

Goal: Growing sustainable business

By Nicholas Mazuroski 2L

Growing up a block away from Maine Law, the school stood tall in my life from an early age, though it was not until later that I realized how important and influential the school would become. My initial exposure to law came from grandparents, extended family, and friends who practiced law. While I was intrigued by the issues and cases they worked on, I never really saw myself in their shoes and as passionate about the discipline. Law seemed too conservative, too formal, and too “in the weeds” to be fun or worth pursuing. What little I knew back then!

This hesitance continued into my college years at Bates College and Oxford University, where several friends were already gearing up for their graduate study of law. Perhaps my choice to major in politics and minor in philosophy should have given me pause and made me question my reservations. Nonetheless, from high school through to college graduation, I was motivated to be an entrepreneur and to make a positive difference through the private sector. More specifically, my goal was to support the establishment and growth of sustainable businesses – companies that properly valued the triple-bottom-line approach, or in other words, their environmental, social, and financial impact.

For me, sustainability requires the recognition of each of these interrelated stakeholders and elements, and the incorporation of them into the fabric of the corporate mission. They should not oppose one another. What is beneficial to our environment can be profitable, create jobs, and strengthen our communities. There should be no dichotomy.

With this in mind, I worked for and later launched my own businesses in the renewable energy sector (algae, biomass, and solar) and the consumer products industry (mainly coffee). I worked in all aspects of the organizations, including finance, operations, and development activities. I probably witnessed more failure than success, but my goal continued to motivate and push me forward. It wasn't long until I realized how pervasive law was in the business world, and how beneficial a law degree would be to advancing my goals.

I chose Maine Law to strengthen my skills and expand my knowledge of how the world functions. Having worked with and coming to know many alumni and faculty, I knew the school possessed the expertise and network to further my capabilities and support my personal and professional growth. The faculty and administration are unmatched. They create a culture and environment for all who are willing to embrace the discipline to succeed. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and to be a member of this diverse and compassionate community.



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Goal: Government attorney



By Julia Teitel 3L

My path to law school was a bit circuitous. My family moved around a fair amount, but I mostly grew up in Northern California. I obtained a B.A. in music from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, and went on to earn an M.M. in music from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. After spending a decade as a professional opera singer (mezzo-soprano) in Boston and New York, a persistent longing to use my brain and abilities in a different way led me to quit music and reassess. At that point I didn't have a clear idea of what my new field would be, but I did know I wanted to work to help vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and LGBT+ youth.

I moved to Maine to be closer to my family, and I spent a remarkable couple of years working as a domestic violence educator and youth advocate for an agency in central Maine. The experience crystallized for me the ways in which the law is used to protect and to reduce harm, not just to punish. I had heard great things about Maine Law and wanted to stay in-state, so it was the clear choice.

I didn't know what returning to school in my 30s would look like, and it's been hard work – but also an absolute joy. Last summer and fall I interned with the Maine Attorney General's Child Protection Division. It was such an incredible experience that I returned this past summer as a student attorney, representing the Department of Health and Human Services in child protection matters in several Maine district courts. I was a member of last year's Craven Constitutional Law Moot Court Team, and we made it to the quarterfinals in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I am also busy on campus: I'm currently a student attorney with the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic (CLAC), a legal writing and research teaching assistant, and in my third year with the Maine Law LGBT+ Law and Policy Group.

After graduation, I'm hoping to work for the Attorney General's office or for a county district attorney's domestic violence unit. The hands-on litigation experience I've gained from both CLAC and the Attorney General's office will be invaluable in preparing me for life in court, as will the excellence, warmth, and encouragement of the Maine Law faculty. After many years spent living all over the place, I'm so glad to be exactly where I am.

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