MEET THE CLASS OF 2022! (Our Alumni)

developing future

BAR STARS

a special publication of the
NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
The New Hampshire Bar Association’s Leadership Academy is a nine-month leadership training program designed to foster the professional growth and enhance the leadership skills of a diverse group of attorneys. No more than eighteen applicants will be selected for each Class.

This leadership program is designed with a curriculum that is most meaningful for those attorneys who have been practicing law between three and 10 years.

Participants meet from October to June, including at NHBA’s Midyear and Annual membership meetings. Modules cover a variety of topics, including Business, Media Relations & Public Speaking, Judicial Branch, Public Interest/Non-Profit, and Legislative/Executive Branches.

Leadership Academy alumni are actively involved in NHBA Sections, Committees, and the NHBA Board of Governors. They have also taken on added responsibility at their firms and participate in various non-profit boards.

**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GOALS**

- Identify future Bar leaders
- Provide a program through which participants have the opportunity to learn and strengthen their leadership skills
- Provide tangible benefits to make the nine-month program a valuable investment of participants’ time
- Encourage active participation, involvement, and service in NHBA following graduation
The State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

A Commendation

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty One

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION’S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASS OF 2022

WHEREAS, the mission of the New Hampshire Bar Association Leadership Academy is to promote and encourage leadership and professionalism by identifying present and future leaders who are members of the New Hampshire Bar, and providing them with a program designed to develop leadership skills, to foster camaraderie, and to provide exposure to leaders in the legal, business and government communities; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Leadership Academy has identified and trained several such leaders in the past through multiple cycles of Leadership Academy training; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire Bar Association Leadership Academy alumni have gone on to contribute meaningfully toward the improvement of the legal professions via involvement in Bar boards, committees, and sections; by providing pro bono and/or reduced fee services to advance equal access to justice; by mentoring newer attorneys, and more; and

WHEREAS, the global pandemic necessitated the delay of the next Leadership Academy class by one year, and the New Hampshire Bar Association Leadership Academy recently announced its Class of 2022; and

WHEREAS, the newest Leadership Academy class will also experience a rigorous nine-month training program to help them prepare for possible future Bar leadership, and strong Bar leadership supports and furthers the ongoing work of the New Hampshire judicial system; and

WHEREAS, a strong state judicial system helps facilitate an optimal checks and balance system with the other government branches, for the benefit of all New Hampshire citizens and organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby commend the NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION’S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASS OF 2022 and wish them all the best.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 14th day of September, 2021.

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor
September 16, 2021

Dear Leadership Academy Class of 2022,

My colleagues and I congratulate you on taking this important step toward developing your leadership skills and professional abilities.

Through the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Leadership Academy, you will have the opportunity to learn directly from leaders in the legal, business, and government communities. The Academy will prepare you to make significant contributions to the legal system throughout the state for the benefit of the people of New Hampshire.

Many of the past participants from this training are now leaders in their firms, in the Bar, and in their communities. We have every confidence that you will join their ranks. We look forward to seeing the important strides you will make in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Gordon J. MacDonald
Chief Justice
“DWELL ON THE BEAUTY OF LIFE. WATCH THE STARS, AND SEE YOURSELF RUNNING WITH THEM.”

- MARCUS AURELIUS, MEDITATIONS
Dear Class of 2022,

Congratulations on being chosen for the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Leadership Academy. The Academy is the result of years of work by your colleagues in the New Hampshire Bar. Many leaders in the legal community have gone through the process you are just beginning. The Academy has advanced professional connection and friendships for New Hampshire lawyers of all types, whether from small firms or big firms, from public interest law to private practice. I am confident the Academy will benefit you as well.

The goal of the Academy is to enhance and augment your existing skills so that you might have a more successful and rewarding career. While participating in the academy you will hear from a variety of professionals on topics such as media relations, public speaking, running a meeting, personal leadership style, and professionalism. These are opportunities most firms and organizations cannot provide their attorneys. In the end, the plan is that you will be a better lawyer, prepared to be a leader in the profession and in your community at large.

Thank you for your commitment to this process. The Bar will do everything possible to make participation in the Academy worth your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Richard Guerriero
President, New Hampshire Bar Association
On August 12, 2021, the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Leadership Academy welcomed the 2022 class during a reception held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. The event marked the twelfth year of what has become, by all accounts, a highly successful program.

Creating a program that would foster leadership, civic engagement, and long-lasting relationships were the goals that then Bar President Richard Uchida had in mind when he first envisioned Leadership Academy during his 2005-2006 presidency.

“I had seen other leadership programs in the country, but at the time, both nationally and in New Hampshire, there was a concern we weren’t providing the type of mentorship and leadership opportunities for younger lawyers we needed,” Uchida says.

The NHBA’s Leadership Academy, which began in 2010, was the result of Uchida’s vision as well as the inspiration of 2010 Bar President Jennifer Parent.

Given a shared understanding of the need for a leadership program, the pair created a steering committee that would eventually allow the program to become a reality.

“Knowing that I’d wanted to do this, Jennifer asked if I’d be a part of the process,” Uchida says. “One thing we’d heard was that these types of programs couldn’t be accomplished without tens of thousands of dollars of resources, but we were determined to create an academy that was very effective that didn’t require the devotion of so many resources that it became inefficient. So, with Jennifer’s help, and other Bar leaders we created the Leadership Academy during her tenure as Bar president.”

In a 2010 interview in the Bar News, then President Parent summed up the need for a Leadership Academy in New Hampshire.

“Leaders aren’t born, they’re made,” she said.

Parent goes on to describe the economic and cultural changes in the legal community that
necessitated the creation of the academy. For many years, she said, building leadership and the tools and desire for civic engagement in individuals, was done informally.

One of those individuals today is Israel Piedra of Welts White & Fontaine PC in Nashua. Piedra, 31, who was elected to the New Hampshire state legislature, is a member of the 2022 Leadership Academy class. He said he’s excited to form lasting relationships with those he meets in the Academy and that he’s also interested in learning about “non-legal” things, such as developing business-management skills.

“I think the Academy will help me become a more well-rounded lawyer and leader,” he said.

The true measure of the program’s success, Uchida says, is to look at the graduating classes over the years and to notice how many have gone on to take leadership positions in New Hampshire, in their community, and in the Bar Association.

Two of the many graduates of Leadership Academy include NHLA Director Sarah Mattson Dustin (Class of 2011) and Bernstein Shur attorney Talesha Saint-Marc (Class of 2015).

Saint-Marc, who has co-chaired the program’s steering committee for several years now, says going through the academy allowed her to build lasting relationships with other
New Hampshire attorneys that have turned into referral sources, information resources, and friendships.

“I joined Leadership Academy to learn more about the Bar Association, to enhance my leadership skills, and to meet other NH lawyers,” Saint-Marc says, adding that the academy strives to accept a class that is diverse in experience, background, and practice area.

“Although Leadership Academy imparts leadership skills, we value participants with prior leadership experience and/or engagement.”

“WITHOUT THIS KIND OF PROGRAM, WE WEREN’T ABLE TO PROVIDE THESE OPPORTUNITIES.” - RICHARD UCHIDA

For Mattson Dustin, who also serves on the steering committee today, the experience of Leadership Academy allowed her to get to know practitioners from around the state whom she says she would likely never have met.

“It has been wonderful to watch many of them accomplish great things in their professional lives and as community leaders,” she says. “Some of my classmates have become dear friends.”

Mattson-Dustin also commented on the way the academy encouraged participants to become involved with Bar committee work.

“I joined the Legislation Committee and really enjoyed it – I think I was a member for three or four years. It was yet another wonderful way to meet folks I probably never would have met otherwise, this time including lots of highly experienced attorneys.”

What began, for Uchida and other Bar members, as an idea about building long-lasting relationships and providing opportunities for civic engagement for New Hampshire attorneys, has consistently demonstrated its value, Uchida says. “From its conception, the Court, the Governor’s office, and the Board of Governors were solidly behind the Leadership Academy because they recognized that without this kind of program we weren’t able to provide these opportunities.”
Leadership Academy participants are involved in a rigorous nine-month program exposing them to various facets of New Hampshire legal practice. They are also expected to work on and complete a project enabling them to use and demonstrate the skills they have acquired.

**2021**

- **Fri, Oct 22 & Sat, Oct 23:** **Kickoff Retreat**
  
  This weekend event provides an uninterrupted and unrushed opportunity to introduce participants to the program and to each other.

- **Thu, Nov 4:** **Business Module**
  
  What does leadership in the legal field mean? What opportunities for meaningful involvement are available? What’s so unique about NH? This module answers these and other important questions.

- **Thu, Dec 2:** **Media Relations & Public Speaking Module**
  
  Bar leaders know how to work effectively with those who report the news. In this module, participants will meet, hear from, and be able to ask questions to the media and to attorneys who have worked with them.

**2022**

- **Thu, Jan 6:** **Judicial Module**
  
  The relationship between attorneys and the judiciary is vital to ensure the efficient administration of justice. Leadership Academy participants will meet judges, tour courts, and learn more about the judicial process.

- **Fri, Feb 18:** **Attendance at NHBA Midyear Meeting**

- **Thu, Mar 3:** **Public Interest / Non-Profit Module**
  
  This module provides an introduction to some legal oriented non-profits and charitable organizations in NH, including their purposes, the services they provide, and their leadership roles within the communities they serve.

- **Fri, Apr 8:** **Legislative/Executive Branches Module**
  
  Change happens through the actions of any of the three branches of government. Here, participants learn more about how the legislative and executive branches function.

- **Fri, Jun 17 - Sun, Jun 19:** **Attendance at NHBA Annual Meeting (Graduation)**

  Additional dates are set aside as snow dates or project time.
The NHBA Leadership Academy Class of 2022 gathered for the first time as a group during a kickoff reception on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH.

Between now and their graduation at the June 2022 NHBA Annual Membership Meeting, they will attend monthly modules addressing topics such as business, media relations and public speaking, the New Hampshire Judicial Branch, public interest and non-profit, and the legislative and executive branches of government.

Front row (L-R): Scott J. Whittaker, Lissa D. Mascio, Jacqueline A. Leary
Back row (L-R): Duncan A. Edgar, Israel F. Piedra, Lise F. Solbeck (since withdrawn), Susanne L. Gilliam, Gar Y. Chuang
Not pictured: Marta A. Hurgin, Lyndsay N. Robinson
GAR Y. CHIANG
CHIANG LAW FIRM
BOSTON, MA
(617) 283-7199
GARCHIANG@YAHOO.COM
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF LAW

After having a successful career in arts and entertainment in New York and Asia, I decided to do something that is retirement proof, and where I can also apply my life and work experience in helping others. As an older but new attorney, I opened my office as a general practitioner. I look forward to learning more, growing my practice and connecting with other lawyers. Being accepted to the Leadership Academy of New Hampshire Bar Association is a positive step in that direction.

“EXPOSURE AND INTERACTION WITH OTHERS WILL NO DOUBT BROADEN MY HORIZON.”

DUNCAN A. EDGAR
HOEFLE, PHOENIX, GORMLEY & ROBERTS PLLC
PORTSMOUTH, NH
(603) 766-9125
DEDGAR@HPGRLAW.COM
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW

I am a native seacoast resident, having come of age along the cross-grained and wily waters of the Piscataqua River. In my free time, I enjoy skiing, golfing, and cycling along the coastal routes throughout the Piscataqua maritime region. I currently work as an associate at Hoefle, Phoenix, Gormley & Roberts, PLLC where I represent clients in a broad range of civil matters, including general civil litigation, personal injury, bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, real estate transactions, and probate matters.

“THIS EXPERIENCE WILL HELP TO MAKE ME A MORE EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR MY CLIENTS.”
“After a successful career as a software engineer, I transitioned to homeschooling my three children. As they headed to college, it was time for a new adventure and I couldn’t get the idea of law school out of my head. And that is how I found myself spending three years with classmates the age of my children. I practice asylum law as a solo practitioner in NH and MA. I am honored to be the current NH ABA delegate to the Young Lawyer Division as well as a member of the New Lawyer’s Committee.”

“I FIND IT EXHILARATING TO BE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF A CAREER WHEN MANY OF MY FRIENDS ARE THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT.”

I currently work at 603 Legal Aid as a staff attorney, specializing in housing and public benefits cases. I began my legal career in New Hampshire at the Public Defender’s Office where I became an experienced litigator in criminal matters – and met the most fantastic colleagues. I currently live in Portsmouth with my partner, Lisa. We like to spend time cooking, cycling, and chasing squirrels in the park with our rescue dog, Roo.

“MOVING TO A NEW PRACTICE AREA HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY REWARDING AND CHALLENGING.”
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK TO THIS YEAR’S ACADEMY CLASS!

Our boutique New England law firm, 1 Client Matters, LLC, is a general practice alongside our Estate Planning/Medicaid qualification firm, LTC Matters. Our 29 Attorney team includes Managing Partner Attorney Stephanie Tymula, a fellow graduate of the NH Bar Academy, as well as Attorneys licensed to practice in many states including MA, NH, VT, CT, NY, ME, PA, NJ, GA, NC, SC, MD, MI and CA to name a few.

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MCLANE MIDDLETON PA MANCHESTER, NH (603) 625-6464 JACQUELINE.LEARY@MCLANE.COM UNH SCHOOL OF LAW

As Vice Chair of my firm’s Family Law practice group, my practice includes family law and domestic relations, general civil litigation, and criminal law. I’m on the Board of the NH Association of Justice as well as the Co-Chair of the Family Law section, a member of the Webster Batchelder Inn of Court, on the Governance Board and Advisory Council of the Greater Manchester Chamber’s Manchester Young Professionals, a member of the NHBA’s Gender Equality Committee, and a member of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation’s Fostering Legal Independence Committee.

“THIS PROGRAM SETS FORTH IDEALS THAT I WISH TO EMBODY.”

LISSA D. MASCIO
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE – DOC PORTSMOUTH, NH (603) 998-2394 LISSA.D.MASCIO@DOC.NH.GOV HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

I’m a NH native and attended UNH for a BA in English and Journalism. I’ve lived all over the country, from Los Angeles to VT to AZ, where I practiced law for 5 years. After being admitted to the NH bar, I focused on family law litigation, co-chairing the Family Law Section. I’ve worked for the State since 2018, first prosecuting cases for DCYF and then turning to policy/legislative work. I live in Portsmouth with my teenage daughter and three cats. I enjoy musical theater, reading, and cooking.

“DOING POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE WORK ARE THE REASONS I WENT TO LAW SCHOOL, AND MY FIRST LOVE.”
ISRAEL F. PIEDRA
WELTS WHITE & FONTAINE PC
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IPIEDRA@LAWYERSNH.COM
BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL

I am an associate at Welts, White & Fontaine, PC, in Nashua, NH, where I have practiced since 2015. I work primarily in the area of civil litigation, including personal injury law and appeals. Since 2018, I have also represented Hillsborough District 9 (Manchester Ward 2) in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. I am a graduate of Milford, NH public schools, Bates College, and Boston College Law School.

“PRACTICING LAW IN NEW HAMPSHIRE IS A MATTER OF GREAT PRIDE FOR ME.”

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UNH SCHOOL OF LAW

My practice consists of general civil litigation with a focus on family law, estate planning, probate, and other similar fields. I graduated from Saint Anselm College with a Bachelor of Arts in politics and a minor in Russian area studies. I attended UNH Law, where I graduated as a Daniel Webster Scholar. I’m an active member of the Bar and dedicated to serving the community. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, reading, New England sports, and spending time with family.

“I WOULD LOVE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO THE NHBA FOR ALL THAT IT HAS GIVEN ME.”
Welts, White & Fontaine, P.C. congratulates the New Hampshire Bar Association Leadership Academy Class of 2022, especially our own Attorney Israel Piedra. Thank you for being part of the next generation of Bar Leadership.

Welts, White & Fontaine is a multi-practice law firm with a tradition of excellence serving the legal needs of Nashua and its surrounding communities.

THE STARS SHINE BRIGHTEST FROM THE PEAKS OF MOUNTAINS

HELPING FUTURE NHBA LEADERS ASCEND TO NEW HEIGHTS SINCE 2010.

Richard Uchida
I’m an assistant county attorney with the Coös County Attorney’s Office. My primary responsibility is to prosecute felony-level cases at the superior court while working with local and state law enforcement officials. Prior to working as a prosecutor, I was an associate with Waystack Frizzell, Trial Lawyers, a local law firm with a state and federal civil practice. A 2014 graduate of the University of New Hampshire School of Law, I live, work, and play in the beautiful North County.

“I HELD INACTIVE-MILITARY STATUS WHILE DEPLOYED WITH MY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT TO THE UAE IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD.”
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“WE ALL SHINE ON...
LIKE THE MOON
AND THE STARS
AND THE SUN”

- JOHN LENNON, INSTANT KARMA!
OUR ALUMNI

(A Constellation of Bar Stars)

CLASS OF 2011
Christopher G. Aslin
Anthony S. Augeri
Deanne Chrystal
Rachel A. Goldwasser
Adam B. Hescock
Abigail Sykas Karoutas
Celia K. Leonard
Sarah Mattson Dustin
Patrick T. O’Day
Matthew R. Serge
Donald H. Sienkiewicz
Christine M. Smith
Patrick H. Taylor
David C. Tencza
Cathryn E. Vaughn
Lisa L. Wolford

CLASS OF 2012
Mark E. Beaudoin
Brooksley C. Belanger
Christopher C. Buck
Kysa M. Crusco
Joel T. Emlen
Francesca Hennessy
Suzanne S. McKenna
Meagan T. Munsey
Lyndsee D. Paskalis
Jamie L. Pond
Thomas E. Walker Jr.

CLASS OF 2013
Joseph D. Becher
Jonathan M. Boutin
Darrell J. Chichester Jr
Courtney H. Eschbach
Lisa A. Fearon
Seth J Hipple
Melissa L.B. Lyons
Deborah Mulcrone
Michael J. Ortlieb
Anthony F. Sculimbrene
Kirk C. Simoneau

CLASS OF 2015
Nicholas F. Casolaro
Amy C. Connolly
James P. Cowles
Joseph H. Driscoll IV
Kristina Finley
Susan A. Lowry
Kathleen M. Mahan
Jacob J.B. Marvelley
Kristin A. Ross
Lynne Guimond Sabean
Talesha L. Saint-Marc
James C. Shaw
Daniel J. Swegart
Steven J. Venezia

CLASS OF 2017
Robert Berry Jr.
Mary C. Bleier
Jason B. Dennis
Laura D. Devine
Mariana Dominguez
Christine F. Donlan
Kristin G. Fields
Rebeka M. Fortress
Michelle C. Heaton
Henry R. Klementowicz
Molly M. Lynch
Alexander E. Najjar
Nathan P. Warecki

CLASS OF 2019
Alexandra S. Cote
Nicole A. Forbes
Joshua P. Lanzetta
Brooke L. Lovett Shilo
Evan M. Lowry
R.J. Meurin
Kaitlin Marie O’Neil
Hilary A. Holmes Rheaume
Justin S. St. James
Corinne A. Taylor-Davis
Stephanie L. Tymula
Carole L. Waters
It takes a village! The NHBA Leadership Academy is made possible in large part by a team of attorney volunteers and Bar staff, many of whom themselves are program alumni. Our current committee is listed below and we are also appreciative to those who have served in the past.

**CO-CHAIRS**
Jaye L. Rancourt
Talesha L. Saint-Marc

**MEMBERS**
Robert Berry, Jr.
Jason B. Dennis
Laura D. Devine
Mariana Domínguez
Joseph H. Driscoll, IV
Jonathan M. Eck
Nicole A. Forbes
Richard Guerriero
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Joshua P. Lanzetta
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**NHBA STAFF**
Deborah Hawkins
Mary E. Jenkins
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Lynne S. Sabeau
Learn. Connect. Lead.

PLAN NOW TO BE A PART OF THE CLASS OF 2024!

Stand out among your peers

Build your network with leaders in the legal, business, and government communities

Gain valuable professional/leadership skills

Build relationships that last throughout your career

Earn CLE credit

Shadow a judge

Participate in key NHBA events

ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR LEGAL CAREER?

The NHBA Leadership Academy helps ensure the ongoing success of our Bar by helping to prepare its future leaders.

This nationally-recognized nine-month program is designed with a challenging and useful curriculum which is most meaningful for those in law practice between three and 10 years.

“[Leadership Academy] is a great springboard and gives you a broader view of the law than what you just get from your technical area of practice.”

— Donald H. Sienkiewicz, Class of 2011, NHBA Board of Governors
“I’m much more likely to assume greater challenges, which in turn has led to greater opportunities for my career.... I’ve become more comfortable taking the lead on important projects at work and being viewed as a leader.”

- ROBERT F. BERRY, JR., CLASS OF 2017

“Leadership Academy provided me with an opportunity to develop meaningful connections [and] learn about issues that are impacting individuals and organizations within the State of New Hampshire.”

- HILARY HOLMES RHEAUME, CLASS OF 2019

“Leadership Academy is the best way to expand your network, develop a better understanding of how Courts work, and of how the NH Bar works, and to learn some practical information/skills that you could not readily learn anywhere else.”

- JASON B. DENNIS, CLASS OF 2017