

**Sara P. Cressey**  
University of Maine School of Law  
Portland, Maine

**EDUCATION**

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**University of Maine School of Law, Portland, Maine**

Juris Doctorate, 2018  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
*Maine Law Review*, Case Note & Comment Editor  
Refugee and Human Rights Fellow

**Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts**

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, 2013  
Minor, Religious Studies, 2013  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
*Phi Beta Kappa*

**TEACHING AND LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

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**University of Maine School of Law, Portland, Maine**

Refugee and Human Rights Clinic Staff Attorney, May 2022 – July 2023

Co-Director, Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Summer Program, May 2023 – August 2023

Visiting Professor, July 2023 - Present

Supervise second- and third-year law students enrolled in the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic who represent individual noncitizens in immigration matters and engage in community-based education and advocacy in collaboration with nonprofit partners. Cases and projects include asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status petitions, adjustment of status applications, petitions for family members to join asylees in the United States, community organizing and outreach, and advocacy reports and manuals. Focus on helping students develop critical lawyering skills, including interviewing, counseling, fact investigation and development, negotiation, legal research, legal writing, oral argument, problem-solving skills, and development of professional identity and resilience. Co-teach the Lawyering Skills for Clinical Practice course, a two-credit course required for new clinic students across all five clinical programs in which students learn best practices for the core lawyering skills they will need for their clinic work. Teach substantive classes related to the work of the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic, including on defensive asylum and immigration research. Guest lecture in other courses, including 1L Legal Research, Analysis and Communication and Immigration Law.

Develop and oversee the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic's summer program, including developing two-day "Boot Camp"-style training program for new student attorneys and scheduling case rounds, seminars, lunch and learns, and other learning opportunities for summer student attorneys. Teach "Boot Camp" classes and seminars on client interviewing and counseling, working with interpreters, client-centered and trauma-informed lawyering, cultural humility, and research.

Member of the Maine Law Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and lead of the Committee's Events Team. Organize meetings for the Events Team and assist with the planning and execution of events that bring diverse voices to Maine Law and otherwise advance the work of the DEI Committee. Advise students on pursuing careers in immigration law and other public interest fields, as well as post-graduation clerkship opportunities – including conducting mock clerkship interviews for students. Meet with prospective students to discuss immigration and human rights law, experiential learning, and clerkship opportunities post-graduation.

**Drummond Woodsum**, Portland, Maine  
Attorney, October 2020 – April 2022

Represented schools, businesses, tribal nations, and individuals on a wide array of litigation matters in state and federal court. Drafted pleadings and discovery, managed document production, took and defended depositions, conducted legal research, drafted research memoranda, drafted dispositive motions, argued motions, and drafted appellate briefs. Drafted multiple amicus briefs for submission to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mentored new attorneys in the litigation group.

As a member of the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project's Pro Bono Panel, provided pro bono representation to an asylum seeker in an appeal before the Board of Immigration Appeals and assisted members of the Afghan community in Maine who wanted to petition for family members fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan to receive humanitarian parole in the United States.

**University of Maine School of Law**, Portland  
Bar Coach, May 2020 – October 2020; May 2021 – July 2021

Provided mentorship to recent Maine Law graduates preparing for the Maine Bar Exam. Held weekly office hours to meet with students to answer bar preparation questions, met individually with students, and engaged with students via email regarding their study plans and questions about their preparation.

**Hon. Kermit V. Lipez**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, Portland, Maine  
Judicial Law Clerk, August 2019 – August 2020

Reviewed appellate briefs and researched applicable law; drafted bench memoranda; assisted with preparation for oral arguments; attended oral arguments; and assisted with drafting, editing, and citation checking opinions.

**Hon. Jon D. Levy**, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Maine, Portland, Maine  
Judicial Law Clerk, August 2018 – August 2019

Reviewed motions and memoranda of law and researched applicable law; drafted bench memoranda; assisted with preparation for oral arguments, hearings, trials, and conferences in chambers; and assisted with drafting, editing, and citation checking orders.

## **SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS-IN-PROGRESS**

*Dropping the Veil: How an Investigation Into One Asylum Office Reveals Systemic Failures Within the U.S. Affirmative Asylum System*, 57.1 LOY. OF L.A. L. REV. (forthcoming 2024) (with Anna Welch)

*Due Process Denied: A Case Study on the Failures of U.S. Affirmative Asylum*, HARV. INT'L L.J. (SPECIAL ONLINE ISSUE) (June 1, 2023) (with Anna Welch), available at <https://journals.law.harvard.edu/ilj/2023/06/due-process-denied-a-case-study-on-the-failures-of-u-s-affirmative-asylum/> (<https://perma.cc/G2PW-PNR4>)

*G.M.M. v. Kimpson*, in *Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Tort Opinions* (Lucinda M. Finley & Martha Chamallas, eds., 2020) (with Jennifer Wriggins)

Comment, *Overawed and Overwhelmed: Juvenile Miranda Incomprehension*, 70.1 Me. L. Rev. 87 (2018)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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(Upcoming) Presenter, AALS Clinical Conference, *Fighting for the Future While Living in the Present*, May 2024

Presenter, AALS Clinical Conference, *Looking Within: Exploring Inter-Clinic Collaborations*, April 2022

Presenter, New England Clinicians Conference, *Teaching Resilience: Tools for Sustainable Practice within Oppressive Systems*, March 2022

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & BAR ADMISSIONS**

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Admitted to practice in Maine; U.S. District Court, District of Maine; and New Hampshire

The Maine State Bar Association

The Association of American Law Schools (AALS)

AALS New England Clinicians Conference Planning Committee

AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education Clinician Crew Facilitator (2023-2024)

AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education Clinician Crew Member (2022-2023)

The Clinical Legal Education Association

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (National & New England Chapter)

The First Circuit Immigration Working Group

The Predicate Order Working Group

The Asylum Working Group of Maine

The Immigrant Youth Working Group

The Maine Immigration Assistance Providers Working Group