NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR MEMBERS CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF LAW PRACTICE

NH Bar members look back and share advice and career highlights for the next generation.

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1873 – 2023
Then and Now

Philip Bonafide
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Celebrating 50 Years of Law Practice

Then and Now

Celebrating 150 Years
Introduction

Fifty years ago, the country’s young lawyers began their careers at a time of economic stress. The year 1973 was a year of high inflation, much like our recent and current economic environment. The nation was suffering from a recession and unemployment was high. An energy crisis was also afoot, largely due to Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announcing a restriction on the flow of crude oil to certain countries. The year also marked the end of the United States’ involvement in the Vietnam War, with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords. It was also when there were major revelations in the Watergate scandal and the United States Supreme Court issued its significant decisions in Roe v. Wade and Miller v. California. The year also saw CBS sell the New York Yankees to a 12-person syndicate led by George Steinbrenner for $10 million. Other notable events of 1973 include the last episode of the original Laugh-In airing on NBC, the first call being made on a handheld cellular phone, and Federal Express officially beginning operations, starting with the launch of 14 small aircraft from Memphis International Airport.

At home, here in New Hampshire, the year that you all were the newest class of lawyers was also a year of tension between the prospect of potential economic opportunity and the need to protect the natural environment and the state’s natural resources. In late 1973, a plan was announced by a company, controlled by Aristotle Onassis, to construct an oil refinery on the shore of Great Bay at Durham Point. The then New Hampshire Governor, Meldrim Thomson, Jr., strongly supported the project. At the time, the proposed refinery would have been the nation’s largest oil refinery. An opposition movement formed, raising concerns about the possible impacts of such a refinery, particularly on the natural environment. A year later, at both the local and state level, the efforts of the intended refinery developers were scuttled. In the process, the New Hampshire Legislature confirmed the concept of “home rule,” requiring approval of a community before plans for an oil refinery within its borders could proceed. It is interesting to reflect on the preservation of the last remaining undeveloped area on Great Bay and the significance of the successful preservation of the state’s scenic coastal islands.

In the following pages, this special Bar News publication celebrates New Hampshire Bar members who are marking 50 years in law practice in 2023. They have graciously shared their stories and their advice for the next generation. You will undoubtedly note some common themes, such as the importance of civility, community, and mentoring. You will likely also detect genuine humility unaffected by their considerable competence and accomplishments.

On behalf of the New Hampshire Bar Association, congratulations!

- Jonathan Eck, President
New Hampshire Bar Association
Mark D. Alpert

Residence: Newton Centre, MA
Hometown: Newton, MA
Education: Tufts College, Columbia University School of Law, CLU, London Business School Senior Executive Program
Family: Jane Roberts (spouse), five children, four grandchildren
Areas of Practice: In-house counsel – pensions, structured settlements, investment management, fiduciary matters
Current Firm or Employer: Retired

After graduating from Tufts University, Mark Alpert felt that “law school and analytical thinking seemed [to be] a good fit” for him.

In 1973, he graduated from Columbia University School of Law and joined the Legal Services Department of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), a national service program founded in 1965 designed to alleviate poverty. A year later, he began working as in-house counsel for insurance companies.

He eventually landed in the law department of John Hancock Life Insurance Company in 1984, where he was instrumental in establishing and serving as counsel to several very successful product lines. These included John Hancock’s structured settlement program, the Federal Long-Term Care Program, its natural resources and participating pension accounts, and guaranteed investment contracts.

Alpert was also very active in Tufts University alumni affairs, serving a term as president of the university’s alumni association.

Philip P. Bonafide

Residence: Sanbornton, NH
Hometown: Manhasset, NY
Education: Georgetown University, BA (1970); Georgetown Law Center, JD (1973)
Family: Jackie Bonafide (wife); Christopher P. Bonafide, MD (son); Michael P. Bonafide, Esq. (son); five grandchildren
Areas of Practice: Civil and criminal litigation
Current Firm or Employer: Retired
Past Firms or Employers: Normandin, Cheney & O’Neil, PLLC; Bonafide & Bradley; Arthur Nighswander, et al

Philip Bonafide felt that becoming a lawyer was the best way for him to be of service and help people in his community. He received his JD from Georgetown Law Center in 1973 and went right to work in litigation until he retired as a partner at Normandin, Cheney & O’Neil.

Bonafide believes his most memorable cases were ones that seemed simple to resolve when the client walked in, but then snowballed. One such case involved a defendant being sued in 1981 by a new neighbor over a small strip of land that the defendant’s family had fenced off and utilized adjacent to their home for two generations, believing they owned it by deed. He lost in Superior Court because the law at the time required a subjective intent to hold land adversely and a claimant could not hold land adversely if they thought they owned it by deed.

Bonafide then appealed to the NH Supreme Court, resulting in an expansion of the definition of “adverse” in adverse possession claims in NH to include persons who claim land in dispute because they believed they owned it by deed.

During his career, Bonafide was a member and past chairman of Sanbornton ZBA for 25 years, commissioner of the NH Personnel Appeal Board for 10 years, and a past president and current board member of the Laconia Kiwanis Club for 27 years. He feels his most meaningful community service is his current position (since 2017) as a trustee of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation, which provides financial assistance to college students.

When asked what advice he would give to young lawyers, Bonafide says, “The most important asset for any young attorney is the phone number of an experienced attorney willing to mentor him/her.”

Stephen E. Borofsky

Residence: Manchester, NH
Hometown: Bedford, NH
Education: Dartmouth, BA (1968); Columbia Law School, JD (1973)
Family: Linda (wife); Niki (daughter)
Areas of Practice: Personal injury, civil rights, and general practice
Current Firm or Employer: Borofsky, Amodeo-Vickery & Bandazian, PA
Past Firms or Employers: The Legal Clinics (1978-1996); McLane Law Firm (1974-1978)

“I wanted to be my own boss and help people,” Stephen Borofsky, founder and senior managing partner of Borofsky, Amodeo-Vickery & Bandazian, PA, says of his decision to become a lawyer.

After obtaining his JD from Columbia Law School in 1973, he clerked for a year at the US District Court, District of NH for the Honorable HH Bownes before starting at the McLane Law Firm in 1974.

In 1978, he started The Legal Clinics, the first law firm in the Granite State to concentrate in serving the legal needs of mid-
Congratulations
Stephen E. Borofsky

We congratulate Stephen Borofsky, our founder, colleague and friend, on 50 years of outstanding service to his clients, our firm and the legal community. Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in the legal profession.

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dle-income people. The firm changed its name in 1996 to Borofsky, Lewis & Amodeo-Vickery and then to its current iteration in 2001.

Borofsky’s hero is Justice William O. Douglas, who holds the record for the longest continuous tenure on the US Supreme Court. He says his mentors throughout his career have been Judge Bownes, Jack Middleton, and his daughter, Niki. His community service throughout his life has intersected with his professional career. For 40 years, he has served as a participating attorney, board member, treasurer, and chair at the American Civil Liberties Union of NH. He is also a member of the NH Bar Foundation’s IOLTA Grants Committee.

“The most important decision you make in any case is whether or not to take the case,” Borofsky says to lawyers starting their own practice. “The most important quality in a partner is his/her judgment. And with respect to every decision you make, every thought you put in a brief, every question you ask at trial – be able to articulate: ‘What is the purpose of what I am doing?’”

Hon. Jean K. Burling

Judge Jean Burling was the first woman lawyer appointed to the NH Judiciary in 1979. After receiving her JD from Boston University Law School in 1973, she worked as a solo practitioner in Plainfield until she was appointed as a judge.

“As a political science major in college, I became involved in Boston community politics and thought a law degree would be valuable in my future,” Judge Burling says. “As a hero of mine, I admired tremendously Barbara Jordan, an African American Congresswoman from Texas. I followed her career from the time she made history, giving the keynote address at the 1974 Democratic Convention during the Nixon impeachment.”

Judge Burling was a co-founder of Drug Court in Grafton County, a court-supervised diversion program designed to break the cycle of addiction for offenders and thereby end criminal behavior. She is also a member of the Sullivan County Battered Women’s Resource Group.

“When I served as Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee,” Judge Burling says, “my best advice was to keep the Rules of Professional Conduct on one’s desk and read it!”

Hon. Daniel M. Cappiello

Judge Daniel Cappiello’s interest in law began in 1967, after he graduated from UNH, when he was assigned the position of a bail bondsman sponsored by the County Attorney’s Office of Miami, Florida, while working as a VISTA volunteer. However, his legal career would have to wait, as he was drafted into the US Army in 1968. Stationed in South Korea, he was initially a combat soldier until he learned that his battalion needed someone to take over operation of the legal department.

“Ordinarily this was the job of a lawyer,” Judge Cappiello says. He overheard the current legal technician, a lawyer licensed in Maine, telling his colleagues that the battalion had been unable to find a lawyer to replace him and that he was leaving in two weeks. “I boldly tapped him on the shoulder, apologizing for eavesdropping, and said I knew I could do his job as I had legal experience working out of the Miami Public Defender’s Office. He was sufficiently impressed to invite me for an interview the very next morning.”

While he was still stationed in Korea, Judge Cappiello arranged to take his LSAT. In 1970, he was accepted into New England School of Law and graduated near the top of his class in 1973.


Residence: Barrington, NH
Hometown: Barrington, NH
Education: University of New Hampshire, BA (1967); New England School of Law, JD (1973)
Family: Joyce Cappiello (wife); Nicholas Cappiello, Lena Berc, and Benjamin Cappiello (children); and seven grandchildren
Military Service: United States Army (1968-1970); 23rd Battalion Legal Technician, South Korea
Areas of Practice: NH Judiciary and general practice
Current Firm or Employer: Retired
Past Firms or Employers: Rochester District Court (Judge 2000-2013); Shaheen, Cappiello, Stein & Gordon, PA (1981-2000); Daniel M. Cappiello (1979-1981); Keefe, Dunnington & Cappiello, PA (1977-1979); Law Office of Alfred Catalfo (1973-1977)
For lawyers starting their own practice, Judge Cappiello says to not underestimate what you can and cannot do as a lawyer. “Always be honest with your fellow lawyers,” Judge Cappiello says. “Being respected by your peers is so important in the practice of law. As someone who had gone off on his own rather early in my career, my advice is to know your limits, hire a good secretary/paralegal, and treat them well. I was fortunate to have had a very good and experienced secretary when I went off my own. I let her know how important she was, and whenever I could afford it, I made sure there would be a bonus or a raise for her.”

George L. Chimento

Residence: Dover, MA  
Hometown: Aiken, SC  
Education: Brown University; UC Berkeley School of Law  
Family: Betsy (wife)  
Areas of Practice: ERISA and executive compensation  
Current Firm or Employer: Chimento & Webb, PC  
Past Firms or Employers: Adler, Pollock & Sheehan, PBGC; Mintz, Levin, Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster

After George Chimento graduated from UC Berkeley School of Law in 1973, he served as Special Counsel to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, where he learned from his boss, Henry Rose, who was a lawyer for the Senate Education & Labor Committee. In addition to Rose, Chimento lists Bernie Pollock as one of his mentors.

When asked why he decided to become a lawyer, Chimento says, “it seemed like a logical career for a history major who loves this country.”

“I’ve been an ERISA/benefits lawyer for some of the finest banks, hospitals, and tech companies in New England,” Chimento says of his achievements. “My best achievement is simply to have gained the trust of very smart and highly ethical people.”

For 11 years, Chimento was elected to the Planning Board in Dover, MA, dealing with inevitable development and trying to keep land and trails open for horses and recreation.

“Consider hard whether you really want to be a lawyer,” Chimento cautions young lawyers. “Do you have the passion to help people? Are you good at explaining complicated matters in understandable terms? This career can kill a person without that passion. On the plus side, if you have the drive, it can be the best thing in your life except [for] family.”

Offering advice for maintaining well-being and a strong practice, Chimento says, “Stay physically fit. Your body is a temple. Abjure brown liquids, except at festivals celebrating your 50th anniversary of practice, and other select occasions.”

Michael E. Chubrich

Residence: Portsmouth, NH  
Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Education: Knox College, AB (1967); University of Chicago, JD (1972); Boston University, LLM (1975)  
Family: Donna Saunders (wife); Nikola and Robert Chubrich (sons)  
Areas of Practice: General practice  
Current Firm or Employer: Lifeguard at the Portsmouth Indoor Pool  
Past Firms or Employers: New Hampshire Legal Assistance; Shaines & McEachern; M.E. Chubrich, PA

Michael Chubrich says he never met a lawyer until he attended law school in 1967. Although he doesn’t remember the reason why he decided to become a lawyer in the first place, he remembers that after receiving his JD from the University of Chicago Law School in 1972 and his LLM from Boston University School of Law, it was Chief Justice Frank Rowe Kenison, the late Robert Shaines, and Paul McEachern who taught him how to be a New Hampshire lawyer.

His most memorable cases come from his appellate practice. He considered it an honor to argue before the New Hampshire and Maine Supreme Courts, along with the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Chubrich served as a trustee of the Chase Home in Portsmouth, where he helped in the effort to save the Portsmouth Music Hall. He was also a director and treasurer of the Bow Street Theater Trust, Inc., and helped Portsmouth attorney Chuck Doleac with SIPP (Save the Indoor Portsmouth Pool).

“Give your clients the advice they need, not what they want to hear,” Chubrich offers as advice for lawyers starting their own practice. “Obey our Code of Professional Responsibility, treat your clients and opponents with respect, and keep the promises that you make.”

“Give your clients the advice they need, not what they want to hear. Obey our Code of Professional Responsibility, treat your clients and opponents with respect, and keep the promises that you make.”

– Michael Chubrich
For Albert J. Cirone, Jr., the inspiration to become a lawyer stemmed from watching episodes of Perry Mason on TV. He realized at an early age that he always enjoyed advocating and arguing for various viewpoints.

In 1988, he was appointed as presiding judge for the Lebanon District Court and served until 2014, when he retired from the bench to return to private solo practice.

One of Cirone’s mentors as a young lawyer was Jess Feldman, a San Francisco attorney who gave him his first job and taught him about justice, preparation, being civil in the practice of law, and doing charitable and community work as part of a practice. Another mentor was Raymond Stayley, for whom Cirone worked and who taught him about justice, preparation, and doing charitable and community work as part of a practice.

Before his judgeship, he served on many local boards, including the Mascoma School Board and a developmental training center for disabled children. Of his many community service efforts, he is most proud of the work he and others did in resurrecting the Governor’s Breakfast event at the NH International Speedway in Loudon as part of the July NASCAR race weekend. He says the governor always attended and they consistently raised over $100,000 annually for the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth and Phinney to emulate.

“Be competent, prepared and civil, and put in whatever time is required to provide your clients with the appropriate legal work they need,” Cirone offers in the way of advice for lawyers starting their own practice. “Ask for assistance from other lawyers within or without your firm – we are always willing to provide input. I still reach out to this day when I need advice from other lawyers. Get involved in community activities, return phone calls within 24 hours, keep clients informed of whatever is happening in their matter, take the long view toward client relationships, and bill reasonably – adjust downward more than upward.”

After graduating with his JD from Cornell University Law School in 1973, Bradford Cook started as an attorney at Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green. He had been working as a summer associate at the firm during his last year of law school and remains at the same firm to this day.

“I decided to become an attorney since it appeared to be a way to be involved in public life while at the same time having an interesting profession which allowed me to help others and support my family,” Cook says. His mentors include William Green, Kimon Zachos, Richard Morse, Fred Hall, Jack Middleton, and numerous other attorneys whose examples set the standard for younger attorneys to emulate.

Cook says he has been blessed to be involved with many boards, including Easter Seals New Hampshire, New Hampshire College, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Industry Association, Taylor Community, UNH Manchester, Manchester Airport Authority, Manchester Community Access Television, Little Sunapee Protective Association, Bishop’s Charitable Assistance Fund, Diocesan Camps, and several others.

“Seek out those with whom you wish you had more contact,” he says. “So, you don’t have to wish you did when it is too late to do so.”

Looking forward, Cook says: “Those of us reaching 50 years (much sooner than expected) could be tempted to say how much better the law was and practice was when we started, but what excites me today is the level of education and expertise of the bright young attorneys coming into the profession, their enthusiasm, and their hope to use the law to right wrongs and do justice.”
Patrick J. Daly

Residence: Reading, MA
Hometown: Bergenfield, NJ
Education: Boston College (1969); Boston College Law School (1973)
Family: Kathleen Daly (wife); Christine Daly Allendorf and Michael Daly (children – both of whom are attorneys and both of whom married attorneys)
Areas of Practice: Originally litigation-focused, but transitioned into residential real estate and wills and trusts
Current Firm or Employer: Adams & Blinn
Past Firms or Employers: Law Office of John J. Thornton; Reliance Insurance Company

When Patrick Daly was a teenager, he was drawn to the TV show, The Defenders, because he admired the social issues addressed in the legal context of the episodes. As he got older, he realized he wanted to practice law because he considered it a learned profession, and it would give him an excellent opportunity to both serve and help society in a meaningful way.


“It’s important to look at yourself in the mirror every morning and be proud of the fact that you are a lawyer and that you have a unique opportunity to blend a very happy and active social life with a rigorous professional life,” Daly offers as advice for maintaining well-being and a strong practice. “To me, my ‘schedule’ was always an overlap of the business and personal sides of my life. Maintaining the proper balance ensures that you will have an interesting and invigorating life.”

Asked for advice for lawyers starting their own practice, Daly says the least desirable part of practicing law is the business and financial framework within which you must operate to be successful.

“A key element in preparing to start your own practice is to evaluate and deal with balancing that fiscal reality with providing your client with the best professional services while always acting in their best interests.”

Congratulations

Sheehan Phinney congratulates Bradford E. Cook on 50 Years of exemplary legal service.

We are so thankful for Brad’s tirelessly dedication to clients and community. We look forward to many years of the same, as he continues adroitly to manage his many professional responsibilities; charitable and community commitments; and time with his family, including his lovely grandchildren, Henry and Ellen.
Judge J. Michael Deasy, who served in the US Navy from 1967 to 1973, and graduated cum laude from Boston College Law School in 1973, says the law was intellectually interesting to him as a young man. The first lawyer he worked for, David Hamblett, taught him the importance of being precise and thorough when drafting documents and researching the law. Another of his mentors was his predecessor at the bankruptcy court, Judge James Yacos. According to Judge Deasy, Judge Yacos’ demeanor and expectations made the attorneys that regularly appeared in his courtroom better lawyers.

When asked what professional achievements he is most proud of, Judge Deasy says his selection by the First Circuit Court of Appeals to serve as a bankruptcy judge was his highest professional accomplishment at the time of his appointment; however, he is most proud of receiving the 2016 Justice William A. Grimes Award for Judicial Professionalism from the Bar Association.

“The award was based upon the recommendations of the many lawyers who had appeared in my courtroom over the years,” Judge Deasy says. “Their recognition of my judicial performance was very satisfying and humbling.”

Judge Deasy served for three years as an elected member of the Milford School Board and a subsequent year as an interim appointment in a vacancy. At various times, he also served as a member and chair of both the Milford School Budget Committee and the Town of Milford Budget Committee, as well as various study and building committees for the Milford Library and town hall. Additionally, he was a member of the Milford Rotary Club for 15 years, working to raise funds primarily for scholarships.

“I would advise all lawyers, whether solo or at a firm, to be both thoughtful and skeptical about what they think they know,” Judge Deasy says. “It is perhaps more important to recognize what you don’t know than it is to be confident in what you do know. And in dealing with other lawyers and judges, your word and reputation for being honest is the most valuable asset you have for yourself and the clients you represent. Do not trade your personal credibility for any prospective short-term gain or any client.”

While in undergrad at UNH, Peter Decato attended a trial in 1966 with attorney Robert A. Dietz. He was so impressed with the young man’s work ethic that he recruited Decato and then mentored him once he got to law school. His heroes include his father, Harry Decato, and Professor Harry Glassman of the University of Maine School of Law, who recruited Decato and then mentored him once he got to law school.

He says his most memorable case is State v. Richard Bilodeau, wherein Bilodeau was charged with three counts of negligent homicide involving two New Hampshire troopers and a prisoner killed in a crash that occurred in Warren, NH in 1991.

When asked what advice he has for lawyers starting their own practice, Decato says, “Work hard, care about your clients, always be well prepared, and embrace the role of being a counselor.”

“Be there for younger lawyers when they call for advice,” he says. “When you win, don’t gloat. When you lose, congratulate the winner, and silently resolve to do a better job the next time.”

Robert A. Dietz

Residence: Laconia, NH
Hometown: Huntington, NY
Education: Lehigh University, BS; Duke Law School, JD
Family: Patricia (wife); Anna, Scott, Carrie, and Amanda (children)
Areas of Practice: Business, estate planning, and trust administration
Current Firm or Employer: Normandin, Cheney & O’Neil, PLLC
Past Firms or Employers: NH Department of Employment Security (1978-1979)
Robert Dietz earned his JD from Duke Law School in 1973 and joined the US Air Force the following year, where he eventually served as a Judge Advocate General. He then worked for the NH Department of Employment Security for a year before starting at the law firm of Normandin, Cheney & O’Neil, where he has worked for 44 years. He has also been a member of the Lake Wicwas Association for more than 30 years.

“Develop relationships with experienced local attorneys who can provide perspective when needed,” Dietz advises young lawyers.

When asked what advice he has for maintaining well-being in the practice of law, Dietz says, “It is not always easy, but being able to separate one’s private life from the pressures of legal practice allows an attorney to have perspective, remain enthusiastic, and avoid burnout.”

In the future of law, Dietz hopes to see expanded availability of legal services among the middle class.

“It is not always easy, but being able to separate one’s private life from the pressures of legal practice allows an attorney to have perspective, remain enthusiastic, and avoid burnout.”

– Robert Dietz

Congratulations to our colleague, mentor and friend, Robert A. Dietz on his 50th Anniversary as a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association. Bob’s dedication to his clients and leadership within the firm continue to set a shining example for every practitioner at NCO.

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Michael J. Donahue

Residence: Newington, NH
Hometown: Manchester, NH
Education: College of the Holy Cross, AB (1970); University of Pennsylvania Law School, JD (1973)
Family: Diane (wife of 50 years); Sarah and Kerry (daughters)
Areas of Practice: Land use and permitting, real estate development and conveyance, and environmental law
Current Firm or Employer: Retired
Past Firms or Employers: Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC

“Like many others, I was uncertain about a career, and law presented options and a scholarship to Penn,” Michael Donahue says of his decision to become a lawyer. “Those options were quickly narrowed by a ping pong ball drawn from a bingo basket

Michael J. Donahue continued on page 12
Michael J. Donahue continued from page 11

David M. Gottesman

Residence: Nashua, NH
Hometown: Pennsauken, NJ
Education: University of New Hampshire, BA (1970); Suffolk University Law School, JD (1973)
Family: Jean Gottesman, Eric Gottesman, Marc Gottesman, and Michael Gottesman
Areas of Practice: Plaintiff’s personal injury and medical malpractice
Current Firm or Employer: Gottesman & Hollis, PA
Past Firms or Employers: The Leonard Firm (1973-1975)

After receiving his JD from Suffolk University Law School in 1973, David Gottesman worked at The Leonard Firm until 1975, when he founded Gottesman & Hollis. He says one of his heroes was his professor at law school, Tom Lambert, who spent his final years teaching students that people who were negligent “had to pay for what they break.”

Gottesman was elected NH State Senator from District 12 and served from 2004 to 2008. He was also a Rotarian in the Nashua West Rotary Club for 45 years. Many of his friends and business relationships emanated from that service. In addition, Gottesman was also the chair of the Nashua Division of the NH Charitable Foundation, president of the NH Association for Justice, and president of the Nashua Bar Association.

“There is no substitute for having a good reputation,” David Gottesman says. “Honesty and integrity are paramount in having credibility among other lawyers and insurance adjusters. It is not that hard to follow the simple rule of being truthful in your behavior. It only takes one time with me of someone crossing the line in a bad way, and then I remember them and their behavior forever.”

Asked what advice he has for lawyers starting their own practice, Gottesman says, “No matter who calls you, return your phone calls. An early case that I had involved a local janitor who was not able to get a lawyer to return his calls. I did return his call, only to find out that his son had been in a terrible accident leaving him paralyzed. I took the case and it resolved for a substantial settlement.”

Doug P. Hill

Residence: Gilford, NH
Hometown: Gilford, NH
Education: Dartmouth College, BA; Boston University School of Law, JD
Family: Alexandra T. Breed (wife), admitted to the NH Bar in 1974
Areas of Practice: Conservation, real estate, and municipal
Current Firm or Employer: Squam Lakes Conservation Society
Past Firms or Employers: Nungesser & Hill (1978-2014); NHLA (1974-1977); NH Supreme Court (1973-1974)

Douglas Hill earned his JD from Boston University School of Law in 1973 and then clerked for a year at the NH Supreme Court. He then worked at NH Legal Assistance for three years before starting the firm of Nungesser & Hill in 1978. In 2014, he joined the Squam Lakes Conservation Society, where he focuses on land protection.

Hill says his heroes and mentors were the judges of the Frank Rowe Kenison Supreme Court.

He has served on the Conservation Commission in the town of Gilford for more than 30 years and serves on the NH Bar Foundation board. He also served on the NHLA board and the former board of Legal Advice and Referral Center.

“I share the often-expressed pessimism arising in part from the descent of respect for SCOTUS,” Hill says of the future of law. “But I have hope that a bright new generation of lawyers committed to the integrity of the Bench and Bar will turn it around.”
Bruce R. Jasper

Residence: Croydon, NH  
Hometown: Nashua, NH  
Education: University of New Hampshire, BA (1970); University of Tulsa College of Law, JD (1973)  
Family: Ann (wife); Jennifer Lynch & Michelle Gilbert (children)  
Areas of Practice: Criminal, family, real estate, probate, and estate planning  
Current Firm or Employer: Elliott, Jasper, Shklar, Ranson & Beaulac, LLP  
Past Firms or Employers: Edes & Elliott; Elliott & Jasper; Elliott, Jasper & Bennett, and various other offtakes of Elliott, Jasper.

Bruce Jasper earned his BA from UNH in 1970 and his JD from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1973. He says he didn’t have any legal heroes or mentors but loved Perry Mason. Jasper has been involved in many community service boards and organizations, including membership in the Newport Rotary Club for 40 years, as well as his current position as moderator for the Town and School District in Croydon.

“Congeniality with other lawyers and the clerk’s offices goes a long way to making for a pleasurable practice,” Jasper says to lawyers starting their practice. “Don’t be afraid to ask for help. New Hampshire is a great place to practice.”

With respect to maintaining well-being and a strong practice, Jasper says, “Only accept cases you are competent to handle and don’t take on more than you can handle. Your mental health is more valuable than money.”

Edward M. Kaplan

Residence: Contoocook, NH  
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY  
Education: University of Kansas, BA; University of Kansas Law School, JD  
Family: Maddy (wife); Adam and Elizabeth (children)  
Areas of Practice: Labor, employment, education, healthcare, trial, and appellate  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  
Past Firms or Employers: Sulloway & Hollis, PLLC

After college, Edward Kaplan was debating between a graduate program in American Studies and law school. He decided becoming a lawyer would give him more options to get involved in issues that mattered to him and eventually earned his JD from University of Kansas Law School in 1973. That same year, he joined Sulloway & Hollis (then Sulloway, Hollis, Godfrey & Soden) and remained with the firm until his retirement in 2021.

“I was fortunate to be a part of a wonderful and successful firm during my entire career,” Kaplan says when asked about maintaining well-being and a strong practice. “I was always supported by other lawyers, paralegals, and an exceptional staff. This helped me be very responsive to my clients, which I believe is integral to maintaining a strong practice. It is, of course, essential that practitioners remain current in their practice areas. ‘Well-being’ is a tougher challenge and is, in my view, very specific to the individual. Generally, it’s likely many lawyers will experience ‘wins and losses’ during a career. Put your best effort forward and try not to dwell on the losses.”

Kaplan was a board member and chair of both the Hopkinton School District and New Hampshire Public Radio. He was also a board member of both the Hopkinton Public Schools Foundation and the Capitol Center for the Arts.

Kaplan’s advice to others in the legal community is to stay connected as much as possible, including with your adversaries.

“My practice benefited greatly from my participation in several national professional organizations that I was honored to be elected to,” Kaplan says. “Personal relationships in those organizations and in the NH Bar led to many referrals and helped develop my practice. Equally important, I was generally on the defense side of the table. Maintaining relationships with those I knew on the plaintiffs’ side of the bar often lowered the tension in what is, after all, an adversarial process.”

John C. King

Residence: Moultonborough, NH  
Hometown: New Britain, CT  
Education: Georgetown School of Foreign Service; Georgetown Law Center  
Family: Patty (wife); Megan, Shaela, John Patrick, Colin, and Brighid (children)  
Areas of Practice: Commercial litigation, government relations, municipal law, and administrative proceedings  
Current Firm or Employer: Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, PC

For John King, who earned his JD from Georgetown Law Center in 1973, the law appears to be in his genes, as his father was a lawyer. After law school, King served as a law clerk to Connecticut Supreme Court Justice John P. Cotter before becoming Senior Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court and Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut.

In 1981, King became a shareholder of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, where he remains to this day. He is a past president of both the Hartford County Bar Association and the Pathways/Sen-
Kozak has been very active in community service, serving as a chairman for several organizations, including the Manchester School Board, School Union 42 School Board, Manchester Board of Appeals, Manchester Board of Selectmen, Manchester Budget Committee, and his church’s finance committee. He was also a Scout leader and a baseball and soccer coach.

Offering advice to young lawyers, Kozak says, “When you don’t know, say so and seek assistance. Always respect your opponent and try to look at matters from their perspective. Always be prompt in answering phone calls and emails. Do not procrastinate. Seek a balance between your professional career, your family, and your community. There is much more to life than the law, and you will be a better lawyer and a happier person if you achieve that balance. And no matter how long you practice, remain a student of the law.”

James L. Kruse

Residence: Concord, NH
Hometown: Bethesda, MD
Education: Cornell University (1969); SUNY University at Buffalo School of Law (1972)
Family: Marcia MacKay (life partner); Dan and Cynthia (children); Geoff and Stu (stepsons); four grandchildren
Areas of Practice: Litigation, professional conduct
Current Firm or Employer: Retired
Past Firms or Employers: NH Attorney General; Burlington & Kruse; Merrimack County Attorney; Sulloway & Hollis; Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell; Concord High School; NH Attorney Discipline Office

James Kruse graduated from Cornell University in 1969 and received his JD from SUNY University at Buffalo School of Law in 1972. He was admitted to practice in the State of New York in 1973 and was admitted to practice in New Hampshire in 1975.

Of his community service over the years, his most meaningful roles include Community Players of Concord (actor and board member), First Night NH (board member), Concord Community Music School (board member), and Suncook Valley Chorale (board member).

“Find a mentor to advise on business matters, marketing, client communications, compliance with Rules of Professional Conduct, and life balance,” Kruse says to lawyers starting their own practice.

When asked what advice he has for maintaining well-being and a strong practice, Kruse says, “Engage in ongoing legal training, assume responsibilities for the Bar and the judiciary, engage in community and philanthropic endeavors, and do not neglect personal family, recreation, and exercise.”

When Joseph Kozak was a youngster, he had a reputation for standing up to bullies. His elementary school yearbook labeled him as one who “always sticks up for the little guy.” As such, a career in law just seemed to fit his personality. After serving active duty in the Marine Corps, where he earned three meritorious promotions in rank, he attended Boston College Law School, graduating with his JD in 1972. He was admitted to the Bar in 1973.

Two of Kozak’s mentors were professors. The first was his Political Science professor at the University of Bridgeport, Justice Van Der Kroef, who taught him respect for the legal system, self-confidence, and humility. The second was James Smith, his first-year torts professor at Boston College Law School, who taught him to look beyond the surface when analyzing facts and reaching legal conclusions.

Kozak says he is most proud of having had many satisfied long-term clients, some of whom have become lifelong friends. He had lots of memorable cases, but one standout involves crustaceans.

“When not the most complex or challenging, the one [case] that I am most fond of occurred when I was a young lawyer,” Kozak says. “It was a volunteer lawyer case in which I successfully defended a lobsterman in a criminal tax evasion case. Although [I was] not expecting a fee, he asked me to meet him at a boat dock in Maine the next morning, where he filled the trunk of my car with lobsters. It still makes me smile.”

Joseph M. Kozak

Residence: Manchester, NH
Hometown: Binghamton, NY
Education: University of Bridgeport, AB (1967); Boston College Law School, JD (1972)
Family: Vicki Parker Kozak (wife); Michael Parker Kozak and John David Kozak (sons)
Areas of Practice: Health law
Current Firm or Employer: Kozak & Gayer, PA
Past Firms or Employers: Pierce Atwood (1977-1995); Maine Department of Health and Welfare (1973-1977)

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John C. King continued from page 13

deros Center in New Britain. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Hospital for Special Care.

King says one of his most memorable cases was representing the City of Bridgeport in a redistricting case at trial before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and then before the US Supreme Court, which reversed the trial court and the Court of Appeals and entered judgment for the City of Bridgeport.

For lawyers starting their own practice, King advises seeking advice from lawyers who have practiced a few years in firms both large and small.
“It was either the law or the clergy, both for social justice reasons,” Mark Larsen says when asked why he decided to become a lawyer. “The law won out and I came to New Hampshire, where I had the privilege of working with Bruce Friedman at NHLA and then in private practice with Marilyn McNamara.”

Larsen says one of his heroes in New Hampshire was Judge Hugh Bownes, federal judge for the First Circuit and for the District of New Hampshire.

He is most proud of his work with NHLA, with the NH Public Defender, and as the head of the Mental Health Litigation Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Massachusetts, overseeing public and private attorneys.

“They are great organizations providing legal aid to those who cannot afford the cost of an attorney,” Larsen says. “I am also proud of the work I did to make sure that the NH Bar Journal survived in the early 1980s.”

In the way of advice for new lawyers, Larsen offers the following: “Be patient and listen to your clients; they will help pay your bills. Stay current in the law by reading Supreme Court opinions and attending to your continuing legal education. Not every CLE will be filled with new material and ideas, but I learned that one of my law school professors was correct when he said that you will learn at least one new thing every time you go.”

“Practice in the areas that you have expertise in or want to develop expertise in and that you feel are personally worthwhile. Keep your overhead low.”

– Judge Paul Lawrence
Hon. John M. Lewis

Residence: Durham, NH  
Hometown: Durham, NH  
Education: Columbia Law School, JD (1973)  
Family: Cindy (wife); Michael, David, and Madeline (children)  
Areas of Practice: General practice, with a focus on family law, personal injury, workers’ compensation, Social Security litigation, product liability, business, and employment  
Current Firm or Employer: John M. Lewis ADR Services  

Judge John Lewis received his JD from Columbia Law School in 1973 and clerked for Federal Chief Judge Frank J. Battisti of the Northern District of Ohio for the following year. In 1974, he became an assistant regional attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Philadelphia, PA, for two years, before joining the labor and employment group of a large firm in New York City.

Following his move to NH, Judge Lewis joined The Legal Clinics, which later became Borofsky, Lewis & Amodeo-Vickery, where he was eventually made partner. In 2001, he was appointed as a Superior Court judge and served until 2013, when he began operating an alternative dispute resolution service.

Speaking about his achievements and proudest moments, Judge Lewis recounted memorable cases he heard as a judge, including Duncan v. State of NH in 2013, and a major voting rights case in 2012.

“As an attorney, I am proud to have represented Vicki Bader in her family case against Seth Bader, and then to later seek relief against Seth Bader arising from his killing of Vicki,” he says. “I am also proud to have co-authored with my former partner, Stephen E. Borofsky, a law review article entitled, Claremont I and II – Were They Correctly Decided, and Where Have They Left Us? 14 U.N.H. L. Rev. 1 (2016).”

Judge Lewis advises new attorneys to get involved in their community by joining a school board, planning board, or zoning board, to name a few. Treat law as a worthwhile craft where, with your skills, you can make a significant difference in so many different ways.”

John A. Macoul

Residence: Hampton, NH  
Hometown: Lawrence, MA  
Education: St. John’s University School of Law, JD (1973)  
Family: Stephanie, Matthew, Christine  
Areas of Practice: Family law, civil and criminal litigation  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  
Past Firms or Employers: John A. Macoul

When John Macoul was a pre-med student at Case Western Reserve University, he took a course in Constitutional Law and quickly decided to switch gears to pursue a career in law. After graduation, he attended St. John’s University School of Law and eventually earned his JD in 1973. He then started a solo practice and remained solo until he retired in 2022.

“I had many challenging and unique cases, but I believe the most challenging was State v. Lister, my first homicide,” Macoul says of his most memorable cases. “The defendant escaped after four jurors were selected, but none were sworn in. It went to the Supreme Court on an emergency basis, and the defendant was ultimately tried in absentia.”

Macoul cautions new attorneys to pace themselves in their practice.

“Work to live, don’t live to work.” he says. “Be honest and realistic with your clients, your adversary, and the court. Know your limits and be patient.”

Of staying connected with others in the legal community, Macoul says, “Attend live CLEs whenever possible and try to attend functions, lunches, etc. with your colleagues to get to know each other in a non-adversarial setting.”

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– John Macoul
J. Christopher Marshall

Residence: North Conway, NH  
Hometown: North Conway, NH  
Education: Dartmouth College, AB (1970); George Washington University School of Law, JD (1973)  
Family: Jennifer Rood (wife); Shumway, Piper, Hannah, and Sam (children)  
Areas of Practice: Insolvency, corporate, administrative  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  
Past Firms or Employers: NH Department of Justice (2005-2022); Ford & Weaver (2004-2005); US Department of Justice (1996-2004); McLane Middleton (1974-1996)

Retired attorney Christopher Marshall graduated from Dartmouth College in 1970 and earned his JD from George Washington University School of Law in 1973. His first job after law school was McLane Middleton, where he worked with two of his mentors, John McLane and Jack Middleton. In 1996, he went to work for the US Department of Justice, where he was mentored and influenced by some of his colleagues in the US Trustee Program.

“While serving as a US Trustee, I led a group of professionals who redressed nationwide abuses of the bankruptcy process in the solicitation and use by retailers of reaffirmation agreements,” Marshall says of a memorable case. “After it surfaced in Boston that it was trying to collect discharged consumer debt, Sears Roebuck pled guilty to a bankruptcy crime, agreed to refund $160 million to its customers, paid substantial fines, and, along with other retailers, reformed its practices. At the time, it was one of the largest consumer fraud cases to have occurred."

After a brief stint back in private practice at Ford & Weaver from 2004 to 2005, Marshall returned to the public sector at the NH Department of Justice, where he retired in 2022. During his career, Marshall served on the NHBA Board of Governors, as well as the board of NH Legal Assistance.

“I think it is valuable to gain work experience in both the public and private sectors so that a lawyer understands the values, processes, and mentality of each sector. It also facilitates a choice as to which one is more suitable for an individual. Early on, I think new lawyers should work in a variety of practice areas to settle on those that are the most rewarding or interesting. I also think lawyers need to work especially hard in their early years to learn much needed legal skills, as well as the substance of their chosen practice areas.”

– Christopher Marshall

Richard E. Mills

Residence: Meredith, NH  
Hometown: Meredith, NH  
Education: Northeastern University, BSBA (1970); Boston College Law School, JD (1973)  
Family: Donna (wife of 54 years); Jonathan, Timothy, and Jeffrey (sons)  
Military Service: US Army Reserves, 2nd Lieutenant  
Areas of Practice: Insurance Defense  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  


Mills says he became a lawyer to enhance his opportunities in business and that his early mentors were Professor Phillip Crotty from Northeastern University and Attorney Robert Eaton. His proudest achievement is his AV rating on Martindale Hubble. One of his most memorable cases was Merrill vs. City of Manchester, where he successfully defended against eminent domain taking of woodlands for commercial development.

Aside from his legal career, Mills served as chairman of the Trustee of Camp Carpenter for 25 years.
Jeffrey B. Osburn

Residence: Englewood, FL and Goffstown, NH
Hometown: Tecumseh, MI
Education: General Motors Institute, ME (1970); University of Michigan Law School, JD (1973)
Family: Susan (wife); Adam, Ben, and Matt (sons); six grandchildren
Areas of Practice: Civil litigation
Current Firm or Employer: Retired
Past Firms or Employers: McDowell & Osburn, PA (2001-2020); Wiggin & Nourie, PA (1973-2001)

By the time Jeffrey Osburn was finished with his engineering studies at General Motors Institute, he was convinced that he did not want to work as an engineer or for a large corporation.

“I decided to try law school with no real plan,” Osburn says. “It was a lucky choice and sort of serendipity that I ended up with a career I really enjoyed. I was also lucky to land a first job at Wiggin, where I had the opportunity to ‘bag’ multiple cases for Paul Nourie. He was generous with his time, advice, and criticism.

He would take time to discuss cases post-verdict and what he felt was effective or ineffective for each side. It was a great learning experience.”

With respect to starting a practice, Osburn advises lawyers to work hard and to not hesitate to contact more experienced counsel to ask for help with issues of concern.

“New Hampshire lawyers have always been generous with advice based on years of experience,” Osburn says. “We were all new lawyers once.”

He also cautions lawyers to go out of their way to communicate with other counsel in person or by phone and believes that many issues or misunderstandings can be resolved just by picking up the phone to discuss concerns with opposing counsel.

“Practicing law by text, email, and letter may be quick and efficient, but it is isolating,” he says.

“Practicing law by text, email, and letter may be quick and efficient, but it is isolating.

– Jeffrey Osburn

We congratulate Jeffrey B. Osburn as he attains 50 years in the practice of law.

Our colleagues are honored to have worked with Jeff and we celebrate his accomplishments.

282 River Road, Manchester, NH 03104
Phone: 603-623-9300 Fax: 603-623-5390
www.mcdowell-morrissette.com
Michael M. Ransmeier

Residence: Landaff, NH  
Hometown: Hopkinton, NH  
Education: Dartmouth College, BA, Université de Montpellier, France; Université de Louvain, Belgium; University of Michigan, JD  
Family: Joseph M. Ransmeier (son)  
Areas of Practice: Commercial law, estate planning and administration, real estate, planning and zoning  
Current Firm or Employer: Law Office of Michael M. Ransmeier  
Past Firms or Employers: Russell & Ransmeier; Moulton, Samaha, Vaughan & Ransmeier; Dane, Howe & Brown; Stark & Peltonen; Sulloway, Hollis, Godfrey & Soden

For Michael Ransmeier, the law runs in his family. His father was a lawyer, and his brother became one, as well. He had opportunities to obtain a PhD in political science, but he always wanted to be his own boss and understood the practice of law to be more conducive to that.

Ransmeier is proud of serving his North Country clients, individuals, and businesses on a long-term basis in a manner that has created long-term relationships. One of his most memorable cases was representing the plaintiffs in one of the earliest Lemon Law cases decided by the NH Supreme Court: Sanborn v. Aranosian, 119 NH 969 (1979).

He has been very involved in community service in the North Country throughout his career, including serving as a selectman in the town of Landaff for 20 years, as a moderator of the Landaff School District for more than 12 years, and six years on the Grafton County Economic Development Commission. He has also been the Senior Warden of the Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal) in Lisbon since 1985 and is a long-time member of the Littleton Rotary Club.

“Our colleagues are a terrific resource for staying in touch with changes in the law, and [for] how to respond to those changes,” Ransmeier says of staying connected with others in the legal community. “They are also our close friends and can provide emotional, as well as practical, support. We really cannot do without each other.”

Ransmeier says the value of honesty and integrity is incalculable.

“It makes a huge difference if a judge, or anyone else in an important position, is thinking, ‘I’ve dealt with him before, and he has always been a straight shooter and has had something worthwhile to say.’”

Kenneth L. Robinson, Jr.

Residence: Venice, FL  
Hometown: Tiverton, RI  
Education: Ohio Wesleyan University, BA; University of Michigan Law School, JD  
Family: Vicki (spouse); Abby and Matt (children)  
Areas of Practice: Corporate law, insurance law, corporate governance  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  
Past Firms or Employers: Perkins, Upshall & Robinson; Perkins & Brock; Sulloway, Hollis, Godfrey & Soden

After graduating with a BA from Ohio Wesleyan University, Kenneth Robinson attended the University of Michigan, where he earned his JD. His most satisfying case in private practice was State v. Robert H. at the NH Supreme Court.

Robinson says it was very easy to become involved in community organizations as a young lawyer in Concord, NH. He served, at various times, on the boards of the Arthritis Foundation, Project Second Start, the ABC House, the Concord SPCA, and the Rotary Club of Concord.

William H. Shaheen

Residence: Madbury, NH  
Hometown: Dover, NH  
Education: University of New Hampshire, BA (1965); University of Mississippi, JD (1973)  
Family: Jeanne Shaheen (wife); Stefany, Stacey, and Molly (children)  
Areas of Practice: Personal injury, business, family  
Current Firm or Employer: Shaheen & Gordon, PA  
Past Firms or Employers: NH District Court (1981-1996); US Attorney, District of NH (1976-1981); City of Somersworth (1974-1976)

William Shaheen decided to become a lawyer because of his father, Nick Shaheen. His mentors and heroes include President Jimmy Carter, Governor Hugh Gallen, and Attorney Skip Smith.

After receiving his JD from the University of Mississippi, he worked as an attorney for the City of Somersworth for two years before becoming the youngest US Attorney in the country. One of Shaheen’s proudest accomplishments was building the US Attor-
Celebrating 50 Years of Law Practice

William H. Shaheen  

In 1981, he opened his practice with Steven Gordon and built the firm on that same kind of philosophy of justice. That same year, he was appointed as a judge for the Durham District Court. In 1996, he retired from the bench and focused all his efforts on his firm.

One of his most memorable cases was taking on the FBI in a wrongful death action involving the murder of John McIntyre by Whitey Bulger. He says the case spanned decades without any compensation until the very end.

Shaheen has been enthusiastic about political activism during his career. He was the NH Primary chair for Jimmy Carter, Al Gore, John Kerry, and Hillary Clinton. He was also on the Steering Committee for both President Obama and President Biden.

For advice in maintaining well-being and a strong practice, Shaheen says to keep a sense of humor.

“Take the work seriously, but not yourself,” he says. “Hire people better than yourself. Give talent a chance, even if that individual doesn’t have experience. Never miss an opportunity to offer advice to another lawyer.”

When asked what excites him about the future of law, Shaheen says, “Knowing that the future of our state and country depends upon experienced lawyers mentoring younger lawyers to always do what is right and just.”

Richard J. Sheehan, Jr.

Residence: Wells, ME  
Hometown: Haverhill, MA  
Education: Boston College, BA (1969); Albany Law School, JD (1973)  
Family: Carole Sheehan (wife of 54 years); Four children; Seven grandchildren  
Areas of Practice: General practice, probate, real estate, commercial lending  
Current Firm or Employer: Sheehan, Schiavoni, Jutras & Magliocchetti, LLP

Upon graduating with his JD from Albany Law School in 1973, Richard Sheehan began working as an attorney for Cogswell Law Office – a firm that was founded in 1912 – where he continues to practice today (the firm has since changed its name to Sheehan, Schiavoni, Jutras & Magliocchetti).

Outside of his legal practice, Sheehan has been a trustee of the Haverhill Public Library for 40 years and has helped lead the revitalization of downtown Haverhill’s business and residential area.
From the age of 12, Terry Shumaker intended to become a lawyer. He says it just seemed to fit, and working for two different law firms during college summers sealed the deal. After graduating law school in 1973, he served as a Judge Advocate General in the US Army before joining Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell in 1976. In 1997, he went on to serve as the US Ambassador to Trinidad at the US Department of State. Then, after six years working as executive director and general counsel of the National Education Association of NH, he began working at Bernstein Shur, where he eventually retired in 2018.

“One of the senior NH lawyers I most admired was Chief Justice Frank Kenison, who swore me in and later presided over my first argument in his court. He always seemed to get the legal analysis right,” Shumaker said when asked about his early years. “My senior partners at GCG were my key mentors and giants of the Bar in my era. From Chris Gallagher, I learned in any negotiation or case, always put yourself on the other side of the table and see what it looks like from there. From Mike Callahan, I learned how to try cases and, most importantly, how to cross examine witnesses. And from Don Gartrell, I learned that patience for lawyers is crucial, that a gentleman can be a strong advocate, and that over-heated or nasty rhetoric is never persuasive.”

He is most proud of his work on Cloutier v. Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. (1981), which saved the wrongful discharge cause of action in the Granite State and righted a terrible wrong done to a 31-year employee with an unblemished record who was terminated by a Tilton grocery store because the store was robbed on his day off.

“In addition, I was honored to serve with Jack Middleton as one of the two attorney members of the Supreme Court Rules Committee for 16 years,” Shumaker says. “I was particularly pleased and humbled to be the first New Hampshire attorney elected by my peers to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.”

Shumaker was involved in many community service efforts over his career, but two of his great honors were being appointed by Governor Steve Merrill to be the first chair of the AmeriCorps Program in NH and being asked to chair the NH Political Library Board of Trustees by Secretary of State Bill Gardner.

“Get out from behind that computer screen,” Shumaker advises for staying connected in the legal community. “Get involved in non-legal activities. For me, it was politics, where I met lots of other lawyers and made lifetime friends. Pick up the phone and call opposing counsel; don’t just email them to death.”

Gregory H. Smith

When Gregory Smith graduated from Concord High School, he could not afford to go to college. Fortunately, his mother’s childhood friend, Carolyn Cheney Rowley, made it possible for him to matriculate at UNH. Smith supported himself through college working 30 hours a week. After graduating from the University of Maine School of Law in 1973, he started at the NH Attorney General’s Office, where he worked his way up from a lawyer in the Criminal Division to Attorney General of the State of NH. In 1984, he joined McLane Middleton, where he continues to practice in environmental law.

“John F. Kennedy inspired me to believe that public service can be a noble endeavor,” Smith says of his hero. “I changed my plans to be a research chemist and went to law school to serve those in our society less fortunate and with less means.”

Smith’s professional mentors include Supreme Court Justice and NH Attorney General David H. Souter, former NH Attorney General and US Senator Warren B. Rudman, former NH Attorney General Thomas Rath, and Jack Middleton.

In the last few years, Smith feels privileged to have worked with other highly conscientious and able lawyers to advocate successfully for the repeal of the death penalty in NH.

Smith advises new lawyers to learn avidly from lawyers that came before them, and to be able to adjust effectively to changing attributes of client representation in the future.

“We are living in times of accelerating change, and in its
Richard W. Smith

**Residence:** Cape Elizabeth, ME  
**Hometown:** Bath, ME  
**Education:** Bowdoin College, AB; Boston University School of Law, JD  
**Family:** Helen M.V. Smith (spouse); Elliott J. Smith (son)  
**Military Service:** Maine Army National Guard  
**Areas of Practice:** Retailer real estate leases and acquisitions, real estate title and title insurance, business organizations  
**Current Firm or Employer:** Retired  
**Past Firms or Employers:** Bernstein Shur (2005-2017); Ticor, Commonwealth Land, Lawyers, and Chicago Title Insurance companies (1985-2005); Law Office of Donald A. Spear; Spear, Smith & Smith; Smith & Smith; Smith & Keith (1973-1985)

Richard Smith has been a member of the NH, MA, and ME bars and was involved in real estate transactions for retail interests in five New England states. As in-house underwriter, state counsel, and manager for title insurers who are now all part of the Fidelity group, his work included consulting on business operations and transactions in eight northeastern states. His early hometown practice in Bath, Maine included opening one of the state’s first title insurance agencies, Pioneer Title of Maine, later Ticor Title of Maine, which served as many as 135 Maine approved attorneys in the early 1980s.

While at Bernstein Shur, Smith was recognized by Best Lawyers in NH, ME, and by Chambers in Maine, became the first ME lawyer to be accredited by the US Green Building Council as a LEED AP, and served as volunteer counsel to the NH Chapter of the US Green Building Council.

In 1992, Smith started what is now the Hydrogen Energy Center and remains active in the organization, promoting the decarbonization of industry, buildings, and transportation using green hydrogen technologies.

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John F. Teague

**Residence:** Concord, NH  
**Hometown:** Newport, NH  
**Education:** Amherst College (1968); Georgetown Law School (1973)  
**Family:** Christine (partner); Reuben, Neal, Daniel, and Alexander (children)  
**Areas of Practice:** General practice, with concentration in plaintiff representation, litigation, appellate law, and municipal and school district representation  
**Current Firm or Employer:** Retired  
**Past Firms or Employers:** Upton & Hatfield, LLP

John Teague joined Upton & Hatfield after graduating from Georgetown Law School in 1973 and remained there until his retirement. His legal heroes and mentors include US Senators Howard Banker, Birch Bayh, and Jacob Javits, as well as US Supreme Court Justices Earl Warren and William Douglas.

“I can drive around New Hampshire and view schools such as Prospect Mountain High School, Exeter Cooperative High School, Concord High School and Elementary schools, and Conway schools that resulted, in great measure, from my negotiating agreements between warring towns, districts, and hostile community groups,” Teague says of his professional accomplishments.

“I am particularly proud of a product liability suit I brought as an associate against Honda as a manufacturer of the three-wheel ATV that tipped over on my client, Jeremy Hill, rendering him a paraplegic. The suit resulted in a lifetime settlement by Honda [and was] one of the few cases the company decided to settle.”

For many years, Teague was on the board of the New Hampshire Arthritis Foundation and served on a national foundation fundraising effort at the National Institute of Health that earned him an award in recognition as a national volunteer. He was also given the Bradley Kidder Award, in connection with his work in education law as a frequent lecturer and adjunct professor, for his contribution to New Hampshire school law.

For advice to new lawyers, Teague says, “Relish the funny stories you and your peers will generate. They will help you get through the not-so-funny times.”
James E. Townsend

Residence: Manchester, NH  
Hometown: Meriden, NH  
Education: Yale University (1968); Cornell Law School (1973)  
Family: Sandra (spouse); Torrey and Julia (children)  
Areas of Practice: Private practice/public law  
Current Firm or Employer: State of New Hampshire  
Past Firms or Employers: Townsend Law Office; Larson & Townsend; NH Attorney General’s Office; Bielagus & Solomon; Devine, Millimet, Stahl & Branch

Since earning his JD from Cornell Law School in 1973, James Townsend has worked for various firms across the Granite State and has served as Senior Assistant NH Attorney General. Currently, he is the Chairman of the NH Appellate Board. He says his heroes include his parents, wife, and children, as well as his friends Brad Cook and Justice John Broderick for their work in public service, Jamie Raskin and other outspoken advocates for democracy and rule of law, and Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Jr., who was a civil rights and anti-war advocate and his mentor at Yale.

Townsend has been an election worker for many years, including stints as Moderator, Ballot Inspector, and Selectman in Ward 1, Manchester. He has volunteered as a youth soccer coach, a race official in cross-country skiing events, including the 1980 and 2002 Winter Olympics, and as a docent at the Currier Museum and its two Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian houses.

When asked what advice he would have for a lawyer starting their own practice, Townsend offers the following:

“Network with a mentor or two. Hire and maintain good staff. Stay away from cases outside your area(s) of expertise. Bring in co-counsel when you know you need to – for your client’s sake and for your own mental health. We have a wonderful Bar. Your colleagues can and will help in times of need. Attend numerous CLEs and join affiliation groups like the NH Association for Justice or Insurance Defense or Criminal Law. Do some Pro Bono work. Listen and learn.”

James J. Troisi

Residence: Hampstead, NH  
Education: Suffolk Law School, JD  
Family: Deborah (wife); five children; two grandchildren  
Military Service: US Army Reserve  
Areas of Practice: General litigation, civil, criminal, zoning, domestic, real estate  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  
Past Firms or Employers: Troisi & Sullivan Law Office; Troisi Law Office; Rockingham County Attorney’s Office

James Troisi was an insurance claims adjuster after college graduation, and then a self-employed real estate title examiner. In those positions, he interacted with veteran lawyers and the spark of legal interest was ignited. His initial interest was personal injury and real estate law. However, while taking night classes at Suffolk Law School, he became excited about the law in general. He decided it would be a challenging and interesting career that would allow him to help others in need of legal assistance.

He served as president of both the Rockingham County Bar Association and the Greater Salem Bar Association. He has also acted as chairman of the local campaigns for former Governor Steve Merrill, has provided volunteer legal services to the Rockingham Christian Church for more than 15 years, and has served on the boards of the Rockingham County VNA and Salem Exchange Club, and the Salem Boys and Girls Club. However, to him, the most meaningful service was becoming a Big Brother to an 11-year-old boy, who is now almost 40 years old, married with two children, and is the breadwinner for his family.

“Procure a mentor and also consult with other veteran lawyers beforehand,” Troisi says to new lawyers. “Make certain to learn the business side of practicing law and have a good financial foundation. Always keep your clients informed, over-prepare your cases, especially for hearings before any tribunal, and always ask for assistance from other practitioners in areas where you have less experience.”

Troisi adds, “Never lose sight of the fact that it is always preferable to resolve disputes short of trial for the emotional and financial benefit of your clients. When my good friend and colleague Attorney Michael Gorham was alive and practicing, he would call opposing counsel on a new case, and after some personal banter, his first words would be, ‘how are we going to resolve this dispute between our mutual clients?’”

“Network with a mentor or two. Hire and maintain good staff. Stay away from cases outside your area(s) of expertise. Bring in co-counsel when you know you need to – for your client’s sake and for your own mental health. We have a wonderful Bar. Your colleagues can and will help in times of need....”

– James Townsend
Richard V. Wiebusch

Residence: Hudson, MA  
Education: Dartmouth College, AB (1968); Cornell Law School, JD (1973)  
Family: Margaret (spouse); Kimberley, Alice, and Katrina (children)  
Areas of Practice: Corporate and litigation  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  

After earning his JD from Cornell Law School in 1973, Richard Wiebusch began working as Assistant NH Attorney General. In 1985, he became US Attorney for the District of NH. He has also worked in corporate law and litigation for private law firms, including Sheehan Phinney, Sulloway Hollis, and most recently Hale & Dorr, where he retired.

Between 1979-1984, Wiebusch researched and wrote New Hampshire Civil Practice & Procedure, which was published by Equity in 1984. He also served on several boards and government commissions, including NH Ballot Commission, NH State Council on the Arts, Christa McAuliffe Planetarium Foundation, Manchester United Way, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NH.

“Work with people who you like and who challenge you,” Wiebusch offers as advice to other lawyers. “Work hard but don’t lose track of your family. Be open to working together and mentor when you have the chance.”

Randall E. Wilbert

Residence: Bolivia  
Hometown: Bolivia  
Education: University of Notre Dame (1970); George Washington University Law School (1973)  
Family: Jody (wife and NH lawyer); Virginia, Randy, John, Michael, David (children)  
Areas of Practice: Commercial litigation, administrative law  
Current Firm or Employer: Retired  
Past Firms or Employers: US Department of Agriculture, Hamblett & Kerrigan; Wilbert Law Office

In high school, Randall Wilbert became engrossed in famous trials and constitutional debates. These, along with a viewing of the movie To Kill a Mockingbird during English class, influenced him to become a lawyer. He lists his heroes as US Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Clarence Darrow, and Atticus Finch.

In addition to his work as a lawyer, Wilbert also served as the Legal Officer for the NH Civil Air Patrol for 14 years. In addition, he worked on the Nashua Airport Authority as one of the five commissioners during the rapid expansion of the airport. He says his most meaningful community service was being able to coach his children’s baseball and basketball teams.

Regarding the maintenance of well-being and a strong practice, Wilbert says, “You need to set fences. No phone calls on weekends unless [it’s] an emergency. Try to discourage clients from just dropping by, especially if you have a client waiting. Do not be late for court or a closing or other important meeting. When it comes to billing, unless you have a pro bono arrangement, consider withdrawing from representation if the balance owed keeps growing with no attempt by the client to reduce what is owed.”

Wilbert continues: “Always remember the law can be a beautiful thing, but it is also a destroyer. I have witnessed too many contemporaries felled by depression, substance abuse, broken families, and failing health. Keep in mind, if you are a good attorney, you will always have another client.”

When asked what advice he has for staying connected in the legal community, Wilbert says it is important to meet with other attorneys now and then. “You don’t want to take away from your personal time, but lunch with a colleague or two will help the practitioner realize that he or she is not alone,” he says. “We all feel the same pressures at one time or another and it is helpful to talk with others about common issues.”

“Work with people who you like and who challenge you.” Wiebusch offers as advice to other lawyers. “Work hard but don’t lose track of your family. Be open to working together and mentor when you have the chance.”  
– Richard Wiebusch
Supreme Court Judges 1973

THE SUPREME COURT
Left to right: Associate Justice William A. Grimes, Associate Justice Laurence I. Duncan, Chief Justice Frank R. Kenison, Associate Justice Edward J. Lampron, Associate Justice Robert F. Griffith.
Judges of Probate 1973

Standing left to right: Honorable Jarlath M. Slattery, Sullivan County; Honorable Nicholas G. Copadis, Hillsborough County; Honorable Robert A. Jones, Grafton County; Honorable Donald W. Cushing, Merrimack County and Honorable Richard G. Tilton, Belknap County. Sitting left to right: Honorable Harry C. Lichman, Cheshire County; Honorable Frederick J. Harrigan, Coos County and Honorable William W. Treat, Rockingham County. Absent when picture was taken were: Honorable William E. Galanes, Strafford County and Honorable Arlond C. Shea, Carroll County.
1973 New Admittees Seminars

Above, Gary B. Richardson, Chairman of the Junior Bar Activities Committee, introduces the Trial panel at the two-day New Admittees’ Seminars. Below, a view of some of the ninety in attendance at the Seminars.
93 make Bar For 67% Pass-Rate

Ninety-one men and two women have been announced as successful candidates for the New Hampshire Bar, as a result of the July examination. The passing percentage of 67% is the second lowest in recent years, and is far below last year’s 80% rate. Of the successful candidates, 13 had previously been admitted to another jurisdiction (6 in Massachusetts), and 3 (out of 9 who tried) had previously failed the N.H. exam. One of the least successful records turned in by a law school belonged to Suffolk, with 14 passing and 14 failing. On the other side, Boston University Law saw 14 graduates pass and 3 fail. Georgetown fielded the next highest number of applicants, nine, three of whom failed. New England School Of Law’s box score was eight tries for two failures. Two-thirds of the successful applicants had graduated from New England colleges and universities, over one-third of those from New Hampshire colleges.


The successful candidates were:

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<tr>
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30 50-YEAR MEMBER PROGRAM
We couldn’t begin to “left-to-right” these ladies and gentlemen for our readers .... suffice it to say that the master photo has the proper i. d. ’s for the archives. Successful applicants not admitted on November 2 were Charles H. Bradley, III, William D. Hughes, William R. Joslin, Richard A. Koory and Lawrence S. Smith.
The NH Bar Association recognizes the following members as they reach the milestone of 50 years of law practice.*

Mark D. Alpert
Hon. John P. Arnold
Michael A. Bailin
Philip P. Bonafide
Stephen E. Borofsky
Hon. Jean K. Burling
George F. Burns
Hon. Daniel M. Cappiello
George L. Chimento
Michael E. Chubrich
Albert J. Cirone, Jr.
Bradford E. Cook
Patrick J. Daly
Hon. J. Michael Deasy
R. Peter Decato
Stephen J. Dibble
Robert A. Dietz
Michael J. Donahue
David J. Driscoll
Donna W. Economou
Hon. John C. Emery
Hon. Peter H. Fauver
Mayor James J. Fiorentini
Stephen J. Frasca
David M. Gottesman
H. Scott Haskell
Edmund S. Hibbard
Douglas P. Hill
John R. Hughes, Jr.
Bruce R. Jasper
Edward M. Kaplan
John C. King

Joseph M. Kozak
James L. Kruse
Mark A. Larsen
Hon. Paul H. Lawrence
Hon. John M. Lewis
John A. Macoul
J. Christopher Marshall
William L. McCague, II
Douglas A. McIninch
Richard E. Mills
Jeffrey B. Osburn
Michael B. O’Shaughnessy
Donald J. Perrault
Michael M. Ransmeier
Edward W. Richards
Sanford Roberts
Kenneth L. Robinson, Jr.
William H. Shaheen
Richard J. Sheehan, Jr.
Edward E. “Terry” Shumaker, III
Gregory H. Smith
Lawrence S. Smith
Richard W. Smith
Dale T. Swanson
John F. Teague
James E. Townsend
James J. Troisi
Robert C. Varney
Hon. Timothy J. Vaughan
Richard V. Wiebusch
Randall E. Wilbert
Ralph R. Woodman

* This list is not all-inclusive of the 2023 50-year members. Some of our members who have practiced law for 50 years did not wish to be recognized (not listed here), and some did not wish to answer the questionnaire (listed here but not profiled within the booklet).