Maine Law is on the Move

Launch of Certificate in Business and Transactional Law

Innovation and Collaboration in a New Setting

Investigating the Boston Asylum Office

8  17  24
Darcie McElwee knew since middle school that she wanted to be a prosecutor. Growing up in Caribou, a small city in northern Maine’s Aroostook County, she was fascinated by watching her father, John D. McElwee ’73, work. As an eighth grader, “I saw my dad do a jury trial, and I was done,” recalls McElwee. The courtroom, including the judge, defense attorney, and jury, was populated by members of her community — and she could sense that her father had a deeply important job.

Between that epiphany and her senior year at Bowdoin College, McElwee made strategic decisions about how to get to law school. She spent time off from school working as a secretary in her father’s private practice and chose her undergraduate classes with the law in mind. Although she wasn’t accepted to Maine Law right out of college (a rejection about which she continues to tease Dean Leigh Saufley), she enrolled at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire, determined to transfer home after her first year, which she did.

At Maine Law, McElwee confirmed that being a prosecutor was the career path for her. She loved learning how to be a trial lawyer with Professor Judy Potter as well as Professor Melvyn Zarr’s classes. She cherished the school’s collegial atmosphere, where students and faculty alike were willing to help each other learn, and the opportunity to allocate so much of her time to thinking about the law.

After law school, McElwee served as an Assistant District Attorney in Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties and eventually became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maine out of the Portland office. In August 2021, she was nominated by President Joe Biden to be the next U.S. Attorney for the District of Maine. The formal swearing-in ceremony was held June 17, 2022, in the Edward T. Gignoux U.S. Courthouse. McElwee is only the second woman to hold her position. The first was her lifelong mentor, Paula Silsby ’76.

As U.S. attorney, McElwee is responsible for not only overseeing federal law enforcement in Maine, but also helping determine federal policies. She travels to Washington, D.C., every six weeks and is also among the 12 U.S. attorneys (out of 94) selected for the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee. McElwee describes her colleagues in the Biden administration as dedicated, caring, and innovative. Whether confronting domestic violent extremism, gun violence, or threats to civil rights, they are aligned in their determination to make the country safer — for everyone in it.

Here in Maine, McElwee is excited to welcome the law school to Portland’s Old Port, where students will study in close proximity to her office, the courts, and the nexus of Maine’s legal community. She urges those considering a law career — and women in particular — to forge as many connections as possible. “Find that person who is willing to share their knowledge and professional experience to help you illuminate your own path. There is no better way to learn whether you’ll like a certain career. And loving your work makes life so much easier.”
Features

9 The House That Deirdre Smith Built
For nearly 20 years, Professor Smith has led the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic.

14 Why Study Cannabis Law?
Legalized cannabis is one of the fastest-growing industries in the country. Here’s what that means for lawyers.

17 Maine Law is on the Move
Maine Law’s new location has both a physical and philosophical significance.

24 Investigating the Boston Asylum Office
A multi-year report drives calls for action.

27 The Boundaries of Multi-Parentage
What happens when a child has more than two parents?

30 Alumni at Work: Joann Bautista ’18
The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Bautista is Maine’s first Latin deputy secretary of state.

Departments

5 From the Dean
7 From the Chancellor
35 Faculty Notes
38 Class Notes
40 In Memoriam
42 Philanthropy Report

On the Cover: The University of Maine School of Law’s new building.

Photo by Dmitry Bam

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Staying connected with Maine Law
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Maine Law’s Facebook page features news, upcoming events, photos, and information for alumni, friends, and 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).
This has been a year of challenges, opportunities, and transitions at Maine Law, and I am so fortunate to be part of a community of faculty, staff, and students who rise to every occasion. With their engagement, and the consistent support of Chancellor Dan Malloy, Maine’s governor and legislature, and the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, Maine Law is truly on the move.

As we prepare to enter the newly renovated space at 300 Fore Street in downtown Portland, we have been faced with so many decisions. Among myriad other items, the students helped us find the right balance of classroom, study, and gathering spaces; the faculty helped us design classroom layouts and technology that will lead us into the future; and the amazing and always busy staff helped us plan and organize a facility that will meet students’ needs, welcome the broader community, and become a vibrant center of law-related learning and connections.

During these preparations, I had the honor of speaking with Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill, a distinguished Maine Law alumna who has led Maine’s courts since 2020, and Associate Justice Rick Lawrence, the court’s newest member. Both justices offer a unique lens on Maine’s legal environment. We will be looking to them and other close partners as we coordinate to efficiently and effectively expand access to justice in Maine — and ready our students to meet the emerging challenges of a new era.

From that discussion, I have distilled a few of the priorities that will guide us across multiple institutions as we move forward:

- A multi-faceted and urgent response is needed to address the crisis of limited availability of legal representation, which reduces critical access to justice;
- Maine Law and the entire legal community must prioritize support for diversity and inclusion. We have a responsibility to cultivate a community in which everyone feels welcome;
- We must all be willing to examine established procedures and practices and consider whether things could be done more efficiently, with less cost and improved access for all;
- Everyone — students, clients, courts, businesses, and the public — will benefit from expanding experiential and cross-disciplinary educational opportunities;
- We are fortunate to belong to a legal community that prioritizes integrity, a strong sense of public service, and the ability to disagree while remaining respectful and civil.

On behalf of the entire community at Maine Law, I look forward to working with you as we navigate the next transitions in our increasingly complex world.

Dean Leigh I. Saufley ’80
Nan Heald

Nan Heald, Executive Director of Pine Tree Legal Assistance for more than 30 years, died on January 20, 2022. She grew up in Western Maine, attended Smith College, and graduated from George Washington University Law School in 1980. Over the next five decades, Heald dedicated her career to improving the lives of those around her. She joined Pine Tree in 1985 as a staff attorney, initially focusing on obtaining federal recognition for the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. She took on the organization’s executive director role five years later, in 1990. In 2015, Heald was recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change. She was admired and appreciated for her selfless service, creative leadership, and unflagging passion for access to justice.

Malcolm L. Lyons

Malcolm L. Lyons, known to his friends and family as “Mal” or “Laddie,” graduated from the University of Maine, spent three years in the Army, and in 1970, earned his law degree from Maine Law. He had a very successful career as a trial attorney and partner at Pierce Atwood, taking great pride in his membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers. Lyons’ lengthy service on Maine’s Judicial Nominations Advisory Committee was critically important to the quality of the Maine bench, and his advice and counsel were sought regularly by the state’s governors. A lifelong Mainer, Lyons, who in his later years acted as a mentor and a confidant to many Maine lawyers and leaders, nurtured a deep and abiding love for the state’s land and people.

Roger A. Putnam

A treasured member of the Maine Law community, Roger A. Putnam passed away on February 19, 2022, at age 96. Putnam was born in York, Maine, in 1925, graduated from the University of New Hampshire, and served during World War II. After returning home, he earned an LLB at Boston University Law School, graduating in 1951, and subsequently became Assistant Attorney General of Maine before transitioning to private practice. In 2012, the Roger A. Putnam Fund was established at the University of Maine School of Law Foundation to provide an annual paid summer internship at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. Putnam was revered and beloved for his myriad contributions to the Maine legal community and the law itself.
FROM THE CHANCELLOR

The past several years proved some of the most tumultuous in our country’s recent history. From pervasive societal changes wrought by a global pandemic to events that polarized our communities, there has never been a more compelling time to be a student of the law — and it has never been more imperative that leaders be committed to advancing law and justice in a rapidly changing world.

The University of Maine School of Law has a celebrated tradition of graduating such leaders. Maine Law alumni throughout our state and country are serving the public interest and upholding the law. Current students and faculty, too, are driving work with national and global impact. I was proud to witness the effect of the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic’s report on the Boston Asylum Office: As a result of the publication, several members of Congress called for an immediate investigation into the office’s practices. This is just one of many examples of how Maine Law scholarship catalyzes necessary change.

The upcoming year is an exciting one for the school, promising tremendous transformation and growth. Maine Law will move into its new home at 300 Fore Street, a building with cutting-edge technology, student-oriented amenities, and unparalleled access to the city’s legal community. Maine Law will be joined there by the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center, the University of Maine Portland Gateway, and the University of Maine Graduate School of Business. In this space, leaders, faculty, and students from across the UMaine System will integrate resources and expertise, finding innovative ways to serve the state and shape future leaders.

Law school is a grueling endeavor under the best of circumstances, and the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic made it more so. At every turn, students, faculty, and staff demonstrated resilience, compassion, and integrity — but then I would expect nothing less from our Maine Law community, for whom these values are intrinsic.

As the next year unfolds for Maine Law, I will watch with absolute faith that this community can rise to any occasion and to any challenge.

Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor, University of Maine System

NEW FACULTY

Meet Professor John Nidiry ’06

Professor John Nidiry joined the University of Maine School of Law in Fall 2022 as a visiting professor teaching in the First-Year Legal Writing Program. This is a return to Maine Law for Nidiry, who graduated cum laude from the school in 2006.

As a law student, Nidiry completed a public interest fellowship in South Africa, where he worked to address the country’s housing crisis — a legacy of Apartheid. He also participated in Maine Law’s Prisoner Assistance Clinic. Both experiences deepened Nidiry’s passion for social justice work, on which he continues to focus his career.

Nidiry helped establish the Federal Capital Habeas Project, a part of the Federal Defender program, that is dedicated to ensuring indigent people facing the federal death penalty receive high-quality representation in their post-conviction proceedings. He spent 16 years with the Project, representing individuals under federal death sentence in district courts, courts of appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court, and in connection with clemency petitions addressed to the executive branch. He also provided intensive litigation support and training to attorneys representing individuals under death sentence in post-conviction proceedings.

In addition, Nidiry serves on the board of directors of Maine Inside Out, a nonprofit that empowers incarcerated and formerly incarcerated young people using art, and theater in particular, to build a movement centered on transformative justice.
MAINE LAW NEWS

Maine Law and the IAPP: Pioneering Privacy Law

By Professor Rita Heimes

In the digital age, personal data that has become more accessible as technologies emerge and evolve is a valuable commodity for businesses and governments. Privacy law serves to broker the inherent tension between these public and commercial interests and the rights of an individual — and it represents a dynamic, high-growth practice area and career path.

From late May to early June, Maine Law hosted its annual Information Privacy Summer Institute. The program is tailored principally for Maine’s J.D. candidates and has become a signature program for the law school as incoming students seek a career in the exploding privacy field. But the content also often appeals to practicing attorneys, who can earn CLE credits while picking up skills to transition into the practice area. Participants can enroll in one or more of the multi-day courses.

This year’s courses were Global Privacy Law, Cybersecurity, Health Information Privacy, and Privacy and Security Risks of Data Sharing. Faculty included privacy professionals from top firms and major companies, as well as Professor Rita Heimes, who also serves as General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP).

Maine Law enjoys a close partnership with the IAPP, which is among the leading privacy professional organizations in the world. Its president and CEO is Maine Law alum and professor J. Trevor Hughes ’95.

The institute concluded with a one-day Privacy in Practice session, in which Maine Senator Angus King delivered the keynote address. He discussed the significant threat to the nation’s critical infrastructure posed by aging systems and sophisticated cyber enemies. Sen. King called for increased vigilance and public-private partnerships to help gather and share threat evidence to have the best chance at thwarting catastrophic cyber incidents. The senator’s remarks set the stage for a practical discussion by leading cybersecurity attorneys, addressing the ways that businesses can best work with the government to address cyber concerns, and how enterprises can operationalize privacy and security responsibilities internally.

For attorneys interested in participating in the Information Privacy Summer Institute and annual conference, next year’s event will take place in late May and early June 2023, likely at Maine Law’s new facilities on Portland’s waterfront.

For more information, contact mainelaw@maine.edu

Launch of Certificate in Business and Transactional Law

Lawyers play a pivotal role in a wide range of transactions and other matters distinct from litigation, and in today’s interconnected and digital world, business and law are more closely tied than ever before.

A new offering from Maine Law in 2021-2022, the Certificate in Business and Transactional Law provides students with the tools they need for rural or small-city transactional practice, as well as a solid foundation for representing larger corporate clients in their transactions. Courses, seminars, and practicums in tax, commercial law, business associations, acquisitions and dispositions, economic development, and other business-related topics focus on building students’ transactional skills.

The program is open to current J.D. students, who must satisfy each of the following components to earn the certificate:

- **Coursework:** Complete at least two of three required courses (Business Associations, Taxation I, and/or Commercial Law: Sale of Goods and Secured Transactions) and at least nine credits from courses related to business and transactional law, at least one of which must include a financial literacy component.
- **Paper:** Produce a substantial paper on a topic related to business and transactional law.
- **Experiential Learning:** Complete a pre-approved externship, job, or practicum related to business and transactional law. Recent examples of business-related externships have included positions at Bath Iron Works, Chicago Historical Museum, Cianbro Corporation, City of Portland Corporation Counsel, TD Bank N.A., Tilson Technology Management, the Internal Revenue Service, and WEX.

An understanding of business law, negotiation skills, statutory analysis, public policy, and financial literacy is critical for lawyers engaged in litigation and non-litigation practices alike, and in their civic leadership activity. Maine Law offers a rich mix of curricular and fieldwork opportunities in corporate law, tax, finance, nonprofits, economic development, commercial law, intellectual property, compliance, land use, bankruptcy, and more, and the new Certificate in Business and Transactional Law provides recognition to students focusing in this arena.

Faculty leading Maine Law’s Transactional Law program include Professors Christine Davik, Andrew Kaufman, Jeffrey Maine, and Peter Pitegoff.
A ssociate Dean, Managing Director, Professor, Scholar, Attorney, Advisor, Supervisor, and friend — Deirdre Smith ’94 has fulfilled all these roles, superlatively.

For nearly 20 years, Professor Smith has led the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, expanding its reach, maintaining its quality, and supporting its faculty, staff, and students. She has been a bulwark for everyone within her ambit.

In joining the Clinic, Smith left her successful private practice to become a mentor, educator, and advocate both to burgeoning lawyers and to clients without access to justice. Under her leadership, Maine Law’s core clinical programs (among the country’s oldest) continue to provide outstanding legal advice and representation to Maine’s most underserved communities. Smith has been an exemplary supervisor and director, offering space to grow and an unbreakable safety net.

At the same time, Smith has expanded the Clinic’s breadth and depth, adding faculty, fellows, and staff to teach more students and serve more people — over 500 low-income clients each year. She helped design and build three clinical programs (Juvenile Justice, Refugee and Human Rights, and Rural Practice), and a policy center (Maine Center on Juvenile Policy and Law) that have advanced justice exponentially, training the next generation of lawyers to remove barriers as they advocate for all people.

And to sustain these programs, Smith raised millions of dollars. She worked for the past several years to develop and fund the Rural Practice Clinic. It will launch in January 2023, and it will exist because of Smith’s vision and tenacity.

In the classroom and the Clinic, her unmatched teaching is always evolving, incorporating the best and newest practices, respect, and empathy toward colleagues as well as students. She co-developed a module of clinic practice classes that is now the backbone of the Clinic’s classroom component. As one former student wrote in a tribute to her, “[Smith] has been an inspiring example of how to be a woman in public interest law; she is a leader, a mentor, and an academic all in one.” Shared another: “Where do I even begin! [Smith] is the epitome of leading by example. She has shown me what it means to do meaningful work to a standard of excellence in a way that inspires others.”

And while teaching, mentoring, and directing the Clinic, Smith somehow still produced outstanding scholarship, on issues including medical and psychiatric evidence, psychotherapist-patient privilege, the legal history of post-traumatic stress disorder, civil commitment, and guardianship law. Her work advances ideas within the academy but also provides foundations for important systemic reforms — which have already signifi-}

antly improved Maine’s laws to the benefit of its people.

Smith has received numerous awards that reflect her esteemed career, including the State of Maine Judicial Branch Advocate for Justice Award (2011), the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine Justice Louis Scolnik Award (2016), the University of Southern Maine Award of Community Engagement (2017), and the Caroline Duby Glassman Award (2020). These honors acknowledge her efforts to advance women in the legal profession, advocate for underserved communities, and further legal education.

Last, but certainly not least, Smith’s colleagues recently honored her with the Clinic’s MVP (Most Valuable Professor) trophy.

As of July 1, 2022, Smith has transitioned away from the Clinic to focus on full-time teaching and scholarship. Her Clinic departure constitutes the bitter-sweet end of an era, but, thankfully, she will remain as a tenured Maine Law faculty member.

The new Clinic Director is Professor Chris Northrop, a wonderful professor, mentor, and litigator who is equally passionate about justice and training the future generation. As Maine Law considers expanding its experiential programs even further, Professor Northrup and Managing Attorney Molly Butler Bailey will ensure that Maine Law’s clinical programs continue to thrive.
Maine Law is committed to inclusion and anti-racism. In October 2020, Dean Leigh Saufley established the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force to listen, assess, and advise on how to improve equity and justice within the Maine Law community and beyond.

The Task Force's 2022 annual report reflects implementation of a comprehensive Diversity Plan, new academic courses and Orientation programming, an array of DEI events, and mentorship for new faculty hires. Key recommendations included developing additional DEI resources, gathering data around existing efforts, formalizing processes, and evaluating the feasibility of a DEI professional position.

Professors Jeff Maine and Jennifer Wriggins are leading the charge on DEI content within the J.D. curriculum. Wriggins has regularly taught an upper-level course on “Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation and the Law” since 1999. Wriggins’ scholarship on incorporating issues of race and racism in teaching tort law has received national acclaim. Another DEI-related course, “Racial Injustice in the Law,” was added in 2020 and co-taught by 10 professors; in 2022, 100% of Maine Law faculty will participate in co-teaching this course.

Maine Law’s DEI efforts extend beyond the classroom. In October 2021, a dedicated group of students, faculty, and staff brought to campus the Human Library®, a not-for-profit learning platform that leverages personal conversations to challenge stigmas and stereotypes. The Human Library presents individuals as “books,” each with their own story, that participants “check out” based solely on title. The organization’s motto is “unjudge someone.”

Professor Emeritus Jeff Thaler proposed hosting the Human Library at Maine Law, and Grayson Szczepaniak ’22, Gabrielle Schwartz ’23, Andrés Kenney ’23, librarian Megan York, Mark Charest ’22, and Tyanne Benallie ’24 implemented it. According to Szczepaniak, the event was “the single most impactful thing I did with my time at Maine Law.”

Book titles included “Alcoholism and Suicide,” “Socio-Economic Insecurity,” and “Being Queer,” and told stories of adversity, resilience, trauma, and hope.

To protect the privacy and emotional labor of participants, the Maine Law team prioritized creating a library space that felt safe, welcoming, and non-judgmental.

For Kenney and Schwartz, who had begun law school with entirely remote classes, the Human Library sessions provided the chance to “rebuild our community after the fracturing of the pandemic and spending a year isolated and online.”

“Human Library intentionally brings to the forefront the battles each one of us faces with stereotypes and prejudice, creates deeper and stronger bonds, and celebrates our diversity. I was moved by the braveness of the books, by the number of books and readers, and by the seriousness readers took in participating,” says Kenney.

Schwartz describes “how wonderful it was to get the opportunity to speak with people and connect on topics that you wouldn’t have normally.” The sessions opened minds to a diverse collection of life experiences, facilitated difficult conversations about sensitive topics, and sparked friendships that persisted through the ensuing year.

Although Szczepaniak has since graduated, Kenney and Schwartz went on to plan a successful 2022 version of the Human Library. They hope to incorporate the event into the school’s annual calendar as an ongoing way to build community and dispel prejudice—work seemingly more important now than ever.

In February 2022, the school hosted Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who led the team that successfully prosecuted and convicted Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the second-degree unintentional murder of George Floyd. Ellison, the first Black and first Muslim American person elected to statewide office in Minnesota, previously served in Congress, where he championed consumer, worker, environmental, civil, and human rights protections.

In his Maine Law talk, Ellison said that our aim should not be to villainize law enforcement or segments of the American public, but rather to better understand and address the foundations of violence and crime that have become endemic to our society. He challenged students to reject “the cycle of inaction” and pursue systemic change. He also met with local leaders, including South Portland Mayor Deqa Dhalac and Portland City Councilor Pious Ali.
Growing up in South Carolina, Ryan Rutledge ’19 was a long way from Aroostook County, Maine. For college, he moved even farther south and attended the University of Central Florida, where he majored in Philosophy and obtained a Minor in Energy/Sustainability. He found work after earning his B.A. degree, but roles in content strategy and branding after graduation didn’t satisfy his vision for how he would spend his career. After meeting his future wife, whose mother was a doctor practicing at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth, Rutledge decided Maine was where he wanted to live. His subsequent decision to pursue law school made Maine Law the logical choice.

In the summer of 2017, Rutledge and fellow 1L Cam Goodwin ’19 took part in the school’s innovative new Rural Lawyer Pilot Project. They headed to northern Maine’s Presque Isle, only a few miles from the border with Canada. There, Rutledge and Goodwin were immediately exposed to hands-on practice — and the type of learning that comes only outside the classroom. As Maine Law’s inaugural Rural Practice Fellows, they also proved the concept of sending law students to rural areas of the state suffering from a devastating lack of access to justice.

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Not only did Rutledge enjoy the experience of belonging to a smaller community surrounded by the state’s beautiful outdoors, he found that the work “set me up to do better in my second and third year” at Maine Law. He again ventured beyond Portland the next year, working as a summer associate at Mills, Shay, Leff, & Talbot in Somerset County’s Skowhegan. He joined the firm (co-founded by Peter Mills ’73) full-time after graduation, with his family settling nearby in Anson, a town of less than 3,000.

Attorneys in rural practice face a great variety in their responsibilities. Transactional work, civil litigation, divorce and estate planning, protection from abuse, and municipal matters are all among the subject areas they can expect to handle. He is also rostered with the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, which registers attorneys to represent Mainers who can’t afford private counsel (Maine is the only state in the country without its own public defender office).

“I do a lot of different kinds of work, but I help real people with real issues,” says Rutledge. “It keeps it really interesting.”

In partnership with stakeholders across the state, Maine Law has been a pioneer in the critical work of seeking to ensure that all Mainers have access to justice. The initial Rural Lawyer Pilot Project was funded by the Maine Justice Foundation, with continued support by a three-year Betterment Fund Grant.

In January 2023, Maine Law launches its new Rural Practice Clinic in Fort Kent, which will exist under the umbrella of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. Each semester, a new group of students will staff the clinic, living, working, studying, and understanding what it means to become an integral part of rural communities. Toby Jandreau ’05, a Fort Kent native, will supervise the students. The Rural Practice Clinic is generously supported through the Maine Attorney General’s Office.
Eliza Mette ’17

On June 10, Eliza Mette ’17 graduated from the Emerge Maine Signature Program. Emerge Maine recruits, trains, and provides a powerful network to Democratic women interested in running for office. Mette was one of 24 members of the organization’s 2022 cohort. The six-month program covers fundraising, canvassing, and campaign logistics.

When Mette graduated from George Washington University in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in public health, she expected medical school. Mette decided to return home to attend Maine Law, a decision she calls “such a fabulous choice.”

Maine Law permitted Mette to develop a comprehensive legal grounding while forging her own specific path. She joined a student policy group, worked with the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP), created an externship with Maine Health, and interned with a health care law firm in Augusta. She later returned to that firm to start her legal career, before moving to a nonpartisan nonprofit that advances state health policy innovation. In July, Mette began a new role as Policy Advisor with Public Consulting Group. Her focus will be on revising and aligning states’ regulatory language with updated Medicaid state plan amendments and waivers.

Alicia Rea ’24

Another Emerge Maine graduate (2017-2018), Alicia Rea ’24, wrapped up her second term on the Lewiston City Council in January 2022. Elected at age 27, she stood out from the city council’s older male membership; in fact, people at city events sometimes assumed she was someone’s daughter rather than a public official herself. But the challenges Rea faced forced her to assert herself as a leader and an advocate — capabilities that would prove immensely valuable when she later entered Maine Law.

During her first term, the city council dealt with union contracts, zoning changes, and upgrading the municipal recycling program. Rea won reelection shortly before COVID-19 descended, abruptly compelling the Lewiston City Council to act as a public health resource. Other crises in her second term included responding to police brutality and racial injustice, the debate over security personnel in public schools, and the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Meanwhile, Rea held down a full-time job at Bates College while also serving on the Lewiston School Board.

Rea opted not to run for a third term due to law school’s academic rigor and the need for her to be in Portland more often. She has thrown herself into Maine Law activities, becoming the Youth Justice Fellow for her class and embarking upon a Big Law summer internship. She values the “collaborative” learning environment at Maine Law and looks forward to practicing in Lewiston.

Amanda Bisol ’24

On July 30, Amanda Bisol ’24 was inducted to the board of directors for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for District 1, covering all of New England and New York. Her selection entails a significant honor and responsibility, roughly 30 days of travel per year, attendance at multiple meetings and the annual convention, and representation of veterinarians across the country.

A small animal veterinarian, Dr. Bisol went straight from college at Worcester Polytechnic Institute to a graduate program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She then began practicing in Skowhegan, Maine, where she co-owned the Animal Medical Clinic for several years. Her family, including three kids and seven pets, loves to hike, craft, cook, and explore the Maine outdoors.

Dr. Bisol has been dedicated to improving the veterinary profession for years. During vet school, she had an AVMA externship in Washington, D.C., where she met with public officials and was introduced to government lobbying. She has volunteered with the Maine Veterinary Medical Association for many years, advocating for animals and veterinarians in the state.

For Dr. Bisol, attending law school after a decade of employment has proven to be an extremely rewarding experience. She says she’s “loved all of it,” appreciating the opportunity to learn in a supportive, collegial environment and develop new connections. She has served as a teaching fellow for Civil Procedure and Property Law — despite her hour-and-a-half commute to campus. After completing her J.D., she plans to continue advocating for her fellow veterinarians to improve the profession for all practitioners, especially women and people from marginalized backgrounds.
One of the many ways Maine Law helps students prepare to practice law is by honing their oral argument skills. While opportunities abound for students to sharpen this ability, Moot Court offers a close reproduction of the courtroom environment, enabling students to explore the challenges and nuances of oral arguments.

In Moot Court competitions, teams are offered a problem and assigned a side to argue; they usually prepare a written brief as well. Open to 2Ls and 3Ls, Moot Court builds off the curriculum students encountered in their first year of law school.

“It’s an excellent opportunity to practice what they’ve learned in their first-year writing course,” says Professor Angela Arey, who teaches legal writing and serves as Director of Maine Law’s Moot Court program. “Students often latch on to a certain area of interest in their first year, and Moot Court offers them an opportunity to further explore this topic.”

At Maine Law, Moot Court teams specialize in Admiralty (Maritime Law), Civil Rights, Information Privacy, Environmental Law, Criminal Law, and Employment Law — areas that also reflect fields in which the school excels. Maine Law faculty coach the teams and invite local legal experts to help students prepare. This practice offers the chance for students to deepen their subject-specific knowledge while also forging connections to the community.

“Usually during the competitions, students are asked about a current hot topic,” Arey adds. “Having practitioners come in to advise on an array of recent issues within that area gives our students a real edge in competition.” This claim is certainly borne out by the results of Maine Law’s Moot Court teams during the 2022 season.

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### 2022 MAINE LAW MOOT COURT SUCCESSES

**Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Competition**
- Ben Algeo ’23, Shannon Linnehan ’23, and Richard Qualey ’22 (coached by Professor Anthony Moffa) competed in the Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Competition, hosted by Pace Law School. Out of 52 teams, Algeo won an award for Best Oralist in the preliminary round of arguments, and the team won the award for Best Overall Brief.

**Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition**
- In the Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition, hosted jointly in 2022 by Maine Law and the University of Texas School of Law, the team of Kelsey Cromie ’23, Grayson Szczepaniak ’22, and Teddy Simpson ’23 advanced to the Quarterfinal Round out of 32 teams.

**Bryant Moore National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition**
- Two Maine Law teams competed in the Bryant Moore National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition, hosted by Howard University Law School: Henry Barkley ’22, Jake Demosthenes ’22, and Lori Renzullo ’22 on one team, and Kayleigh Cleary ’22, Jeanette Plourde ’23, and Mike Rogers ’23 comprising the other (both coached by Professor Angela Arey). Both teams advanced to the Quarterfinal Round. Barkley, Demosthenes, and Renzullo advanced to the Final Round, finishing the competition in Second Place (out of 20 teams). They also won the award for Best Brief.

**Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Competition**
- Kyle Flaherty ’22, Abby Lyon ’23, and Adam Mooney ’22 (coached by Vice Dean Dmitry Bam) competed in the Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Competition, hosted by New York Law School. Based on the quality of their brief and oral arguments, they advanced to the final four in the Semifinal Round, out of 40 teams.

**ABA’s 21st Annual Law Student Tax Challenge**
- Chase Hewitt ’22 and Jamie Phillips ’22 were selected as Semi-Finalists in the ABA’s 21st Annual Law Student Tax Challenge—an annual inter-law school transactional tax planning and client counseling competition.
I tell a brief story in the syllabus of my “Cannabis Law, Business, & Policy” class. When I was leaving private practice to come teach at Maine Law, I told a senior partner that I would be teaching cannabis law, among other classes. He chuckled, leaned back in his chair, and said something along the lines of, “well, they never offered that class when I was in law school.” I responded that actually they did: It was called criminal law.

How times have changed.

Cannabis remains federally illegal, but thanks to the over two-thirds of states that have legalized cannabis at the state level (for medical use or adult recreational use), it is also one of the fastest-growing industries in the country. Cannabis sales from regulated businesses exceeded $17.5 billion in 2021 and are expected to grow to more than $41 billion by 2026. In less than a decade, the cannabis industry has created more than 300,000 new full-time jobs nationwide.
The story is the same here in Maine. Sales of medical cannabis exceeded $266 million in 2020, surpassing revenues generated by Maine’s traditional leading crops, blueberries and potatoes. And, after a slow rollout, sales of cannabis from adult-use retailers exceeded $82 million in 2021.

The cannabis industry is also one of the most highly regulated in the country. Partially as a consequence of cannabis being federally illegal, states find it necessary to regulate nearly every aspect of the trade. Most states have rules that dictate how cannabis businesses are licensed; the physical specifications of cannabis facilities; the process for cultivating, manufacturing, and selling cannabis; employment rules; health and safety rules; and a host of other complex and detailed regulations.

As with any highly lucrative, heavily regulated industry, lawyers play a big role in the cannabis space. Lawyers assist cannabis businesses in obtaining licenses and permits from states and localities; complying with all of those thorny regulations; litigating when there are business or regulatory disputes; managing mergers, acquisitions, and other corporate transactions; and more.

All of this legal work in the industry is reason enough for students and practitioners alike to want to learn more about cannabis law—firms and businesses are increasingly employing lawyers who specialize in the area. But even if you never become a specialist, cannabis law will probably touch your legal practice in some way. If you practice real estate law, you may need to advise a landlord on whether they should rent to a cannabis business. If your clients are financial institutions, they may need advice on whether and how they can provide services to cannabis businesses. Municipal attorneys will almost certainly need a working understanding of the cannabis industry. Employment, immigration, litigation, housing, corporate transactions, insurance, and yes, criminal law. The list goes on.

In addition to the practical reasons for Maine Law graduates to become well-versed in cannabis law, the field also proves an interesting and nuanced area of law to study. At the heart of cannabis law lies a complex relationship between the federal government and the states that makes for a fascinating case study in federalism. I recently published a law review article that describes the federal-state cannabis dynamic as a “frenemy” relationship, where the governments cooperate despite having conflicting objectives when it comes to cannabis. I have also written extensively about whether and how the dormant commerce clause doctrine applies to the cannabis industry.

Beyond these novel constitutional law issues, my cannabis law class covers the misguided history of cannabis prohibition, including the racial injustices intertwined with that history; the myriad ways that states regulate the cannabis industry; potential avenues to federal reform; and more. I also invite cannabis business owners, executives, and lawyers to share their experiences with students.

There are many reasons to learn more about cannabis law—from wanting to work for a cannabis business to sheer academic curiosity. And given the industry’s explosive growth, familiarity with the subject will become increasingly necessary to a wide variety of practice areas.
Maine Law is on the Move

When students return for the spring semester in January 2023, it will be to an exciting new campus. The University of Maine School of Law is moving to a modern downtown building that reflects the school’s ever-expanding importance to the state’s economy, its relevance to the local legal community, and a commitment to cross-disciplinary endeavors within the University of Maine System. The facility at 300 Fore Street will be newly renovated for classroom, conferencing, and collaborative use. It offers advanced technology, abundant natural light, customizable furnishings, and ample meeting and study space. And its location in the Portland peninsula’s famed Old Port brings together history, commerce, and culture.
The round, brutalist building that has long housed Maine Law has always stood out in the Portland architectural landscape. After 50 years, however, its unique shape no longer provides the necessary physical layout for a 21st century law school. Maintaining the crumbling structure and the cramped status quo would cost millions. Thus, the time has come for the law school to vacate the Deering Street location.

Maine Law’s new home will enhance student access to faculty and leadership, facilitating communication, collaboration, and socialization. The welcoming aspects of the building include amenities like a parents’ room, a prayer room, a café, a commuter room for safe internal bike storage, and locker rooms with showers. The State and Federal courts, Portland law offices, NGOs, libraries, and the working waterfront sit nearby.

That proximity is not coincidental; indeed, it will render municipal buildings and the legal and business communities more accessible to Maine Law students, who will be able to better interact with key institutions. Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and experiential education will multiply. Close to judicial proceedings, restaurants and cafes, and Portland’s working waterfront, 300 Fore Street represents a strategic and convenient location for Maine Law to become an even more effective partner to our city and state.

“Community, accessibility, and quality of education have always been at the core of Maine Law’s mission, and this new space will better facilitate our commitment to these values,” says Dean Leigh Saufley. “It will provide access to southern Maine’s law offices, businesses, state and federal courts, and a host of community and cultural organizations. At the same time, the modernized technology will provide digital access to and from the facility, further expanding students’ opportunities for connection and a robust legal education. Opportunity for onsite collaboration through the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center with other University partners provides fertile ground for cross-disciplinary innovation.”

In addition to the Graduate and Professional Center, the University of Maine Portland Gateway and the University of Maine Graduate School of Business will join Maine Law at 300 Fore Street. Critically, the relocation will enhance collaboration throughout the University and increase opportunities for interdisciplinary ventures.

“Drawing on collective expertise of faculty and staff across the system, 300 Fore Street is a unique space for our
“Community, accessibility, and quality of education have always been at the core of Maine Law’s mission, and this new space will better facilitate our commitment to these values.”

– Dean Leigh Saufley
state’s academic institutions to join forces, strengthen, and extend our community and business partnerships, and offer a world-class education around systems thinking, design thinking, and complexity science as we train students to be the future stewards of our society and planet,” says Alice “Pips” Veazey, the Gateway’s director.

Maine Law has developed leading programs in environmental, information privacy, business, and rural law. The Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic brings representation to hundreds of low-income Mainers every year, and our students are deeply involved in facets of experiential education, from Moot Court competitions, to externships, to Clinic practice. In short, Maine Law provides an outstanding legal education. Now, finally, it will have the facilities, amenities, and technology to match.
Among the many opportunities Maine Law offers for experiential learning and research is the innovative Arctic Law Program and student fellowship launched in March 2020. This unique cross-disciplinary initiative enables students to study the intersection of law and science while performing field work in the Arctic. Due to its strategic location, abundant resources, and role as a critical barometer of climate change, the Arctic is a region of prime geopolitical, environmental, and commercial interest to scientists, scholars, and world leaders.

Dr. Charles H. Norchi is the Benjamin Thompson Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Oceans & Coastal Law, which houses the Arctic Law Program. He also serves as co-president of the Arctic Futures Institute with Professor Paul Mayewski of the University of Maine and was previously Arctic Fulbright Ministry of Foreign Affairs Scholar in Iceland. Dr. Norchi is widely known for his work on international law and law of the sea, as well as his expertise on the Arctic and Afghanistan. He has been recognized by the World Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Explorers Club, the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and the American Association of Law Schools Section on Admiralty and Maritime Law.

"Our students in the Arctic law program have a unique opportunity — unavailable at any other law school — to acquire legal skills pertinent to science using the Arctic as a laboratory. They have the chance to apply these skills working alongside scientists on a field expedition in Greenland, a Danish self-governing territory on the road to independence," Norchi explains.

The field expedition is part of the university-wide interdisciplinary program Systems Approaches to Understanding and Navigating the New Arctic. During their first week, Arctic fellows participate in class work on method, law, science, and policy. The remainder of the program entails fieldwork, including water sampling, artifact collection, and meeting with local Indigenous populations. To manage the Arctic’s rugged terrain, they are equipped with packs and crampons and travel among locations via kayak or Zodiac boat. Fjords and icebergs make for a stunning backdrop for this unique learning experience.

The Arctic Law Fellows for 2022, Cory Limberger and Kristina Grimaldi, believe their two-week trip to Greenland better positions them for successful legal careers — and to understand Arctic relations with the U.S., and especially Maine. "Once you understand how close Maine’s ports are to Southwest Greenland...the role Maine could play in Greenland’s economic and political development becomes infinitely clearer," says Limberger.

The Fellowship is only one of several Arctic-focused opportunities available to students at Maine Law. Students can work on scholarship as members of the Ocean and Coastal Law Journal and participate in research through the Law School’s Center for Oceans and Coastal Law. They can also study Arctic law abroad at the Arctic University of Norway, Reykjavik University, and the University of Greenland. And in 2023, students can pursue Antarctic law through a new collaboration with the University of Tasmania School of Law.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COLLABORATION

For more than two years, Maine Law Professor Andrew Kaufman has worked with Dr. Jason Harkins, Interim Executive Dean and Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Maine Business School and the Graduate School of Business, to create blended courses for both J.D. and MBA students. “These are not law courses into which the MBA students are invited, nor are they MBA courses into which the J.D. students are invited,” explains Professor Kaufman. “Rather they explore topics through both lenses, allowing the development of true collaboration in their solutions.”

The interdisciplinary structure is resonating with students. “Business and law students approach the issues and case studies we are dealing with from very different places. And they’re often asking very different questions,” says law student Adam Cohen ’22. MBA student Grace Black has “never taken a class like this before. It brings students together who wouldn’t necessarily cross paths otherwise,” she says.

So far, the duo of Kaufman and Harkins has created and co-taught two courses: “Startups and Entrepreneurship” and “Acquisition Transactions: Execution and Risk Management—Legal and Business Perspectives.”

Using a hypothetical startup and case studies, “Startups and Entrepreneurship” focuses on the unique set of legal and business challenges facing a venture’s principals, lawyers, and other advisors. Students tackle case and client management, developing business models, basic financial literacy, founders and governance issues, fundraising and capital formation, intellectual property identification and protection, and the responsibilities of each role.

“I came to Maine Law with little background in business, but I chose my courses...”

CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION PRIVACY

At no other law school in the country do students benefit from a partnership with the world’s largest information privacy professional organization as close as Maine Law’s. With global headquarters in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) is roughly an hour’s drive from Maine Law; philosophically, it’s even nearer. President and CEO J. Trevor Hughes ’95 is both an alum and adjunct professor. General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer Rita Heimes previously taught at Maine Law and led its Center for Law + Innovation, and she continues to helm the Information Privacy Summer Institute each year.

What do these relationships mean for Maine Law students interested in information privacy law? Being on the vanguard of a high-profile, critical area of law that is quickly evolving and expanding — not to mention offering plentiful career opportunities.

Around the world, in virtually every industry, protecting personal information has become a necessity. Reports of data breaches and cyber attacks frequently make headlines while websites prompt their users to accept privacy terms. The use of artificial intelligence is sparking unprecedented questions about boundaries. In the United States, federal agencies scramble to produce policies that keep up with a digital world in flux.

Maine Law is one of a few law schools in the country offering a dedicated Certificate in Information Privacy Law.

J.D. students can earn this additional credential with completion of four categories of work:

- **Experiential Learning:** Students complete the experiential learning component by completing a privacy-related externship or working at a pre-approved job focused on privacy issues. Maine Law also has the Center for Law + Innovation Privacy Law Fellow Program offered in partnership with the IAPP. Students in the Fellows Program are guaranteed an internship at the IAPP during the summer between their first and second years of law school.

- **Coursework:** Students meet the coursework requirement by completing Information Privacy Law, the Information Privacy Summer Institute, and a selection of several other elective courses totaling nine credits.

- **Writing Project:** Students satisfy the writing requirement by publishing a paper on a privacy-related topic in a publication read by privacy professionals.

- **Certification from the IAPP:** At graduation, a candidate must have one of the following IAPP certifications in good standing: CIPP, CIPM, or CIPT.

  The need for qualified, highly trained attorneys with a robust knowledge of privacy law and policy has never been greater — and those are whom this unique partnership develops.
to build my knowledge in transactional law. ‘Startups and Entrepreneurship’ was the first class to empower me with...that foundation that I was desperately searching for,” says law student Holly Lupo ’23. And remote learning isn’t a disadvantage, adds MBA student Isuru Waduge. “As a virtual participant, I can experience the energy in the classroom.”

In “Acquisitions Transactions,” students utilize hypothetical business acquisition transactions to experience how lawyers and business professionals approach, analyze, identify, and resolve issues arising in a pending business transaction.

Combining expertise in business and law is fascinating for students and also positions them well for culture employment. Says Dr. Harkins, the “truly unique educational experience” enables students “to develop new mental models for decision making that will make them very valuable as employees and advisors.”

Kaufman agrees. “Any business student will be a better business advisor with an appreciation of what lawyers bring to the table. Every lawyer is better if they understand what the business people bring to the table.”

The COVID-19 pandemic raised the profile of “compliance” across the United States and the world. Discussions of mask mandates and vaccine policies became commonplace, and the outcome of a massive public health crisis hinged upon whether people would follow an ever-evolving series of regulations, “guidance,” and other recommendations. Federal health agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention weighed each word of their recommendations with exacting precision.

Welcome to the complicated, fascinating world of compliance.

Fortunately, Maine Law’s Compliance Program, a joint venture with the University of Southern Maine’s Maine Regulatory Training and Ethics Center (MeRTEC), had a head start on the pandemic. This non-J.D. program, which launched in 2017, is intended for both experienced compliance professionals and newcomers to this critically important field. Originally offered as an in-person program, it shifted during the pandemic to an online format, making this valuable executive education resource accessible for people with families and/or full-time jobs as well as to participants located outside the Portland area.

Compliance professionals face three principal questions:

What are the rules, norms, and policies with which an organization is trying to comply? (These may include law, regulation, industry best practices, contractual undertakings or aspirational goals.)

What behavior constitutes “compliance?”

How do they motivate compliant behavior throughout the organization?

The Maine Law/MeRTEC Compliance Training Program begins with an introductory course addressing foundational principles of compliance and risk management. Additional courses focus on compliance issues raised by subjects that virtually all businesses and other organizations regularly encounter, including privacy and cybersecurity, employment and human resources, avoiding corruption, contract management, research and internal investigations, and enterprise risk management.

The curriculum gives participants hands-on experience in the various tasks expected of compliance professionals and cultivates fundamental and transferable compliance skills. Students complete work asynchronously on a learning platform and attend weekly web conference sessions so they can interact with their instructors and fellow learners in real time.

The program is a boon for the local business community, with employees from major Maine corporations like UNUM, Central Maine Power, and WEX enrolling regularly.

This innovative and constructive partnership illustrates the power of forging relationships among academia, business, and government — exactly the type of collaboration 300 Fore Street will facilitate.
Immigration continues to be a fraught topic in the American cultural and political landscape. Amid the headlines about ICE apprehensions and Border Patrol raids, the individual stories of humans from around the world seeking legal refuge in the United States can get lost.

Asylum seekers represented by Maine attorneys, including student attorneys in Maine Law’s Refugee and Human Rights Clinic (RHRC), have typically enjoyed a success rate of nearly 100 percent. In 2015, when the Boston Asylum Office opened and took over adjudication of Maine cases from the Newark Asylum Office, asylum approvals not only in Maine, but across New England, began to decrease dramatically. In fact, from 2015 to 2020, the Boston Asylum Office granted a mere 15 percent of asylum applications on average, with some months seeing as little as 1.5 percent of applications granted. In contrast, the national average for the same period was nearly twice as high at 28 percent.

“What’s happening in the Boston Asylum Office is resulting in erroneous denials, because immigration courts are later granting asylum in these cases.”

- Professor Anna Welch, RHRC Founding Director
Seeking to understand the decline, the RHRC, along with the ACLU of Maine and the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP), submitted a Freedom of Information Act to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requesting records of affirmative asylum applications since 2010. When USCIS failed to produce any documents a year later, the three organizations filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine. USCIS ultimately agreed to produce more than 6,000 pages of documentation, although they were heavily redacted. (These redactions are currently being challenged, with a lawsuit pending as of August 29, 2022.) The documents produced failed to adequately explain why the Boston Asylum Office’s grant rate fell, and remained, far below the national average.

As a result, RHRC, the ACLU of Maine, and ILAP, joined by Amherst College Lecturer Basileus Zeno, Ph.D. (a former client of the Boston Asylum Office who fled Syria in 2012 and whose asylum application was ultimately denied) embarked upon a multi-year, multi-modal advocacy project.

While the causes of the downward trend in successful asylum cases are systemic, its consequences are personal, as Dr. Zeno himself can attest. People fleeing persecution in their home countries are wrongly denied the protections afforded to them by international and U.S. law. Asylum seekers may ultimately have to wait years for their cases to resolve. During this period of limbo, they can find it difficult to fully adapt to life in the U.S. and are separated from family members abroad — who often remain in danger. These factors compound stress and trauma for individuals who have already suffered persecution, instability, and acute threats.

The three organizations, understanding the myriad stressors faced by asylum seekers with unresolved or denied cases, launched a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative investigation into the practices and policies of the Boston Asylum Office.

The process involved review of documents and data furnished via FOIA requests, including records of all 25,634 affirmative asylum applications filed between 2010 and 2020; more than 100 interviews with asylum recipients, asylum seekers, immigration attorneys, former asylum officers, and former supervisory asylum officers; and statistical analysis of asylum adjudication data.

The results of this investigation culminated in a final report, released in March 2022 and titled Lives in Limbo: How the Boston Asylum Office Fails Asylum Seekers, that identifies systemic cultural issues in the Boston Asylum Office as well as broader issues affecting adjudication of

Overall, the report finds that the Boston Asylum Office is violating asylum seekers’ due process rights. The authors identify nine concrete recommendations for improving the operations of the Boston Asylum Office — and ultimately yielding a rate of successful outcomes more in line with the national average.

**THESE INCLUDE:**

- Conduct a thorough investigation and replace asylum officers who demonstrate bias and/or lack of cultural literacy.
- Reduce the outsized role of supervisory asylum officers to ensure a neutral and non-adversarial decision-making process.
- Increase transparency of interviews through audio recordings made readily available to asylum applicants and attorneys.
- Limit asylum officers’ adjudication requirements to one interview per day.
- Implement rigorous hiring standards that prioritize language skills and cultural literacy and provide support via mentorship and wellness programs.
- Improve asylum officer training on implicit bias, racism, trauma, compassion fatigue, burnout, and cultural literacy.
- Reframe asylum officer mindset from “trying to find the lie” to “trying to get the truth,” taking into account asylum seekers’ individual experiences, trauma, and cultural differences.
- In certain cases, use a paper-based adjudications process to preserve resources.
- Replace the “last-in, first-out” policy for application adjudication with the prior policy of “first-in, first-out.”
Asylum applicants fleeing human rights abuses in their home countries
Immigrant survivors of domestic violence
Immigrant victims of certain crimes
Detained immigrants
Abandoned or abused children seeking legal status in the U.S.

Our Partners
- Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)
- ACLU's of Maine and New Hampshire
- Preble Street
- Catholic Charities
- Many others at the state and national levels

Since the RHRC’s launch in 2012 through 2021, we have...

- Filed 100+ humanitarian parole applications
- Directly represented over 55 asylum seekers and assisted thousands more through outreach work
- Directly represented over 30 unaccompanied immigrant youth
- Trained over 100 law students

Directly represented over 30 unaccompanied immigrant youth

Refugee and Human Rights Clinic student attorney Aisha Simon with her client Ana at Ana’s naturalization ceremony.

Asylum applications across the country. In Boston, research found that supervisory asylum officers play an outsized role. The office is characterized by suspicion and distrust, and asylum officers demonstrate negative bias toward asylum applicants. Asylum officers are also overburdened with work, under time constraints exacerbated by the continually growing backlog of cases, and facing pressure to cut corners. Asylum officers fail to sufficiently explore the merits of asylum seekers’ claims, instead focusing on immaterial, peripheral details. Claims are complicated by language and cultural differences, and asylum officers lack the time and resources to address these.

“Our study proved that what’s happening in the Boston Asylum Office is resulting in erroneous denials, because immigration courts are later granting asylum in these cases,” says Anna Welch, clinical professor and founding director of Maine Law’s RHRC. “What this translates to for a human being who has been forced to flee for their life is additional years in legal limbo in the immigration court system, re-traumatization, needless family separation, and other devastating costs.”

In May, two months after the report’s publication, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and Representatives Jim McGovern, Jake Auchincloss, Chellie Pingree, Lori Trahan, Ayanna Pressley, and Katherine Clark called on the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General to immediately investigate bias and the resulting low asylum grant rates in the Boston Asylum Office. This momentum among prominent members of Congress is a direct result of both the urgency of the topic and the outstanding scholarship these organizations collaborated to produce.

In executing this project over a period of several years, RHRC student attorneys not only uncovered critical, actionable insights regarding U.S. asylum practices, but they also cultivated essential legal skills. According to Emily Gorrivan ‘22, “this project, and all of my work in the RHRC, has encouraged me to pursue a career in immigration law and has given me the skill set to do so.” But no matter which professional setting or practice area these student attorneys ultimately pursue, each will be better equipped to launch a successful career due to the substantive hands-on legal work this project entailed.

And as a group, their hope is that one outcome of this cutting-edge report will be to drive change within the U.S. immigration system.

For most of U.S. history, the law identified a maximum of two parents for each child. In recent years, however, legislatures and courts have become increasingly willing to recognize the possibility that a child may have more than two parents (multi-parentage). A number of jurisdictions have adopted statutes providing for the identification of more than two legal parents under certain circumstances, and judicial decisions in additional jurisdictions have reached the same result. There is currently a clear trend toward legal recognition of multi-parentage, and this trend shows no signs of slowing down.

Professor Jessica Feinberg is a nationally recognized expert in family law and gender and sexuality law, with a record of excellence in both teaching and scholarship. This piece is the introduction to a recently published article in the SMU Law Review.
A variety of factors have contributed to the move away from strict adherence to the "rule of two." In recognizing a maximum of two parents for each child, the law has long sought to "naturalize a normative family in which only enduringly monogamous heterosexual couples reproduce." Today, however, the "traditional" nuclear family consisting of a married different-sex couple and their genetic children represents only a minority of family structures in the United States, and a significant number of children have more than two individuals in their lives who serve in a parental role. For example, the rate of births outside of marriage and the rate of divorce each remain around 40% or higher. As a result, stepparents, non-marital partners of legal parents, and extended family members often play significant roles in children’s lives and may form relationships with children that are parental in nature. Moreover, it has become increasingly common for same-sex couples to have children, and some same-sex couples have chosen to create family structures in which the couple and a third party whose gametes were used to conceive the child (and perhaps the gamete provider’s spouse or partner) raise the child together as co-parents.

Important medical advancements have also contributed to the decline of the rule of two. The use of assisted reproductive technology (ART) has become increasingly common among both same-sex couples who wish to conceive children and different-sex couples who are confronting fertility issues. Advancements in ART mean that five or more people may be directly involved in the conception of a child: the providers of the gametes used to conceive the child, the person who gestates the child, and the intended parents. Moreover, it is likely that advances in medical technology will soon result in the ability to conceive children using the gametes of three individuals, leading to the reality of a child having more than two genetic parents.

Along with these societal and medical developments have come important legal developments. The law has both expanded the categories of individuals who can utilize the traditional mechanisms available for parentage establishment (marriage, adoption, and biology) and added important additional parentage establishment mechanisms. Members of same-sex couples, for example, now can use traditional marriage-based avenues—such as the marital presumption of parentage, spousal consent to assisted reproduction laws, and stepparent adoption procedures—to obtain legal parentage. In addition, states across the country have supplemented their traditional parentage establishment mechanisms with a variety of intent- and function-based mechanisms, meaning that there are more bases on which an individual may establish legal parentage than ever before. Taken together, these societal, medical, and legal developments have led to a situation in which it is increasingly common for more than two people to seek recognition as a child’s legal parent.

Rather than joining the well-developed debate regarding the baseline question of
The use of assisted reproductive technology (ART) has become increasingly common among both same-sex couples who wish to conceive children and different-sex couples who are confronting fertility issues. Whether the law should recognize the possibility of a child having more than two legal parents, this article instead seeks to address what boundaries the law should adopt in setting forth a logical, fair, and effective legal framework governing multi-parentage determinations. Legal recognition of multi-parentage is a relatively new concept. The jurisdictions that have recognized multi-parentage through statute or court decision have employed varying approaches, and the boundaries of multi-parentage recognition remain very much unsettled. Of particular importance are questions relating to (1) whether the consent of all the existing legal parents should be required for the law to recognize additional legal parents and, if so, whether the definition of consent should encompass both express and implied consent; (2) what (if any) cap states should set on the number of individuals who can obtain legal parentage; and (3) how to structure multi-parentage laws in a way that avoids imposing a hetero- and bio-normative family structure on LGBTQ+ families. Each of these questions raises complex legal and policy-related issues.

The first question, regarding the consent of a child’s existing legal parents to the establishment of multi-parentage, raises complicated legal issues. The analysis necessarily involves weighing the fundamental constitutional rights of the existing legal parents to direct the care, custody, and control of their child against the state’s interest in protecting the well-being of children who have formed a parent-like relationship with a third party. With regard to the second question, whether states should set a firm cap on the number of parents the law can recognize, there are strong policy considerations on each side. On the one hand, having too many individuals recognized as a child’s legal parents could lead to chaos and conflict that is detrimental to the child. On the other hand, having the state choose one number as the absolute maximum number of legal parents a child could possibly have is arguably arbitrary and unwise given the wide variety of family forms in existence today and the unique attributes of every family. Resolving the third question, how to protect LGBTQ+ families from imposition of a hetero- and bio-normative family structure, will be a complex undertaking that will require states to carefully construct each component of their laws in a way that minimizes the potential for anti-LGBTQ bias to play a determinative role in multi-parentage decisions. Overall, in structuring their multi-parentage laws, it is essential that states give each of these questions thorough consideration—the manner in which states choose to address these questions will have profound and lasting effects on children, parents, and families.

“Legal recognition of multi-parentage is a relatively new concept. The jurisdictions that have recognized multi-parentage through statute or court decision have employed varying approaches, and the boundaries of multi-parentage recognition remain very much unsettled.”
Growing up in a small farming community in northwestern Iowa, Joann Bautista ’18 never saw herself going to law school. Her parents had only elementary-level educations. Mexican immigrants, they had extremely demanding, physical jobs in agriculture, working the fields in California and Oregon before settling in the Midwest for its opportunities in the meatpacking industry.

In northwest Iowa, the Bautistas were among only a handful of nonwhite families. Bautista saw few professional role models who looked like her and didn’t have any relatives who had attended college. But her parents emphasized the importance of education, knowing the opportunities that came with going to college. She navigated the application process herself, ultimately enrolling at the University of Iowa.
Bautista's fondness for Maine and her Maine Law community drew her back to the state. She worked for the ACLU of Maine and Preble Street — both organizations that granted her direct exposure to the state legislature — until a surprise email invited her to interview for an opening at the office of the secretary of state.
Looking back on her Maine Law years, she points to her clinical experience for helping her to develop communication skills and apply the theoretical concepts of the classroom.

Bautista graduated in 2011 with a degree in Journalism. That proved to be a tough year to enter the news business, and she ended up initially getting a secretarial job in an immigration law firm. The work was a fit — within a few months, she had transitioned into a paralegal role. She stayed with the firm for five years, learning how to work with clients and within the law. Eventually, an associate suggested she consider law school herself. Seeking a move to the East Coast and a smaller, closer environment than she had experienced as an undergraduate, Bautista applied to Maine Law. She was accepted, flew out to visit the campus (meeting Professors Deirdre Smith ’94 and Anna Welch), and was convinced it was the place for her. She made her deposit the very next day.

“I was blown away by how friendly and welcoming” Maine Law faculty and staff were, Bautista recalls. It was clear to her “how much they genuinely cared about students and their success.”

For Bautista, that collegial, “not cutthroat” atmosphere balanced out the stress and anxiety of rigorous law school academics. She forged friendships that have continued long after graduation, even serving as maid of honor for a classmate’s 2022 wedding. And she found that Maine Law’s small size facilitated valuable familiarity with faculty and staff, even those at the top of their fields.

When she graduated in 2018, Bautista assumed she would practice immigration law, in which she had been immersed for almost a decade at that point. But ultimately she realized that direct representation of immigration clients would take a grueling toll on her mental and emotional wellbeing. She made the shift to policy, appreciating that it provided the opportunity to affect client outcomes without being so personally involved. Bautista moved to Washington, D.C. to work on federal immigration policy for the National Immigrant Justice Center. She loved the fast pace of the capital and the ability to gather and learn from so many experts in one place.

Ultimately, Bautista’s fondness for Maine and her Maine Law community drew her back to the state. She worked for the ACLU of Maine and Preble Street — both organizations that granted her direct exposure to the state legislature — until a surprise email invited her to interview for an opening at the office of the secretary of state. She was hired not long after.

As Deputy Secretary of State - Policy Advisor, Bautista oversees the development and implementation of all legislation, rules, and policies that affect the Department of the Secretary of State, including the Bureau of Corporations, Elections, and Commissions; the Maine State Archives; and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. She enjoys how collaborative her job is, requiring teamwork both within her office and outside it, and the challenge of developing creative solutions.

The magnitude of her responsibilities can feel overwhelming at times: Among Bautista’s current priorities are protecting access to the ballot box and addressing inequities in motor vehicle laws. As a woman of color and a first-generation college graduate, she understands the importance of representation and finds it “really rewarding” to focus her energy on ensuring historically marginalized populations are treated fairly.

Bautista sees herself in policy work for years to come and has no intention of leaving the state. Looking back on her Maine Law years, she points to her clinical experience for helping her to develop communication skills and apply the theoretical concepts of the classroom. The school’s professors, she says, are remarkable for trusting their students — not just to learn, but to lead.
Economic Justice Fellowship - Adam Cohen ‘22

The Economic Justice Fellowship is awarded annually to an incoming 1L who demonstrates academic excellence, a commitment to work for the public good, and an interest in economic justice and community development. These Fellows work closely with faculty in curricular and career planning, research, and placement in field opportunities with organizations engaged in affordable housing, community economic development, or development finance. They receive a stipend for a full-time summer internship and may also arrange for part-time placements for credit during the academic year.

The 2019-2022 Economic Justice Fellow, Adam Cohen ‘22, spent the summer after 1L interning with Avesta Housing, a Portland-based nonprofit housing developer, and the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC). Part of his work entailed traveling to courthouses across Maine to build the state’s first eviction-tracking database, which was used to inform the state’s eviction prevention efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He continued working with MAHC through his 2L year, helping to draft and advocate for recently passed legislation that substantially increased funding for tenant legal representation in eviction court. Cohen joined Klein Hornig LLP in Washington, D.C., after graduation in May 2022. Klein Hornig is one of the nation’s premier law firms concentrating on affordable housing and community development.

Refugee and Human Rights Fellowship - Emily Gorrivan ‘22

The Refugee and Human Rights Fellowship is awarded annually to an incoming 1L who has demonstrated both academic excellence and a commitment to Refugee and Human Rights issues. The Fellow is invited to policy meetings and a special reception concurrent with our Justice For Women Lecture Series and receives placement in the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic (RHRC) for a 2L or 3L semester. Clinical Professor Anna Welch, who oversees the RHRC, acts as the Fellow’s academic advisor and provides independent writing supervision on topics relating to immigration issues.

The 2019-2022 Refugee and Human Rights Fellow, Emily Gorrivan ‘22, assisted with the RHRC’s groundbreaking, multiyear report on the Boston Asylum Office. Emily also spent a semester as a Legal Extern at the ACLU of Maine and has served on the boards of various student organizations, including the Maine Association of Public Interest Law (MAPIL), If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice, the Student Bar Association, and Maine Law Soccer. In Spring 2023, she will complete her dual degree with a Masters in Policy, Planning, and Management at the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School of Public Service.

Immigration Law Fellowship - Camrin Rivera ‘22

The Immigration Law Fellowship is awarded annually to an academically distinguished incoming 1L with a commitment to immigration issues. This Fellow is invited to policy meetings, is assured placement in Maine Law’s Refugee and Human Rights Clinic for a 2L or 3L semester, and receives subject-specific academic advising and guaranteed independent writing supervision on topics relating to immigration.

The 2019-2022 Immigration Law Fellow, Camrin Rivera ‘22, assisted with the RHRC’s groundbreaking, multiyear report on the Boston Asylum Office. For his 1L summer, he interned at Pine Tree Legal Assistance. After his second year of law school, he worked full-time at the RHRC. He was a staff member on the Maine Law Review, president of the Multicultural Law Society, and co-chair of the Maine Association for Public Interest Law. Rivera clerked at Ford Murray during his final year of law school and began clerking for Justice Rick Lawrence of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in Summer 2022.
Energy and Environmental Law Fellowship - Josh Rosen ’22

The Energy and Environmental Law Fellowship is awarded annually to an incoming 1L demonstrating both academic excellence and a commitment to the pursuit of work in the public interest. After their first year of law school, the E&E Fellow is supported for a summer assignment in energy, environmental, and/or land use issues, as well as academic advising by the faculty advisor of the Energy and Environmental Law Society and a guaranteed seat in one of the environmental-related seminars or practicums of their choice.

The 2019-2022 Energy and Environmental Law Fellow, Josh Rosen ’22, worked as a first-year Summer Associate at Bernstein Shur and a second-year Summer Associate at Foley Hoag, LLP of Boston. He also interned with the Governor’s Energy Office and the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and consulted with several Maine organizations and municipalities on managing climate action and building a regional coalition. Rosen received a dual JD/MBA, with a central focus on energy and climate law, receiving the 2021 Shur-Frinsko Award for Municipal Law and Local Government. He joined Foley Hoag as a first-year associate in Fall 2022 and will be a part of their energy and climate practice group.

Susan Calkins Public Interest Fellowship - Lisa Kay Rosenthal ’22

Named for retired Maine Supreme Judicial Court Justice Susan Calkins ’70, the Susan Calkins Public Interest Fellowship is awarded annually to an academically excellent incoming 1L with a commitment to work in the public interest. The Calkins Fellow is granted a summer public interest fellowship during their first summer, academic advising by the Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic (the Clinic), enrollment in a Clinic course, invitations to public interest policy meetings, and access to loan repayment funds for qualifying post-graduate employment.

The 2019-2022 Calkins Public Interest Fellow, Lisa Kay Rosenthal ’22, served as managing editor of the Maine Law Review and was co-chair of the Women’s Law Association. For the summer after her first year of law school, Rosenthal was a Rural Fellow at the Sutherland Law Firm in Belfast, Maine. After her 2L year, she worked as a summer associate at Vafiades, Brountas & Kominsky in Bangor, the firm she ultimately joined after graduation. Rosenthal was also the primary author of “A Guide to Kinship Care & Minor Guardianship in Maine,” produced by the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic in partnership with the Volunteer Lawyers Project and the law firm Pierce Atwood.

Youth Justice Fellowship - Jess Mizzi ’22

The Youth Justice Fellowship is awarded annually to an incoming 1L who demonstrates a high level of commitment to and interest in youth justice practice and policy. The Fellowship provides access to youth justice policy meetings throughout the state under the supervision of the Youth Justice Clinic Director, who also serves as the Fellow’s faculty advisor.

The 2019-2022 Juvenile Justice Fellow, Jess Mizzi ’22, worked closely with the Maine Center for Youth Policy and Law during her law school career. She served as a student attorney at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic in the Youth Justice Clinic and participated in an externship with the ACLU of Maine. In addition, she co-authored a Maine Law Review article with Professors Northrop and Ward about adolescent development and the case for expanding original court jurisdiction in Maine’s judicial system. After graduation, Mizzi began a two-year position as the Frank M. Coffin Family Law Fellow at Pine Tree Legal Assistance. This fellowship provides legal representation in family law matters to clients who have qualified for pro bono assistance through the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Named after Frank M. Coffin, Senior Judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the Project supports attorneys based in Pine Tree’s Portland office.
ANGELA AREY

PRESENTATION
- Presented at Sirico Scholars Workshop, July 2022

PROFESSIONAL
- Received Maine Law Faculty Research Grant
- Oversaw the Moot Court Program

DMITRY BAM

PROFESSIONAL
- Prepared Racial Impact Statement for Maine Legislature Labor and Housing Committee
- Wrote amicus brief in NECEC Transmission LLC v. Bureau of Parks and Lands
- Testified to advisory panel regarding legal implications of genetic modification and engineering in Maine
- Taught First Amendment law as part of OLLI course offered by the First Amendment Museum

COURTNEY BEER

PUBLICATIONS
- Wrote Chapters 1-6 of the New Attorney Training Manual Addendum “Introduction to Education Law for Juvenile Defenders and Parents Attorneys” for the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS) minimum standards training for child protective and juvenile attorneys
- Updated Clinicians’ Desk Reference for Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA)

PRESENTATION
- At the CLE “Every Student, All Day, Every Day: Updates on School Exclusion and Developments for Students in Maine - Review of New Legislation LD 474” (September 2021)
- Presented four classes for Eastern Maine Community College to secondary school vocational education teachers on special education issues, “Education Law 101” (November 2021, October 2022)

SCOTT BLOOMBERG

PUBLICATIONS
- Forthcoming article, “Political Advertising in Virtual Reality,” in the First Amendment Law Review
- Recent publications in the Pepperdine Law Review, University of Richmond Law Review, and the Iowa Law Review Online

PRESENTATION
- Presented and wrote about interstate commerce in cannabis with the Ohio State Moritz College of Law’s Drug Enforcement and Policy Center

KAITLIN CARUSO

PUBLICATIONS

PROFESSIONAL
- “Value of a Last Name,” Bloomberg Law Podcast, May 20, 2021

SARAH BRANCH

PROFESSIONAL
- Joined the Law School as a Visiting Clinical Professor in January 2022
- Named Director of the Youth Justice Clinic in October 2022
- Member of the Languishing Committee, a group of stakeholders who meet biweekly to address issues related to individuals accused of crime languishing in jails without treatment
- Proposed an end to the Lawyer of the Day program for justice-involved youth and facilitated with stakeholders a pilot project utilizing the best practice of vertical representation that will be replicated statewide in 2023

GREGORY BORDELON

PUBLICATIONS (NATIONAL OP-EDS)
- “State Bar Offices Need Critical Resources to Plan February Exam” in Bloomberg Law, December 8, 2021
- “What’s A Last Name Worth in Divorce? If It’s Gates, a Lot” in Bloomberg Law, May 12, 2021
JESSICA FEINBERG

PUBLICATIONS
- “The Boundaries of Multi-Parentage,” 75 SMU L. Rev. 307 (2022)
- “Parent Zero,” 55 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 2271 (2022)

PRESENTATION
- “The Boundaries of Multi-Parentage,” Feminist Legal Theory Program, Law and Society Annual Conference (July 2022)

PETER J. GUFFIN

PUBLICATIONS
- Amicus briefs on behalf of Conference of Chief Justices in Courthouse News Service et al. v. Glessner et al., No. 21-1624 (1st Cir.) and Courthouse News Service et al. v. Gabel et al., No. 21-3098 (2d Cir.)
- “As Massachusetts Punts on Privacy Law, Companies Can’t be Complacent, Law360” (2022) (with Melanie Conroy)

PRESENTATION
- “Emerging Jurisprudence in First Amendment Challenge to Electronic Court Records Access Rules,” annual meeting of Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators

ANDREW KAUFMAN

PUBLICATION
- “Laws Commonly Excluded from the Coverage of Third-Party Legal Opinions in U.S. Commercial Loan Transactions,” 76 The Business Lawyer 889 (2021) (with others)

JEFFREY A. MAINE

PUBLICATIONS
- “Taxing Creativity,” 89 Tenn. L. Rev. 523 (2022) (with Xuan-Thao Nguyen).
- “Incentivizing Innovation,” 75 The Tax Lawyer 351 (2022) (with Xuan-Thao Nguyen)
- “Taxation of Intellectual Property: Law and Practice” (2021, PLI Practicing Law Institute treatise) (with Xuan-Thao Nguyen)

ANTHONY MOFFA

PUBLICATIONS
- “Constitutional Authority, Common Resources, and the Climate,” Utah L. Rev. 169 (2022)

PRESENTATION

CHARLES H. NORCHI

PUBLICATIONS
- “Sanctions or Sea Ice: Costs of Closing the Northern Sea Route,” Finance Research Letters (with Michael A. Goldstein, Amanda H. Lynch, Xueke Li)

PRESENTATIONS
- “Converging Pressures on Arctic Development, Arctic Circle Assembly,” Reykjavik, Iceland
- “The International Legal Regime of the Arctic,” Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University
- “The Arctic: Climate, Law and Security,” Le Mans University, France
- “Law and War in the Arctic,” International Law Colloquium, Graduate Institute, Geneva Switzerland
- “Climate Change and Arctic Navigation: Law Science and Policy,” (with Amanda Lynch) Faculty Workshop, University of Maine School of Law

PROFESSIONAL
- Elected a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland
- Awarded the Myres S. McDougal Prize for International Law
CHRISTOPHER NORTHROP

PUBLICATION

PRESENTATION
■ “What is Youth? Redefining Jurisdictional Boundaries for Juvenile Court,” Gault Center Summit in San Juan, Puerto Rico

PROFESSIONAL
■ Oversaw the transition from Maine Law’s Juvenile Justice Clinic to our new Youth Justice Clinic
■ Named Director, Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic

DANIEL PI

PUBLICATIONS
■ “The Limits of Behavioral Economics in Tort Law,” 18 Rev. L. & Econ. 323 (2022)

PETER PITEGOFF

PRESENTATION
■ Discussant, “A Right to Housing! Law and Activism to Eradicate Homelessness,” Association of American Law Schools annual meeting

PROFESSIONAL
■ Board of directors of Avesta Housing (affordable housing development, management, and advocacy) and of Surf Point Foundation (arts residency program)
■ Executive Committee of the new section on Community Economic Development Law, Association of American Law Schools
■ Coordinator of Economic Justice Fellowship program at Maine Law

DEIRDRE M. SMITH

PUBLICATION
■ “Termination of Parental Rights as a Private Remedy: Rationales, Realities, and Alternatives,” Syracuse Law Review

PRESENTATION
■ “Minor Guardianship: Boots on the Ground Perspective,” National Conference of State Legislatures Minor Guardianship Roundtable in Denver, Colorado

PROFESSIONAL
■ Caroline Duby Glassman Award from the Maine State Bar Association’s Women’s Law Section; Peter J. DeTroy III Award from the Campaign for Justice

ANNA R. WELCH

PUBLICATIONS
■ “Ethno-Nationalism and Asylum Law,” 74 Me. L. Rev. 187 (2022) (with Emily Gorrivan)

PRESENTATIONS
■ Panelist, “Law Students and Faculty Rising to the Challenge: Lawyering in Response to Humanitarian Immigration Crisis,” Association of American Law Schools Clinical Conference (May 2022)
■ Panelist, “Hot Topics: Law Students and Faculty Rising to the Challenge: Responding to the Afghan Crisis,” Association of American Law Schools 2022 Annual Meeting (Jan. 6, 2022)

SARA WOLFF

PUBLICATION
■ Updated the 40th Anniversary Edition of the Uniform Maine Citations, 2022-2024 edition

PROFESSIONAL
■ Serves as an Assistant Editor for Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute, which publishes scholarship focused on the theory, substance, and pedagogy of legal writing
■ Member of the Maine Justice Action Group Pro Bono Advisory Committee, which hosted the 2022 Rural Access to Justice Summit in October 2022

JENNIFER B. WRIGGINS

PUBLICATIONS
■ “How to Include Issues of Race and Racism in the Torts Course for First Year Law Students,” 23 Rutgers Race & the Law Rev. 259 (2021)
CLASS OF 1968
Hon. James P. Dunleavy, Sr. finished his term as President of the National College of Probate Judges in November 2022.

CLASS OF 1976
Barbara Alexander was appointed to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. She was nominated to the position by Governor Mills and confirmed by the legislature in May 2022. Since 1996, Barbara has operated her own consulting business as Barbara Alexander Consulting LLC, and she is currently an elected member of the Winthrop Town Council and Secretary of the Winthrop Area Rotary. Barbara and her husband Donald Alexander have two children and five grandchildren living in Maine and Montana.

CLASS OF 1984
Patrick Scully was appointed to the Maine Public Utilities Commission by Governor Mills in June 2021.

CLASS OF 1985
Valerie Stanfill was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court on June 8, 2021.

CLASS OF 1991
Joseph Enriquez joined the law firm Hinckley Allen in 2021 as a Partner in the Firm’s Trusts & Estates group. Joseph concentrates his practice in the areas of Estate Planning, including the preparation of wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other estate planning documents, as well as the settlement of Trusts and Estate Administration.

CLASS OF 1996
Jodi Nofsinger was elected President of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maine Board of Directors in January 2020. Jodi has served on the board since 2009, most recently as Vice President and Equity Officer. In 2021, she was selected by Chambers USA for her outstanding legal service. She was recognized as a distinguished lawyer in the category “Litigation: Medical Malpractice & Insurance – Maine.”

CLASS OF 1997
Martin C. Womer retired from practicing as an elder law attorney at the Maine Center for Elder Law in December 2020. He founded the Maine Center for Elder Law, LLC in 2007, which merged with Perkins Thompson, PA. in September 2019.

CLASS OF 2004
Letha McDowell recently completed her term (2021 – 2022) as President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and she currently serves in the role of Past President.

CLASS OF 2006
Susan Faunce was selected by Chambers USA in 2021 for her outstanding legal service. She was recognized as a distinguished lawyer in the category: “Litigation: Medical Malpractice & Insurance – Maine.” In addition to handling medical malpractice and wrongful death cases, Susan leads Berman & Simmons’ mass tort practice, which involves dangerous drug and medical device litigation.

CLASS OF 2009
Sarah Gilbert was sworn in as a Maine district court judge in February 2021 by Governor Janet Mills. Gilbert has served on the Board of Governors to the Maine Trial Lawyers Association, as Treasurer to the Knox County Bar Association, serves on the Transitioning Lawyer’s Council (seeking to encourage new lawyers to open practice in rural Maine), the Maine State Bar Association CLE Committee, the Town of Union Board of Appeals, and speaks at numerous state bar events such as Bridging the Gap and Women in the Law panel discussions.

Ben Yormak had one of his cases featured in Time magazine’s March 15, 2021, cover story. According to Ben, the article was ‘a total honor that came out of the blue.’

CLASS OF 2013
Katherine Lybrand was appointed to the Alaska Superior Court in June by Governor Mike Dunleavy.
CLASS OF 2014
Michael E. Carey was named Partner at the Lewiston-headquartered law firm Brann & Isaacson in 2021. Carey’s practice will continue to focus on municipal law, the state and local taxation of information technology and telecommunications services, and civil litigation. He joined Brann & Isaacson in 2013 after serving four terms in the Maine House of Representatives, where his experience deepened his understanding of public sector finance and management.

Kevin Decker was elected to Shareholder at Bernstein Shur in December 2021. He is an energy attorney who helps clients navigate regulatory and transactional matters involving project development.

John Moran was elected to Shareholder at Bernstein Shur in December 2021. He is a business and regulatory attorney who represents startup companies and established small. Moran is a co-founder of the Firm’s Food and Beverage Industry Group, and he serves as general counsel to a significant number of craft breweries, distilleries, wineries, retailers, and other food and beverage companies with respect to supply, distribution, and federal and state licensing and regulatory compliance matters.

CLASS OF 2015
James Dowling-Healey recently received a Master of Science in Biology and a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Science from the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT. James was inducted into Beta Beta Beta (TriBeta) Biology Honor Society and worked as an adjunct faculty member.

CLASS OF 2016
Yueying LaFleur joined Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana as an Assistant General Counsel II in April 2021. She writes that “it is a remote position that allows me to work from my quiet home in Cape Neddick.”

CLASS OF 2017
Thomas Brems reports: “In December 2019, I launched CarHop. CarHop is the first company in Maine that is able to deliver alcohol direct to consumers from multiple vendors.” The company, which operates from Kittery to Bangor and charges restaurants zero commission, has grown to be one of the largest local delivery services in Maine.

CLASS OF 2018
Ishtiaque Ahmed was acknowledged as the best researcher at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of North South University, Bangladesh in 2021. This most recent award follows Ishtiaque’s winning the ‘Gold Medal Award’ for outstanding research performance during 2018, 2019, and 2020. The award was received from the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Architect Yeafesh Osman.

CLASS OF 2019
Paul Mullen completed an LL.M. in maritime law at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom in 2020. A modified version of his LL.M. dissertation, “Prelude to the Future: The Nexus of FLNG and Maritime Law,” was published in October 2021, in the Australia and New Zealand Maritime Law Journal. The Article discusses the Shell Prelude FLNG (Floating Liquefied Natural Gas) craft and applies various vessel tests and treaties to novel FLNG technology.

CLASS OF 2020
Nicholas Anania joined Verrill as a member of the firm’s Business Law Group. Anania focuses his practice on a broad range of transactions and corporate work, including mergers and acquisitions, commercial lending, contracts, and general business counseling.

Julia MacDonald joined Pierce Atwood LLP as an associate in the firm’s litigation practice group.

Joy Naifeh joined the Solotoff Law Group, PLLC in March 2021 as an Associate Attorney.

Have a personal or professional milestone to share, such as a move, a marriage, children, or a new job? Let your classmates and the Maine Law community hear about your latest news! Send your updates to lawalum@maine.edu.
IN MEMORIAM

Charles “Charlie” Slade Andrews passed away at the age of 81 in December 2020. After serving in the Army, he graduated from Amherst College, followed by earning his law degree from Maine Law in 1969. After graduation, Charlie worked for two years at Pine Tree Legal Aid before moving to Virginia to work for the American Automobile Association (AAA). Upon retiring from AAA, he started a second career as a bus driver for the Fairfax County Public Schools. This would be his favorite job of all time. Charlie was an active member of his church, serving on numerous church boards and volunteering as a Sunday school teacher.

Robert Conkling passed away in April 2022. He studied Anthropology at Wesleyan University before earning an M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. After various stops, he and his wife eventually moved to Maine, where he worked building energy-efficient homes. In 1996, he graduated from Maine Law and began practicing law at Wright and Mills Law Office in Skowhegan.

Thomas E. Delahanty II passed away in April 2021. He graduated from St. Michael’s College and Maine Law in 1970. Tom served as a Superior Court Chief Justice and two-term United States Attorney. Tom opened the law firm of Delahanty and Longley in his native Lewiston, where he practiced until his appointment as a justice of the Maine Superior Court. He served three successive terms, more than 26 years, including a five-year term as the court’s Chief Justice.

Edward “Ted” C. Dalton Jr. passed away in January 2022. After attending the University of Notre Dame, he graduated from Maine Law in 1967. He spent many years practicing real estate law and appellate advocacy in the Portland area. After retiring from the law, he joined the board of directors of the Cape Elizabeth Home, serving over 20 years. During this time, he became a founder and president of the Cape Elizabeth Retirement Corporation, a public charity for fundraising for the elderly, but especially for the Cape Elizabeth Home. When the Cape Home was sold, it became a charitable foundation for assisting the elderly in need, and Ted served as its Vice President.

Jon R. Doyle passed away at the age of 82 in January 2021. Jon served in the Marine Corps Reserve and earned his law degree from Portland University (now the University of Maine School of Law) in 1961. Jon’s law career started in the office of the Attorney General before he entered private practice, where his solo firm evolved into a partnership forming the firm Doyle and Nelson. He contributed time and resources to many organizations, including serving on the boards of Jobs for Maine Graduates, the Maine State Museum, the Family Violence Project, Chair of the KV United Way, and the Maine State Troopers Foundation.

F. Paul Frinsko passed away at the age of 81 in December 2020. He graduated from Middlebury College and served as a captain in the Army before graduating with honors from Maine Law in 1969. Paul enjoyed a long, successful career as a municipal attorney for Bernstein Shur, developing a reputation as the leading municipal lawyer in Maine. Paul was director of Gorham Savings Bank for many years, served on the Gorham Town Council, and was a member of the Maine Bar Association, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council, and the Downeast Salmon Federation.

John “Skip” Evans Harrington Jr. passed away at the age of 77 in April 2021. A Colby College alum, he graduated from Maine Law in 1969. John had a long and accomplished career in law, first as a lawyer for a small firm in southern Maine and later with his own practice in the Bangor area. John was a long-time proud member of Alcoholics Anonymous and, through his example and experience, helped many friends and others to recover and lead healthier lives. He volunteered for the Maine Lawyers Assistance Program and participated in the International Lawyers in AA organization.
William P. Hardy passed away in July 2022. He attended Colby College, though college was interrupted while he served in the Air Force, including a year making films in Vietnam. After a brief stint as a news producer, Bill returned to Colby, graduated, and attended Maine Law, where he managed the Maine Law Review and graduated with distinction in 1973. After his family, Bill most loved the law. For 35 years he practiced his craft in Hardy, Wolf & Downing, the firm he founded in 1976 and that carries his name today.

Andrew (Andy) Jessen passed away at the age of 40 in February 2021. After attending St. Lawrence University, he graduated from Maine Law in 2007. Andy was the co-founder and owner of Bonfire Brewing in Eagle, Colorado, a company he started in 2010. Andy served as mayor pro tempore on Eagle’s town council and was a steward for conservation, a people-focused leader, and an engaged friend and family member.

Malcolm L. Lyons passed away at the age of 80 in March 2022. Malcolm, or “Mal” or “Laddie” as he was known to his friends and family, graduated from the University of Maine, spent three years in the Army, and in 1970, earned his law degree from Maine Law. Mal had a very successful career as a trial attorney as a partner at Pierce Atwood, respected and admired by his peers. He was very proud of his membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers and took great pride in his service on Maine’s judicial nominating committee. He was a lifelong Mainer and had a deep and abiding love for its land and people.

Victoria Skillings Muller passed away in July 2021. Victoria was a one-of-a-kind free spirit and loved politics, cooking, gardening, and her family. She earned her law degree from Maine Law in 1990 and served as guardian ad litem for over 25 years.

Judith “Judy” Ann Plano passed away at the age of 82 in February 2021. She earned a BS from the College of Charleston, a M.Ed. from the Citadel, where she was the first woman to attend day classes with the cadets, and a music degree from University of Southern Maine. Seeking new challenges, Judy attended Maine Law, graduating in 1993. She worked with both the Disability Rights Center and Pine Tree Legal Assistance before retiring. She touched countless lives through her work helping tenants fight eviction and unfair housing conditions, providing legal aid to Maine’s Indigenous communities, and providing pro-bono guardian ad litem services.

Gerard A. Poissonnier passed away in October 2021. An alum of St. John’s College, he graduated from Maine Law in 1980. Interested in public service, he pursued a career with the State of Maine, working for the Bureau of Elderly at DHHS, the Dept. of Corrections, the Workers’ Compensation Commission, and, lastly, for the Maine Revenue Services until his retirement. He generously gave of his time, support, and contributions to many organizations, volunteering with the Winslow Lions Club, Bowling for the Blind, and Friends of Fort Halifax.

Clinton Stuntebeck passed away at the age of 84 in June 2022. Clint graduated from the University of Minnesota, served in the United States Air Force as a Captain and Flight Examiner Navigator, and earned his law degree from Maine Law in 1968. Clint began his 35-year career working as a corporate and securities lawyer for Schnader Harrison Segal and Lewis in Pennsylvania, where he also pursued his dreams of community service, serving on several boards including his signature 23½ years on the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners representing the 2nd Ward.

Katherine Morgan Maxim Greenleaf passed away at the age of 72 in December 2020. She graduated from Connecticut College and Boston University School of Law. In 1973 she accepted a position as a litigator at Union Mutual Life Insurance, now known as Unum, and by 30 she had been promoted as the company’s first female vice president. Her career included senior positions at Hannaford Bros. Co., The Limited Stores, Inc., and WEX Inc., where she helped take the company public. Katherine maintained strong ties to her personal and professional communities and served on a variety of boards over the years, including the Maine Law Board of Visitors.

Prof. J. Andrew (Andy) Spanogle passed away at the age of 86 in December 2020. He graduated Princeton University and the University of Chicago Law School. With his JD degree, he took an academic position at UC Berkeley, followed by Vanderbilt. He later joined the founding faculty at Maine Law, then went to the University of Buffalo and finally stayed 24 years at George Washington University Law. After retiring from GW as a professor emeritus, he helped fund the D.C. office of the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC), which is now named for him.

Frances Tucker passed away in December 2020. She attended Portland schools, graduating from Portland High and Westbrook Junior College. Frances served as the registrar for Maine Law for 25 years, loved her job and was well-loved. Frances was an avid reader and enjoyed traveling, cooking, knitting, birdwatching, and crossword puzzles.
Annual Philanthropy Report
2021–2022
A Message from the Maine Law Foundation

Thank you once again for another banner year - really a series of recent years in which to mark steady and substantial increases in annual giving. Over the past five years, we have more than doubled annual donations. This year the Foundation received a 35% increase in contributions over last year. This sustained charitable support is crucial to the Law School’s success.

Ours is a public school. It depends on collective support from the University of Maine System, from the Chancellor and Trustees, from the Maine Legislature, and from tuition paid by law students and their families. Most recently we added support from the Alfond Foundation and the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center to stimulate a new system of interdisciplinary graduate education that is attracting bright students with diverse interests. While the Law School’s financial support comes from many sources, we are proud that it comes so reliably and significantly from our ever-growing corps of alumni and regular donors.

We are excited to look ahead to 2022-2023 when the hard work of Dean Saufley, the Chancellor, System partners, and leadership donors will pay off as the Law School moves into its new building at 300 Fore Street, joined by the Maine Center, the University of Maine Portland Gateway, and the Maine Graduate School of Business. The school’s students, faculty, and staff are thrilled at the prospect of moving to the new building and the opportunities that will follow.

In closing, the steady and reliable annual giving reflected in this year’s Philanthropy Report is essential to the operation and reputation of the Law School. It demonstrates to other public and private supporters that our institution has many willing partners who appreciate what the school has done for its alumni, for the state, and for the public good. It reminds us every day what the rule of law means within a civilized society.

Thank you for your dedicated support. Let’s continue this good work together.

PETER MILLS
Class of 1973
2021-2022 Board President
The Binnacle Fund: To Inspire Careers in Law & Service

The Binnacle Fund: To Inspire Careers in Law & Service is a newly endowed fund created this year at the Maine Law Foundation through a generous anonymous foundational donation of $100,000. The Binnacle Fund was established to honor the ideals and achievements of Judge Frank M. Coffin, prioritizing support of Maine Law’s PLUS Program and Rural Lawyer Fellowship Program, goals consonant with Judge Coffin’s lifelong interest in enhancing legal services for underserved populations and communities.

Judge Coffin’s personal warmth and impish humor were appreciated by all who encountered him. His intuitive understanding of people and human affairs made him a leader in any sphere he entered. People felt his genuine interest in hearing their thoughts and finding fair and practical solutions to social issues.

The Binnacle Fund founder was a longtime family friend of Judge Coffin who valued his lasting friendship and mentorship regarding governance and justice issues in a rambunctious democratic republic. The two emphases of the Binnacle Fund - to inspire and inform college students about the variety of pathways in law careers, and to shore-up legal services for underserved populations - complement Judge Coffin’s enduring dedication to improving social equity.

The Binnacle Fund supports Maine Law programs that can provide guidance, but the students who benefit from the programs and from the Fund are at the helm and make their own navigational decisions in their legal career aspirations.

Both Maine Law and the foundational donor expect to grow this fund through the generosity of additional donors with interest in its goals. The aim is for the Binnacle Fund to become an increasingly substantial source of support for Maine Law programs aimed at inspiring and informing careers in law and justice for successive generations of young people.

If you would like to support or learn more about The Binnacle Fund please contact the Office of Advancement at lawalum@maine.edu or 207-780-4915.
Judge Frank M. Coffin

Judge Coffin’s remarkable career included high-level positions in all three branches of the federal government: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. He served two terms as a U.S. representative in Congress from Maine’s 2nd district (1957-1961), held senior positions at international foreign aid agencies funded by the U.S. government, (1961-1965), and served 40 years on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (1965-2006), 11 as chief judge of the court (1972-1983). During his time on the bench, he authored several books on appellate judging, writing that many believe has influenced a generation of judges.

Frank Coffin’s remarkable life and career are poignantly summarized in a new biography by University of Southern Maine professor Richard Maiman titled “A Man for All Branches: Judge Frank M. Coffin.”
The annual Philanthropy Report demonstrates the enthusiasm, commitment, and loyal support of the University of Maine School of Law community. Each gift from alumni, friends, and organizations has a direct, positive impact on the people and programs that define the Maine Law experience. Thank you!

**2021-2022 Charitable Contributions: Areas of Impact**

- **$710,911** from 717 donors
  - 29% unrestricted annual fund
  - 21% scholarships and fellowships
  - 19% Maine Center
  - 7% programs, lectures, events
  - 2% Law Facilities
  - 13% Clinics

**Sources of Charitable Support**

- 67% from alumni
- 23% non-alumni friends of the Law School
- 7% law firms, businesses, matching gifts
- 3% foundations and non-profits

**Grant Support from Foundations and Nonprofits**

- $544,143 from 9 granting organizations
  - 68% Clinics
  - 6% Programs and Lectures
  - 26% Maine Law Foundation Grants

**Foundation Endowment Income**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Endowment Fund Balance</th>
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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.

The information in this report reflects contributions made from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
# 2021–2022 Maine Law Donors

**Dean's Circle**

$10,000 and above

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**Leadership Circle**

$5,000-$9,999

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**Justice Society**

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**Maine Law Partners**

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**Maine Law Advocates**

Up to $499

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<td>John W. Bride '64</td>
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*Deceased
We sincerely appreciate each gift given in support of Maine Law and we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing, which reflects donations made from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Should you identify inaccurate information, please email us at lawalum@maine.edu or call 207-780-4915.
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Samuel R. Reid ’82
Deborah S. Rice ’76

•Deceased
### 2021–2022 Maine Law Donors

#### Tribute and Memorial Gifts

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<td>’17 in honor of Prof. Deirdre Smith ’94</td>
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<td>Robert H. Avant ’73 in memory of Peter J. DeTroy, Ill ’72</td>
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A pioneer in expanding rural access to justice, Maine Law launches its Rural Practice Clinic in northern Maine’s Aroostook County in January 2023. Along with our Rural Law Fellows, the Rural Practice Clinic will bring law students to areas of the state that are currently underserved.