
> “The ‘Publicization’ of Private Space,” 103 IOWA L. REV. 1093 (2018), was reprinted in the Land Use and Environment Law Review (2018-2019), an annual, peer-selected compendium of the year’s 10 best land use and environmental law articles. This is her fourth article to be awarded this honor.
> “Food Federalism: States, Local Governments, and the Fight for Food Sovereignty,” 79 OHIO ST. L. J. 1 (2018), as part of a symposium put on by the Ohio State Law Journal. The article addresses Maine’s passage of a state law recognizing local food sovereignty and the federalism concerns this law raised.

PRESENTATIONS
> “Pardoning Dogs,” an animal law work-in-progress, presented at faculty workshops at Fordham University School of Law and Florida International University College of Law (spring 2019).

PETER PITEGOFF

PUBLICATION

PROFESSIONAL
> Launched Maine Law’s Economic Justice Fellowship Program, with grant-funded fellowships to Maine Law students and support for their curriculum, research, and field work in community economic development law. The first two fellowships were awarded with support from the Maine Justice Foundation. With Avesta Housing, worked to craft internship opportunities and build ongoing institutional collaboration in research and policy for affordable housing.

PRESENTATIONS
> Advisory board member for: (1) Maine Law’s Certificate Program in Regulatory Compliance; and (2) 3i Supportive Housing, a pilot program to create accessible, community-based housing for adults with physical disabilities.

JEFF THALER

PUBLICATION
> “Kisor v Shulkin: Perspective on Deference to Agency Interpretation of Its Own Regulations,” The ABA Administrative & Regulatory Law News (spring 2019).

PRESENTATIONS
> “Is the Predicted Death of Auer Greatly Exaggerated?” at the American College of Environmental Lawyers’ National Webinar (March 26, 2019).

ANNA WELCH

PROFESSIONAL
> Traveled to Texas to volunteer at the southern border assisting immigrant women who face detention and removal.
> Coordinator of several local and national community outreach projects, including partnering with Jones Day Law Firm to send students to volunteer with the Laredo Project in Texas, assisting women detainees at the Laredo Detention Center, and providing pro se asylum trainings to Maine’s asylum seekers, among many other projects.
> Coordinator and/or member of a number of immigrants’ rights groups, including the Immigrant Youth Working Group, Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition, the Asylum Working Group, and others.
IN MEMORIAM

Rosalyne Spindel Bernstein died at the age of 90 in December, 2018. She graduated in 1950 from Radcliffe College of Harvard University. She co-founded Head Start in the Portland Public Schools and served three terms on the Portland School Committee, including one as chair, before earning a degree from Maine Law in 1986. She was awarded honorary degrees from USM and Bowdoin for her work in education and public service and served on numerous boards, including those of Maine Medical Center and the Portland Museum of Art.

Daniel J. Desmond died at the age of 73 in February, 2019. He earned a degree from Maine Law in 1974 and started as a general practice attorney, later specializing in real estate and estate planning at his practice, Desmond & Rand, in Westbrook. He practiced law for more than 40 years and was active in the Cumberland County Bar Association, serving a stint as president. He also served on the board of Westbrook Community Hospital and the State Board of Assessment Review.

Keith Neal Edgerly died at the age of 93 in January, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and graduated from Maine Law in 1959. He practiced law in Piscataquis County and served as a district court judge, probate judge, and State of Maine Assistant Attorney General.

Harold C. Hamilton died at the age of 67 in December, 2018. He graduated from Maine Law in 1976. He practiced law in Bangor for many years, working in a small practice with colleagues who remained his best friends. While spending most of his retirement away from Maine, he maintained a Bangor residence because of his belief that taxes “are the price we pay for living in a civilized society.” He felt that he owed much to the State of Maine, where he grew up and obtained an incredible and reasonably-priced legal education. Before his death, he was pleased to see his law school classmate and long-time friend elected governor of Maine. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Margaret Kravchuk ’76.

Richard A. Lord died at the age of 82 in November, 2018. He joined the U.S. Navy Reserve while still a student at Brunswick High School and went on active duty in 1954. He attended Portland Junior College and the University of Maine and graduated from Maine Law in 1965. He was a practicing attorney in Brunswick for many years and spent 16 years as a selectman and town council member.


Brent R. Slater died at the age of 71 in October, 2018. After graduating from Maine Law in 1973, he started a law practice in Dexter and then moved to Bangor to join the firm of Twitchell, Linscott, Badger, and Slater. At the time of his death, he was of counsel with Gross, Minsky & Mogul of Bangor.

Terry Nolan Snow died at the age of 75 in April, 2019. He graduated from Greely High School in 1962 and briefly played professional baseball for Canada’s Provincial League before joining the Navy and serving two tours during the Vietnam War. He earned a degree from Maine Law in 1973 and worked two years for the Attorney General’s Office as a prosecutor before opening his own law firm in Cumberland Center, where he was highly respected for his expertise in real estate law.

Ted Wright Verrill died at the age of 68 in March, 2018. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1971 and earned an M.B.A. from the University of Arizona before attending Maine Law from 1978 to 1980. He graduated from Fordham University School of Law in 1981 and began his career at the Wall Street law firm Thacher Proffitt & Wood. In 1986, he took his legal skills to Chrysler Capital, the financial arm of Chrysler Corporation, where he worked for 25 years. In 2014, he co-founded Halcyon Tidal Power, of which he was the president and CEO.

Nancy Wells Withington died at the age of 68 in August, 2019. She worked as a writer in Washington, D.C. and Buffalo, NY before beginning a long career as an antiquities dealer. Later, she ran estate sales and worked as an appraiser. She took pride in earning a law degree from Maine Law in 2003 despite a diagnosis of Stage 4 cancer during her third year.

Dorothy M. Wentworth died at the age of 69 in January, 2019. After graduating from Hunter College, she earned an M.B.A. from Fordham University, a certified financial planner license, and in 1994, a J.D. from Maine Law. Her career included stints as a financial analyst with Hannaford Bros. Co. and with the trust departments at Maine National Bank and Gorham Savings Bank. After law school, she joined the trust and investment group at People’s Heritage Bank (now TD Bank), as legal and compliance director. She also served on many boards, including Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, the Maine Estate Planning Council, and the Portland YWCA.
**Class of 1962**

After a long career including stints at the CIA, Astrophysics in Los Angeles, and 20 years as vice president of legal and administration for Hydronautics in Maryland, **Philip A. Weiner** retired 15 years ago, along with his wife of 61 years. They still spend summers in Maine and would love to hear from classmates. He remembers Maine Law fondly and describes himself as “forever thankful and indebted for an excellent legal education.”

**Class of 1971**

**John Andrews** moved into a new house in Rochester, NH to be nearer to family. He’s enjoying his newest (and last) grandchild (number nine), Charles Timothy Andrews.

**Class of 1973**

Ellsworth (Derry) Rundlett attended the Law School reunion along with classmate Judge Keith Powers and enjoyed seeing former Dean Don Zillman, Professor Orlando Delogu, and other familiar faces. In June, Derry competed in his ninth National Senior Games. In March of 2018 he and classmate Dwight Fifield sold their office building near Maine Law. Dwight retired, and the firm of Childs, Rundlett and Altshuler moved to Washington Avenue. He still presides over high school, college, and Maine Law mock trials. At a recent Maine Law practice session, he found that “every student was brilliant, eloquent, and right on point.”

**Class of 1974**

The Law Office of **Thomas Gibbon, PLLC** in Washington, D.C. celebrated its 10th anniversary and changed its name to LOTG, PLLC, Strategic Counseling for Global Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks. The firm provides legal and technical advice for the international video distribution of NHK’s international English Media Networks.

**Class of 1976**

Jean Deighan was a speaker at the Olympia Snowe Women’s Leadership Institute 2019 graduation event. She described the Law School as a “true gem” in the University of Maine System. She adds, “I invited a famous Maine Law graduate of the System to put his hands in the air. (Former) Gov. Jock McKernan ’74 cheerfully complied. It was an upbeat, fun event.”

**John F. Shea** and Tom Mackie’s Boston law firm, which has been a leading environmental, land use, and litigation firm for 35 years, is now Mackie Shea Durning, PC. This change recognizes Peter Durning’s contributions to their success.

**Jean Deighan**

2018-19 Rhode Island Bar Association President Carolyn R. Barone (right) presents Janet Gilligan ’78 with the 2019 Joseph T. Houlihan Lifetime Mentor Award.

**Janet Gilligan** was honored with the 2019 Rhode Island Bar Association’s Joseph T. Houlihan Lifetime Mentor Award. Janet serves as the deputy director of Rhode Island Legal Services, and her legal work has involved representing victims of domestic violence and families involved in the child welfare system.

In August, 2018, **Paula Singer** was honored by Marquis Who’s Who for her lifetime achievements in the field of law. Her accomplishments include participating as a panelist and speaker at seminars on international taxation, publishing more than 100 articles, including three law review articles, two co-authored with Prof. Cynthia Blum of Rutgers School of Law. In September, she was one of 60 preeminent women in international tax to be honored by the Women of IFA Network. Following her retirement to Maine, she also received the University of Maine Alumni Association Career Award for 2017.

**Jean Deighan ’76,** right, and the Hon. Olympia Snowe at the Olympia Snowe Women’s Leadership Institute 2019 graduation event.

**Paula Singer**

**Class of 1980**

**Ruth Plagenhoef** volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate in James City County, Virginia. She specializes in child sex abuse cases, using her 30 years as a prosecutor to help the court decide parental responsibilities and do what’s best for the children. She also volunteers at the historic Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg.

**Class of 1981**

**Brad Lown** has practiced law for 34 years in Maine and New Hampshire. He has a busy trial practice and enjoys just about every day but aspires to slow down a bit now that he and his wife have an empty nest. His two daughters are college graduates, and his son is a college freshman. About his time at Maine Law Brad says, “I still frequently think of Professor Gregory. Best regards to my classmates.”

**Ignatius MacLellan** works at New Hampshire Housing helping people buy their first home. He also leads groups on trips to El Salvador with the nonprofit he helps run, Epilogos Charities, Inc. If any Maine Law alum seeks an adventure with a purpose, Ignatius would welcome them on the next trip in February.

**Class of 1985**

**Jill E. Tompkins** has been reappointed to a four-year term as an associate justice on the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Court of Appeals in Dowagiac, MI., where she has served since 2003. She is also an appellate justice for the Passamaquoddy Tribal Appellate Court (CT) and the Mashantucket Pequot Court of Appeals (ME) and the Mashantucket Pequot Court of Appeals (CT), as well as a judge pro tempore for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community Court (MN). She is currently assisting the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in Onamia, MN, to establish a culturally based tribal healing to wellness (drug) court and provides judiciary development and support services.

**Class of 1990**

**Anne Carney** has enjoyed serving as Maine State Representative for House District 30 in Cape Elizabeth. As a member of the Committee on Labor and Housing, she had the opportunity to work on Maine’s first-in-the-
nation, paid-time-off law, a statute that gives veterans leave for medical appointments, and a pay equity law that will reduce wage disparities, among more than 130 bills her committee heard.

**Class of 1991**

Andrew MacLean, who has nearly 30 years’ experience in health care, law, and politics, was named CEO of the Maine Medical Association.

Nancy Savage Marcus has recently returned to the practice of law and is working with David Perkins, another Pierce Atwood alumnus, at Perkins Law, P.A. Her practice focuses on corporate and commercial transactional work, commercial real estate, and real estate transactions.

**Class of 1992**

After 19 years at the Cambridge, MA, firm of Clark, Hunt, Ahern & Embry, Josh Krell has taken a job with Brown-Smith Attorneys at Law in Woburn, MA, where he will continue to primarily represent private schools and other nonprofit agencies serving people with special needs, as well as families seeking guardianships. He and Krisna Basu ’92 are still living in Marblehead with their two children, Sarah and Joe.

Jeff Russell is enjoying an empty nest and the variety of fascinating cases that come with a multi-office rural and urban law practice. Spare time is spent flying and boating.

Andrew Strongin was elected to three-year terms to the Board of Governors of the National Academy of Arbitrators (NAA), as well as the NAA’s Research and Education Foundation in May, 2019.

**Class of 1993**

David A. Brenningmeyer was approved by President Donald Trump for appointment as a Veterans Law Judge at the Board of Veterans’ Appeals in Washington, D.C. The Board is responsible for entering final decisions on behalf of the Secretary in appeals involving entitlement to veterans’ benefits. Prior to his appointment, he served as an associate counsel, counsel, and senior counsel in the Board’s Office of Appellate Operations for more than 23 years. He and his wife, Caryl Graham ’93, live in Fairfax, VA, with their three sons.

**Class of 1995**

Carol Eisenberg reports that the baby she had in law school, Maxine, just turned 25 and teaches English in Spain. Charlotte, 22, just graduated from Haverford and started work as a data analyst for the Texas Rangers MLB team. She is happy to have one child at home, Elias, a high school student.

Statton Hammock is the vice president for global policy and industry development for MarkMonitor, a leading brand protection company.

**Class of 1996**

Christine Iaconeta married Gregory Dulac on July 20, 2019 at their home in Portland.

**Class of 2000**

Jennifer Archer joined the Office of the Attorney General in June as an assistant attorney general.

**Class of 2002**

Mickell Reed Carroll was crowned International Ms. New England and represented New England at the International Ms. Pageant in August, 2019. She will spend the year speaking about the prevention of heart disease in women and advocating for children’s refugee agencies. She currently works for the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia. She was previously employed in the Department of State’s Office of Global Criminal Justice in Washington D.C., the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and the U.S. Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua.

**Class of 2003**

Pete Felmy became the practice group leader of the Schools and Local Government Group at Drummond Woodsun, a group of more than 30 attorneys and consultants spread across four offices in Maine and New Hampshire.

**Class of 2006**

Jack Woodcock was selected as a shareholder at Bernstein Shur. Jack is a member of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group and handles complex civil litigation across a wide variety of subject areas. His prior experience includes serving as a trial attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he defended the U.S. in large civil suits in federal courts across the country, including two bellwether suits brought by residents of Greater New Orleans for flood damages incurred in Hurricane Katrina.

**Class of 2007**

Nancy McBrady was named bureau director for the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, part of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Prior to joining the Bureau, Nancy served as the executive director of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine.

In April of 2019, Aubrey Russell opened her own law practice in Poland, Maine, the Law Office of Aubrey Russell, LLC. She focuses on representing landlords and assisting clients in family matters. Meanwhile, she is coaching softball in her hometown and co-chairing her parent-teacher organization.

**Class of 2008**

After earning an LL.M. in elder law at Stetson College of Law in Florida (Professor Maine’s alma mater and “the prettiest law school in America”), Neal Anderson has retired and now splits his time between Maine and Florida.

**Class of 2009**

Shaun Garry has joined GrayRobinson, P.A.’s Naples office as of counsel in the real estate, trust and estates, and business transactions practice group.

Katherine Kayatta was named partner at Pierce Atwood LLP. Katherine’s practice focuses on class action defense and complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts nationwide.

**Class of 2010**

Amanda (Zane) Quenette, her husband Clifford, and her son Aaron, are proud to announce the birth of Jayden Gabriel Quenette in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France on Feb. 19, 2019.

**Class of 2011**

Jason Howe joined Preti Flaherty’s Business Law and Real Estate practice group as a partner. Prior to joining Preti, Jason was a partner at Bergen & Parkinson.

Scott Lever was named director of the recreational marijuana program for the State of Maine's new Office of Marijuana Policy. Prior to this appointment, Scott was the deputy commissioner for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Ryan Royce recently completed a six-month rotation as assistant district attorney at the Kings County District Attorney’s Office (Brooklyn, NY) through a program sponsored by his law firm, Ropes & Gray. While serving as ADA, he co-chaired two felony jury trials, including an attempted murder, both of which resulted in guilty verdicts.
**Class of 2012**

**Ben Deninger** married Kaitlin DeRespino and is an associate at Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP.

**Michael Maines** works part-time at Thomas P. Peters II and Associates in Lewiston. He works primarily on leases, collections, discontinued and abandoned roads, land access issues, and various other real estate matters. He also runs a forestry business, Maines Tree Works, Inc. His sons William and Michael, who once ran the halls of Maine Law, are now 16 and 14.

**Class of 2013**

**Nicole Gray** joined Casco Bay Law, LLC.

**Class of 2014**

**Laura E. Shortill** was appointed to serve on the Board of Overseers to the Bar. Her practice at Stout & Payson, P.A., in Rockland focuses on trust, estate, and probate matters, including guardianships and adoptions, as well as real estate, business law, and general civil litigation. She also collaborates as local counsel on matters such as ancillary probate or real estate planning for co-ownership of cherished family properties. Laura lives in South Thomaston with her husband and daughter.

**Andrew Wells** joined Bernstein Shur’s Business Law Practice group as an associate. Prior to joining Bernstein Shur, Wells was the CFO and in-house counsel of a leading family business and a tax associate at a local accounting firm.

**Rachel White Sears** practices estate planning and education law at Murray Plumb & Murray in Portland with many other Maine Law graduates. She was delighted to mingle with other alumns at the recent reunion events. She and her husband Mason are the proud parents of two daughters.

**Class of 2015**

**James T. Dowling-Healey** is an associate attorney in the Hartford, CT, office of McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, a financial services and mortgage banking law firm. He was also recently elected to the Bates College Key and continues to serve as the Legislative Liaison for the Franchise, Distribution & Dealer Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. James is also an active member of the Beardsley Zoo’s Education Committee.

**Kaitlyn Husar** joined Bernstein Shur, where she represents debtors and creditors in all manner of bankruptcy-related matters, including Chapter 11 reorganizations, asset sales and acquisitions, and bankruptcy-related litigation.

**Derek A. Jones** is now a partner at Acadia Law Group, LLC in Ellsworth.

**Patrick Lyons** and his wife welcomed their first child in January 2019, Jack Grizzly Collum Lyons. He lives in Ellsworth and has been with Eaton Peabody, practicing out of their Bangor and Ellsworth offices, for about three years.

**Class of 2016**

**John “Jack” E. Baldacci Jr.** has joined the law firm of Lipman & Katz in Augusta. Jack’s practice areas include bankruptcy, municipal law, probate litigation, estate planning, corporate and commercial law, and real estate.

**Leah Baldacci** has joined the law firm of Lipman & Katz in Augusta, where she focuses on civil litigation, including family law, and personal injury.

**Elizabeth Elsbach** has accepted a position as an attorney advisor for the Office of Medicaid Hearings and Appeals in the new regional office in New Mexico.

In 2019, **Tom Fales** joined the Maine Army National Guard Judge Advocate General’s Corps and attended The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School at the University of Virginia. He is an associate counsel at the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, a division of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in Washington, D.C.

**Bre Kidman** states: “I’m seeking the Democratic nomination for the US Senate seat currently occupied by Susan Collins. I am the first non-binary person to run for Senate and, if elected, I would be the first transgender member of Congress.”

**Yueyong LaFleur** joined Unum as associate counsel in 2017 and was promoted to assistant vice president, legal counsel in January, 2019. Yueyong and her husband Bill live in Cape Neddick with their two children (ages 8 and 9) and their cat.

**Class of 2017**

**Thomas Brems** reports that Victorieux Grand Cru champagne grower producer.

**Ariel Pardee** joined Pierce Atwood in their Portland office as an associate attorney focusing on intellectual property.

**Casey Weed** began working for Disability Rights Maine as a patient advocate at the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center. Casey and **Jared Escobar** ‘18 were married on Oct. 12, 2019.

**Class of 2019**

After completing her final semester in Reykjavik, Iceland in fall, 2018, **Hawah Ahmad** worked as a registered lobbyist for Nevada’s 80th Legislative Session, helping to pass laws regulating charter schools and cannabis. After Nevada’s legislative session ended, she began a clerkship at Nevada’s Third Judicial District Court in Lyon County, Nevada.

**Ksenia Chilaeva** writes: “I was a Russian exchange student at Maine Law from 2018-2019. Since I returned to St. Petersburg, I’ve been very happy to see my family and friends, but I miss my classmates and professors every day. Now I’m looking for a job as an international lawyer in St. Petersburg or Moscow. Thank you, Maine Law, for being my family for nine months!”

**Scott Dolan** joined MittelAsen, LLC, as an associate attorney. His practice focuses on civil litigation, including business, real estate, employment, and intellectual property law. He previously worked as a news reporter for the Portland Press Herald, covering Maine’s state and federal courts. As a student attorney at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, he argued before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in a prisoner rights case. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance and as its representative on the board of directors of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition.

**Cameron Goodwin** recently joined Pierce Atwood LLP as an associate in the firm’s litigation practice group.

**Whitney Lallas** joined MittelAsen, LLC as an associate attorney. Her practice will focus on family law. At Maine Law, Lallas served as president of the Juvenile Law Society and chair of the Maine Association for Public Interest Law, and received the Family, Juvenile & Elder Law Award for outstanding scholastic achievement. As a student attorney at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, she drafted legislation, An Act to Ease Financial Burdens for Juveniles Involved in the Justice System, which was enacted into law in 2019.

**Greta Lozada** was named the 2019 Google Fellow at the Future of Privacy Forum.

**Brooke Webb** took a position at Unum as the senior compliance manager – privacy.

Have a personal or professional milestone to share, such as moves, marriages, kids, or a new job? Let your classmates and the Maine Law community hear about your latest news! Send your update to lawalum@maine.edu.
Why did you choose Maine Law?
I chose Maine Law for the clinical opportunities. I knew I wanted to get hands-on experience, and Maine Law offers amazing clinics. When Carrie Wilshusen told me about the Juvenile Justice Clinic, specifically about the work done in the youth shelter and the Prisoner Assistance Clinic, I knew that Maine Law was where I needed to be. The school is deeply committed to ensuring that students get as much direct experience as possible, through clinics, internships, and externships.

If you could tell a prospective student one thing about Maine Law, what would it be?
You won’t find a more adaptable environment. If there’s something you want to do, the professors at Maine Law will help you get there. The professors come from all over the country and have experience in a variety of backgrounds.

Why did you choose Maine Law?
When I was doing my undergrad in Boston, I would frequently visit some family that lived in Maine. I absolutely fell in love with the culture up here, and I knew I wanted to make it my home. When I came to visit Maine Law during my junior year of college, I was pleasantly surprised by how welcomed I felt. I knew after that visit that it was a perfect match.

How would you describe your experience at Maine Law?
There is something really incredible about being surrounded by classmates and faculty that want nothing more than for you to succeed. It really is a “we’re all in this together” mentality.

Why did you choose Maine Law?
I decided to go to law school because I want to do environmental law. I developed this goal while covering that beat as a reporter in Indiana. As I was deciding on which law schools to apply to, my partner got a job in New Hampshire. So, I decided to apply to schools in New England, and we moved out here (a region of the country I had never been to before). I applied to just about every school in northern New England and Boston.

As I started hearing back from schools and learning more about them, I realized Maine Law was a bit of a Goldilocks school, at least given my interests. Some schools in the region offer more environmental law courses than a student could take in three years; others offer none. Maine Law falls in the middle, and I appreciate that balance — I can get exposure to the area I’m interested in, but I’ll also have the time to explore other topics I’m curious about or just take courses that the bar exam will test.

Another thing that stood out to me while I was applying and during my Admitted Students’ Day visit —and that I’ve confirmed during my time at Maine Law—is that the environmental law faculty here are all amazingly brilliant people. (This actually applies to all the faculty I’ve interacted with!)

These reasons, combined with the fact that I really enjoy all Maine has to offer personally, are why I chose Maine Law.
2018-19 Annual Support for Maine Law

The Annual Philanthropy Report is a testament to the enthusiasm and loyalty of the University of Maine School of Law’s alumni and friends. Every gift, no matter the size, has a direct impact on the people and programs that define the Maine Law experience. Thank you for your generous support!

Your Donations Put to Use

TOTAL GIFTS AND GRANTS: $1,027,844

Program Support: $655,227
Gifts and grants for Clinical Programs, Student Experiential Learning, Student Publications, Student Groups, and Student Life

Access and Affordability: $101,080
Student support, i.e. Scholarships, Fellowships, Awards, and Loan Repayment Assistance

Other Support: $77,892
Gifts supporting Maine Law Events, Faculty Quality, and the Law Library

Unrestricted Support: $193,645

Sources of Philanthropic Support

- Foundations/Nonprofits 50%
- Alumni 18%
- Business/Law Firms/Organizations 18%
- Friends 12%
- Law Faculty/Staff/Students 2%

Foundation Endowment Income

Contributions to the University of Maine School of Law endowment are invested to yield a reliable and stable source of expendable income for Maine Law each fiscal year. Approximately 4% of earned interest from the market value of the endowment is distributed for operational and programmatic support.

Support for student scholarships makes up 80% of the total endowment funds held by the Foundation!

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Public Interest

Your annual fund gift strengthens our signature Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic as well as our externship and fellowship programs.

- > 18 public interest fellowships were funded for summer 2019.
- > CLAC provided legal assistance for 603 cases in 2019.

PLUS Program

Your support enables the continued execution of a law and leadership summer intensive program for underrepresented students of color, immigrants, those challenged by poverty, or from rural areas.

- > 4 PLUS scholars are now enrolled at Maine Law.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Your contributions allow Maine Law to continue to meet the ever-increasing financial needs of our students.

- > 66% of Maine Law students receive scholarship awards.
University of Maine School of Law Foundation

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University of Maine School of Law

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Dudley Baldwin Book Fund
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Justice Harry P. Glassman Memorial Scholarship Fund
Edward S. Godfrey Fund
Morris and Sylvia Greenberg Scholarship Fund
Charles A. Harvey Jr. Fellowship
Arlana K. and Pierce B. Hasler Memorial Fund
Justice For Women Lecture Fund
Horace S. Libby Memorial Fund
Libra Professorship Fund
Gov. James B. Longley Memorial Scholarship Fund
Merle W. Loper Fund for International Programs
Macdonald Family Scholarship Fund
Maine Law Foundation Professorship Fund
Maine Law Foundation Scholarship Fund
Maine State Bar Legal Education & Trust Fund
Vincent L. McKusick Diversity Fellowship
David Santee Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund
New Hampshire Scholarship Fund
Osher Scholarship Fund
Pierce Atwood Scholarship Fund
Roger A. Putnam Fellowship Fund
The Harold J. and Peter J. Rubin Scholarship Fund
Justice Abraham M. Rudman Scholarship Fund
Shur Frinsko Award for Municipal Law and Local Governance
Charles W. Smith Memorial Fund
Levi M. Stewart Fund
TD Banknorth Scholarship Fund
Thompson Fund
Vafiades Northern Lights Scholarship Fund
Verrill Dana Public Service Fellowship
Justice Elmer H. Violette Fund for International Programs
Violette/Lombard Scholarship Fund
Daniel E. Wathen Writing Prize
Wernick Legal Writing Prize
Betsy and Peter Wiley Scholarship Fund
Woodcock Family Scholarship Fund

Non-Endowed Funds

Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
Cushman D. Anthony Clinical Fellowship
Richard H. Armstrong Scholarship
Henry N. Berry III Law Student Loan Fund
Cumberland Bar Association Fellowship
George P. Davenport Loan Fund
Linda Smith Dyer Fellowship Fund
Gignoux Special Collection Library Fund
Edward T. Gignoux Memorial Fund
Edward S. Godfrey Loan Fund
Information Privacy Summer Immersion Fellowship
Maine Public Interest Fellowship Fund
Merle W. Loper Loan Fund
Norwood Loan Fund
Simmons Emergency Loan Fund
Dean's Circle
$10,000 and above
Anonymous
Bernstein Shur in honor of Patricia A. Peard
Office of the Governor
Gregory Powell ’80 in honor of Dean Danielle M. Conway
John K. Veroneau ’89
Ira Waldman ’76

Leadership Circle
$5,000-$9,999
Anonymous
Berman & Simmons
Andrew and Linda Brenner
Eaton Peabody
Eileen Gillespie
Cyrus Y. Hagge
Mary Allen Lindemann
Robert C. S. Monks and Bonnie Porta
Craig H. Nelson ’69
Lenny and Merle Nelson
Martha E. O’Neill
Barbara Herrnstein Smith
Kenneth S. Spirer and Joan Leitzer, M.D.
Verrill Dana
Stuart Watson
Carol Wishcamper
Amy Woodhouse and Tobey Scott

Justice Society
$1,000-$4,999
Anonymous
Louise Arkel ’94
Eleanor M. Baker ’78 and Tom Saturely in memory of Rosalyn Bernstein ’86
Laurie L. Balmuth ’80
Ronald S. Battocchi ’74 and Mary T. Bell ’74
Andrew Black ’94 and Monica Bigley ’91
James Bowie ’77 and Sarah Downs ’77
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<th>90</th>
<th>19-57</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Size</td>
<td>Age range</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>154</th>
<th>21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median LSAT</td>
<td>States represented</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>3.48</th>
<th>65</th>
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<tr>
<td>Median GPA</td>
<td>Undergraduate institutions represented</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>151/158</th>
<th>47%</th>
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<tr>
<td>25th/75th percentiles LSAT</td>
<td>Women</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.2/3.68</th>
<th>12%</th>
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<tr>
<td>25th/75th percentiles GPA</td>
<td>Active duty or military veterans</td>
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<tr>
<th>27</th>
<th>61%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>Students with merit scholarships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Aaron W. Mosher ’13

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Kerin J. Leche ’17

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Hon. George N. Bowden ’74

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