



EXPERIENCE TAKES ROOT

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 50-YEAR PRACTITIONERS



1971-2021



THE LONG & WINDING ROAD*

Though perhaps remembered for colorful bell-bottom pants and massive collars on bizarrely patterned or striped shirts, 1971 portended significant changes to come

over the course of our 50-year members' careers. The 26th Amendment remains one of the most notable events of the year. During World War II, then-President Roosevelt lowered the draft age to 18, and the 26th Amendment followed

through on a national desire to acknowledge that those old enough to go to war were also old enough to cast a ballot. Three quarters of the states ratified the 26th Amendment in 1971.

Lawyers in 1971 employed the trusty electric typewriter to conduct much of their business, but our class of 50-year members were on the cusp of a technological revolution that today's new members take for granted: in 1971, Intel released the world's first microprocessor.

Amtrak sprang to life in 1971, just as Americans gained a new destination for vacation adventure in Florida's Walt Disney World, which opened that year. The year also saw Led Zeppelin's release of "Stairway to Heaven," Bill Withers' "Ain't No Sunshine," Rod Stewart's "Maggie May," Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On," and, who could forget, Tony Orlando and Dawn's "Knock Three Times." What a year!

Perhaps topping even Disney World and "Stairway to Heaven," New Hampshire played prominently in the national, and even global, historical events of the year. NASA's Apollo 14 launched on January 31, 1971. Commanding the Apollo 14 crew was the Granite State's own Alan Shepard, born in Derry and a graduate of Pinkerton Academy. Shepard piloted the lunar module that landed on the moon. While he was the fifth person to walk on the surface of the moon, he was the first to attempt to hit golf balls on the lunar surface. There's nothing like low gravity to add distance to a tee shot!

We salute our 50-year members. They came of age and perfected their craft during 50 years of immense change in the world and in the practice of law. They, however, remained keepers of "the New Hampshire way" and propagated it to succeeding generations of New Hampshire lawyers. In the pages that follow, they share their advice and wisdom that serve as poignant reminders of the enduring value of our association and how we do things in New Hampshire as lawyers. Thank you, Class of 1971!

- NHBA President, Daniel E. Will

(*Yes, we know the Beatles' "The Long and Winding Road" came out in May 1970 - just as our practitioners likely entered their 3L year of law school - but we really liked the photograph on the facing page.)





OUR 50-YEAR PRACTITIONERS

Robert T. Bloomenthal

Paul Buffum

John M. Cunningham

James F. Early

Laurence J. Gillis

Irvin D. Gordon

Gary W. Holmes

Carroll R. Hunter

Raymond J. Kelly

Lawrence A. Kelly

Aaron A. Lipsky

Silas Little III

Peter J. McDonough

Joseph F. McDowell III

Malcolm R. McNeill Jr.

Bruce E. Mohl

Arthur W. Perkins

Paul C. Remus

James E. Ritzo

Robert H. Rowe

James Q. Shirley

Robert S. Span

Rodney L. Stark

Robert A. Stein

Frederick C. Tedeschi

Mary Ellen Tedeschi

Arthur L. Trombly

James C. Wheat

Read more about these honorees in the June 2021 issue of Bar News



STARTING YOUR PRACTICE

“Develop a deep specialization that not many other lawyers possess. Write books and articles about it and teach webinars about it. Also, listen with great care to your clients and get to know them.” - JOHN CUNNINGHAM

“Use common sense in dealing with your clients. Keep up with the stream of communications. Promptly answer every correspondence, phone call, and email from your clients or pertaining to them. Attend to their matters in a timely fashion. Treat every client’s matter as if it is one of the most important things in the world to them because at the time, often it is. And remember the foregoing throughout your entire journey to becoming a fifty-year member of the bar!” - AARON LIPSKY

“Stay focused on the human interest. As my partner, Mike Dunn, who relished practicing law, once said to me, ‘I can’t believe I get paid money to do this.’ ” - JAMES Q. SHIRLEY

“The traditional advice is to join everything and become a part of your community, church, athletic clubs, politics, etc., any place where you can get out and meet people. The non-traditional advice is to pick a specialty, join affinity groups within that specialty, and make a reputation within that specialty. And remember the reason you became a lawyer.” - ROBERT A. STEIN

“Bring the same energy and commitment to each day as you brought to the practice your first day.” - JAMES C. WHEAT

“Put in the time to prepare every case and you will be fine.” - BRUCE E. MOHL

“Try your best to keep your fixed costs as low as possible. Then you should have room to make the purchases or pay the bonuses that you want. For growing an already established practice, keep your established practice as flexible and versatile as possible. Be on the lookout for new trends in the law and react accordingly. Take advantage of the electronic media to help grow your practice.” - JAMES F. EARLY

“As to the law, you should ‘know a little bit about everything, and some things well.’ I suggest that you read, scan, or brief every single case that comes out of the NH Supreme Court, on an ongoing basis. Don’t kill yourself doing it, of course, but do it. That way, your legal education will continue until the day you die. The alternative is too terrible to contemplate, because you will be rotting in place.” - LAURENCE J. GILLIS



HONESTY & INTEGRITY

“ ‘Honesty is the best policy.’ That has been a principle that I have tried to follow since I began practicing in 1971. I believe that the best way to grow a practice is be diligent, work hard, treat your clients with respect & treat your opponents the same way. There is a lot of financial pressure when starting a new law practice. Make sure your firm is on good financial footing at all times.” - JOE MCDOWELL

“Explain to your wife and children, if you have any, that, unfortunately, excellence in the legal profession requires a tremendous commitment of time.” - JOHN CUNNINGHAM

“Your reputation is your stock-in-trade. When you give advice to people you need to know what you’re doing. You have to be honest with clients and colleagues. If people stop trusting you, it can mar the rest of your career.” - LAWRENCE A. KELLY

“Be prepared and be honest. Have respect for the Courts and opposing counsel. Keep clients well informed and promptly respond to their questions.”

- MALCOLM R. McNEILL

“Be honest.” - RODNEY L. STARK

“Honesty and integrity are the cornerstone of your practice and your reputation. They will carry you far and when you look back on your practice and the reputation you have formed, you will be proud. The most important advice I can give is to communicate with your clients in an honest and forthright manner, and to do it often.” - JAMES F. EARLY

“Follow your gut. If it feels wrong, it probably is. If it smells wrong, it is wrong. The Code of Professional Responsibility sets minimum standards, but you are free to go beyond and to do ‘the right thing’ in the entirety of your practice. The lodestar for this advice is that your client does not dictate your actions. Your moral compass does.” - ROBERT A. STEIN

“Always remember that you are a member of an honorable profession and an officer of the court. Pay attention to detail: little things do matter.” - ROBERT S. SPAN



PRAGMATISM & WELLBEING

“My best advice to all N.H. lawyers was expressed by Attorney Sherman Horton, long before he was named to the Supreme Court; he said, “the primary job of a New Hampshire lawyer is to resolve disputes, not litigate them.” - ROBERT H. ROWE

“Don’t write it if you can say it. Don’t say it if you don’t have to.” - JAMES E. RITZO

“Give your best effort every day. Remain steady and grounded and don’t get too high or too low.” - JAMES F. EARLY

“Work hard and be fair to everyone. And try hard to balance your personal life.”
- JOSEPH F. MCDOWELL

“Listen thoroughly to your clients before offering advice.” - ARTHUR L. TROMBLY

“It took me quite a while to understand that in litigation some things are out of your control. You can only do your best, but even if you do, the result may not be what you sought or anticipated.” - ROBERT S. SPAN

“After family first, join the Y or buy a bike or do both.” - JAMES Q. SHIRLEY

“ ‘Wellbeing’ is subject to definition. For me it is something that is seen clearer after retirement. Accepting - or even seeking - challenges brings confidence and perhaps some wisdom. Maintaining fitness and friends. A commitment to family and faith, and professionally seeking out legal/development organizations that provide relationships outside of my small state that enrich and support me.” - GARY W. HOLMES

“Lawyering and the adversarial system is frequently stressful but so are other lines of work. Keeping physically and mentally active is important for lawyers. Just as important are keeping a good sense of humor and time spent on creative interests such as art, music, writing, and of course staying connected with family and friends.”
- PAUL BUFFUM



**“DON’T WRITE IT IF YOU CAN SAY IT.
DON’T SAY IT IF YOU DON’T HAVE TO.”**



STAYING CONNECTED

“Take every opportunity you can to network with your peers and others in all occupations and professions through the Bar and community groups.”

- JOHN B. ANDREWS

“Become associated with a firm of experienced attorneys who are willing and able to spend time with you and become your mentors.” - LAWRENCE A. KELLY

“Find other lawyers that you are deeply compatible with, with whom you can exchange ideas, perhaps become partners, and perhaps do proofing for each other.

Even solo practice has to be a joint effort.” - JOHN CUNNINGHAM

“Maintain contact with professional colleagues in your areas of practice with whom you can discuss legal issues arising in the service of your clients and be an active participant in professional associations that focus on those areas.” - FREDERICK C. TEDESCHI

“The importance of staying connected certainly was demonstrated this past year. Relationships and results are both crucial to getting and retaining clients.”

- ROBERT S. SPAN

“If you did your job well, or even OK, hopefully [other attorneys and clients] will want to stay connected to you.” - JAMES Q. SHIRLEY

“Connection with clients is important because they are often friends and part of the community. They have trusted me. I show a courtesy to them and a responsibility to myself and to my profession to maintain that relationship. It also provides me with a sense of worth and accomplishment.” - GARY W. HOLMES

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**“EVEN SOLO PRACTICE HAS TO BE
A JOINT EFFORT.”**



CONGRATULATIONS

– ROBERT A. STEIN –



Thank you for 50 years of practice
and your continued commitment
to excellence in the legal profession.
From your colleagues.

McDowell & Morrissette
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

**Congratulations Joe McDowell on your
50th Anniversary
As a Member of the New Hampshire Bar Association**

We congratulate Joseph F. McDowell, III as he attains
fifty years in the practice of law.



Joe has expressed that it has been his honor to practice law in the service of his clients. Joe has exemplified professionalism throughout his career through loyalty and dedication to his clients' interests, and he has done so with an unyielding work ethic. Joe's work on behalf of his clients has been determined and he retained his inquisitive style.

Our office is honored to work with Joe and we celebrate his accomplishment.



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Recognizes

James C. Wheat

as he celebrates 50 years as a lawyer.

We have been honored to have him as a partner, colleague and friend for all these years and continue to value the wisdom, experience and professionalism that he brings to the Firm and to our profession.

Congratulations!



Wadleigh, Starr & Peters, P.L.L.C., 95 Market Street, Manchester, NH 03101 (603) 669-4140 www.wadleighlaw.com

To the 50-year Bar Association members:

Congratulations on a half-century of legal practice.

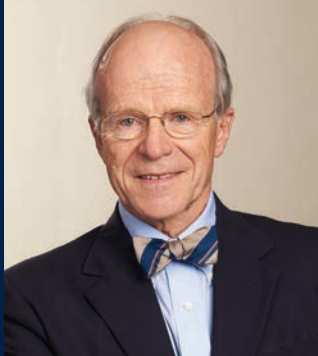
Thank you for your sustained commitment both to excellence in the legal profession and to timely access to justice for all.



**New Hampshire
Judicial Branch**

Congratulations

Sheehan Phinney congratulates **James Q. Shirley** on 50 Years of exemplary legal service.



We are thankful for Jim's unparalleled talents, thoughtful guidance and graciousness. We look forward to many years of the same, as he continues to serve the firm, its clients, and our community. We will also continue to enjoy watching him adroitly manage all of his considerable professional responsibilities while also regularly mountain biking, playing piano and guitar, and skiing moguls, among many other pursuits.

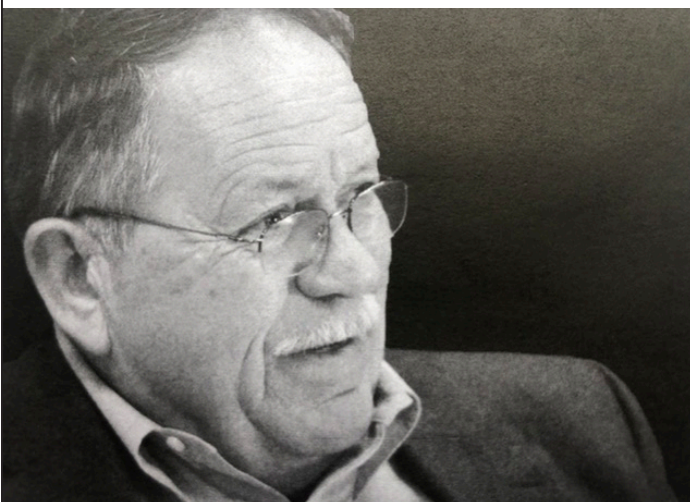
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Congratulations to Rodney L. Stark

on the significant milestone of 50 years practicing law!



From your staff and friends at



The Law Office of
RODNEY L. STARK, P.A.

Manchester, NH • (603)627-4111 • www.starklaw.com

An Accomplishment This Significant is Worth Reading About Again.



This June 2021 Bar News supplement is available online at

tinyurl.com/NHBA50YearMembers2021

We'll help you make it through the rough waters.

**It's not always only the clients
who are the ones in need.**

**The New Hampshire Lawyers Assistance
Program is here for those who are
struggling with alcohol or drug abuse,
depression, anxiety and stress,
as well as other addictions
and mental health issues.**



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1971 SWEARING-IN



The oath of admission to swear in new attorneys comes from statutory language, which is currently found at RSA 311:6. The oath is in two parts, as set forth below. It has not materially changed in 70 years. The only “modern” changes (from 1995, indicated below in yellow highlighting) have been language additions to de-emphasize religion and to make one phrase gender neutral.

DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM:

THAT YOU WILL BEAR FAITH AND TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTIONS THEREOF. SO HELP YOU GOD OR UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY.

DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM:

THAT YOU WILL DO NO FALSEHOOD, NOR CONSENT THAT ANY BE DONE IN THE COURT, AND IF YOU KNOW OF ANY, THAT YOU WILL GIVE KNOWLEDGE THEREOF TO THE

JUSTICES OF THE COURT, OR SOME OF THEM, THAT IT MAY BE REFORMED;

THAT YOU WILL NOT WITTINGLY OR WILLINGLY PROMOTE, SUE, OR PROCURE TO BE SUED ANY FALSE OR UNLAWFUL SUIT, NOR CONSENT TO THE SAME;

THAT YOU WILL DELAY NO MAN-PERSON FOR LUCRE OR MALICE, AND WILL ACT IN THE OFFICE OF AN ATTORNEY WITHIN THE COURT ACCORDING TO THE BEST OF YOUR LEARNING AND DISCRETION, AND WITH ALL GOOD FIDELITY AS WELL TO THE COURT AS TO YOUR CLIENT. SO HELP YOU GOD OR UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY.



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