

# MAINE LAW: For the public good

With its wealth of public service externship opportunities and the longstanding tradition of its alumni working in state government, Maine Law plays a vital role in preparing tomorrow's leaders.

## Alumni in Maine State Government\*

### Governor

Janet Mills '76

### Maine House of Representatives

Donna Bailey '86

Anne Carney '90

Andrew McLean '20

Victoria Morales '05

Stephen Moriarty '78

Ralph Tucker '74

### Maine State Senate

Michael Carpenter '83

Everett (Brownie) Carson '77

Mark Lawrence '90

Heather Sanborn '07

### Governor's Office

Elise Baldacci '12, Legislative Director

Derek Langhauser '87, Chief Legal Counsel

Gerald Reid '94, Department of Environmental Protection

John Rohde '92, Workers' Compensation Board

Bruce Van Note '86, Department of Transportation

### Office of the Treasurer

Henry Beck '14

*\*As of January 1, 2020.*



## Innovative externships prepare students for public service

**Maine Law offers externships that give students opportunities for valuable hands-on experience. These externships can be an important step in establishing a career in public service.**

Recent Public Service-Related Externships:

- > City of Portland Corporation Counsel
- > The District Attorney's Office in counties throughout the state
- > The Maine Attorney General's Office
- > The U.S. Attorney's Office
- > The Federal Defender's Office
- > Office of the Governor
- > Maine District Court, Superior Court, and Supreme Judicial Court



- > U.S. District Court (ME), U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and First Circuit Court of Appeals
- > The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- > The Internal Revenue Service
- > The Department of Homeland Security
- > Maine Human Rights Commission

### About the program

"The Externship Program is an important part of students' experiential education at Maine Law, allowing them the opportunity to work in the field, alongside experienced attorneys and judges, for academic credit. These experiences uniquely prepare students for careers in varied settings, including public service, by exposing them to the day-to-day activities of attorneys practicing in these settings, allowing them to identify and develop the skills necessary to be successful practitioners upon graduation. Maine Law students extern with a wide variety of state and federal placements, including the courts, both in-state and nationally."

– Rachel Reeves '01, Director of Field Placement Programs

### Valuable hands-on experience

"Experiencing exactly what government and public service work actually entails can be very helpful for someone considering a career in the public service sphere, because of the general perception that this type of work is monotonous and unrewarding. I worked for the Child Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General, and they gave me hands-on experience handling pre-trial matters and preparing for two full trials. I also had the opportunity to write an appellate brief as a student attorney, which is not something that many students get to experience! Anyone who's interested in litigation or appellate work and hasn't considered public service as an avenue for those interests should try out an externship."

– Jamie Lynn Bice '19

### Experience & opportunities

"I externed at the Maine Human Rights Commission for two semesters. My externship was hands-down my favorite part of law school. There's just something so exhilarating about learning hands-on while you are managing your own caseload. My externship taught me that it's just as important to be a neutral party as it is to be an advocate. It also inspired me to pursue a job with the MHRC, which paid off! I wouldn't be where I am today without having done the externship program, and I am extremely grateful for the experiences and opportunities it gave me."

– Alex Brindley '19



“Maine Law teaches future Maine lawyer-leaders vital analytical and communication skills so important to developing good public policy.”

Governor Janet Mills



Paul Mills '77, Governor Janet Mills '76, Peter Mills '73, and Judge Nancy Mills '82 at the Blaine House.

# A Maine Law family's tradition

## The Mills family has made its mark in public service

By Liz Woodbury

As they gather for a group photo shoot at the Blaine House, the warm, affectionate banter between Janet, Peter, Paul, and Nancy Mills makes it instantly clear how close this family is. Small differences, like party affiliation (Janet is a Democrat, while her brothers are registered Republicans), don't detract from the unconditional support they offer each other and the dedication they share to serving the State of Maine.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that Governor Mills, her brothers Paul and Peter, and Peter's wife Nancy are all graduates of Maine Law, an institution that places an extremely high value on public service. Like their *alma mater*, the Mills family has collectively played a profound role in shaping public policy in the state.

Few, if any, other Maine families have made this kind of impact. Their commitment to public service goes back generations — both sets of grandparents were devoted public servants. Each of their mother's parents served as town clerks, and their paternal grandfather was a long-time state senator. Their father, S. Peter Mills Jr., served three terms in the Maine Legislature and was U.S. Attorney for Maine for 16 years.

Collectively, the Mills family's service to the state is astonishing. Of the five siblings, three are Maine Law alums, and four have held elected office. (In addition, sibling Dora Anne Mills was the

state's director of public health for more than 14 years.) Oldest brother Peter served in the State Senate for more than 15 years before being appointed executive director of the Maine Turnpike Authority. Since 1993, Peter's wife, Nancy, has served as a Maine Superior Court Justice. Paul, a Farmington-based attorney, is the family historian and prides himself on having moderated more than 200 town meetings in Franklin and Somerset counties. And after a long, dedicated public service career, Janet Mills is now the Governor of Maine.

Interim Law School Dean Dmitry Bam describes Governor Mills as a “trailblazer,” and it's true that her accomplishments, including being the first woman in Maine to serve as a criminal prosecutor, first female Attorney General in the state, and the first woman elected to be Maine's Governor, can only be described as groundbreaking. She credits her time at Maine Law with helping her learn to “think on her feet” and her family for its unqualified support.

Maine Law boasts a prodigious number of alumni who have chosen careers in public service, including graduates who work in the Governor's office, as well as in the State Senate and House of Representatives. With their lifelong commitment to serving the people of Maine — not to mention the spirit and focus they bring to their work — the Law School couldn't ask for a better representative of its ethos and mission than the Mills family.



## Gov. Janet Mills '76

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- > First, and only, woman Governor of Maine. In her historic victory, she earned more votes than any governor in state history and is the first governor since 1966 to win a majority of the vote for her first term
- > First, and only, woman Attorney General of Maine
- > First woman elected District Attorney in New England
- > Co-founder of the Maine Women's Lobby
- > Won election to the Maine House of Representatives in 2002

### What led you to a career in public service?

After graduating from Maine Law, I entered public service as an assistant attorney general in the Criminal Division of the AG's office. A few years later I was elected district attorney for Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. As a prosecutor I saw how the criminal justice system often failed victims of domestic violence, and I co-founded the Maine Women's Lobby to advocate for women's issues in the Legislature. Later, while in private practice with my brother Peter, I won election to the Maine House of Representatives. Peter and I served at the same time for a while, and I came to enjoy using my legal skills to craft public policy. The Legislature then elected me Attorney General, and I served in that position for eight of the past 10 years — a job that combines politics, litigation, and public policy.

### How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?

Maine Law sharpened my research skills, prepared me to think on my feet, and brought me lifelong productive relationships with many wonderful people.

### What do you see as Maine Law's role in preparing the state's future leaders?

The Cumberland Legal Aid and Refugee and Human Rights Clinics serve a vital public purpose for people with dire legal needs. More broadly, Maine Law teaches future Maine lawyer-leaders vital analytical and communication skills so important to developing good public policy.

### What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?

Lawyers generally help one client at a time, one issue at a time. Problem solving on a broader scale, enacting and implementing public policy at the local, state, or national level, will also bring you much satisfaction, whether you are prosecuting or defending criminal cases, managing a nonprofit, or serving in elected office.

### What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

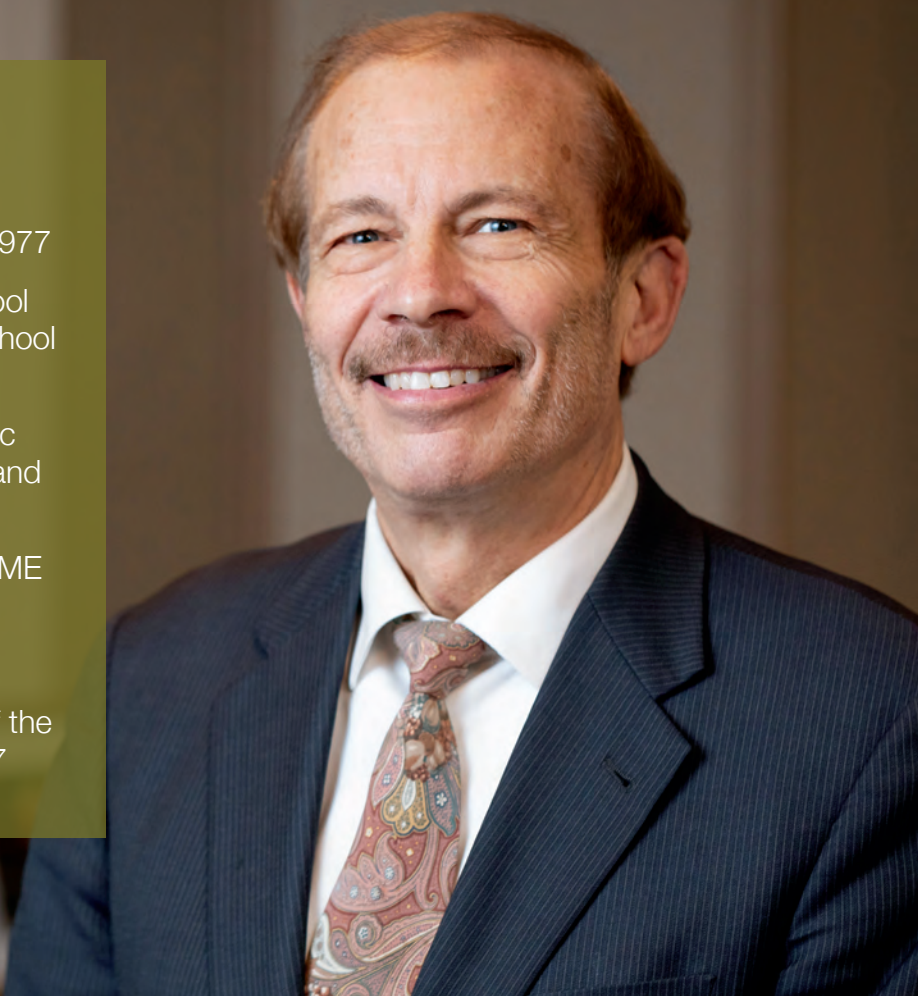
Expanding health care for Maine people. Nearly 44,000 people have enrolled in the MaineCare expansion since January, and we are working on ways to provide affordable health care to small businesses and self-employed individuals.



## Paul Mills '77

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- > Practicing attorney in Farmington since 1977
- > Moderator for more than 200 town & school district budget meetings in 16 towns & school districts in Franklin & Somerset counties
- > Author of more than 300 articles on public affairs appearing in various professional and popular publications in Maine
- > Election analyst for over 25 years for WGME
- > Member, Maine Board of Bar Examiners since 2003
- > Member, Editorial Advisory Committee of the National Conf. of Bar Examiners 2009-17



#### What led you to a career in public service?

Growing up, I recall a fascination with public affairs, whether it was reading my folks' subscription to the Congressional Record, various newspapers (some of which, such as the *Evening Express*, *Lewiston Sun*, and *Press Herald*, we delivered as part of our family paper routes) and news magazines, or discussions in which we would all participate, watching news coverage on television, around the dinner table, or on family trips. I began writing print, TV, and radio news stories on public affairs as a teenager, a pursuit that likely evolved from all this. Though public service in a broad sense of the term has been a career, it is by no means the only one. Peter, Janet, and I have spent much of our adult life in the private practice of law. To the extent that serving the needs of clients in a rural area of the state can in and of itself be considered a public service, that is an element as well.

#### How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?

Professors and fellow students were of course brilliant, inspiring, and thought-provoking. I remain in touch with and interact with many of them even today.

#### What do you see as Maine Law's role in preparing the state's future leaders?

Instilling in its students a sense that delivering legal services to all segments of society, regardless of demographic background, is a vital mission for lawyers today.

#### What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?

Take advantage, whether as a volunteer or as a paid intern, of the many opportunities available in Maine today, particularly while you're still a student.

#### What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

In the public sector, it would likely be my service as a moderator of more than 200 town and school administrative district meetings. I've facilitated discussions and deliberations on thousands of issues that have emerged in 16 towns and school districts in Franklin and Somerset counties over the past 40 years.



## Peter Mills '73

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- > U.S. Navy 1965-70
- > Attorney at Richardson, Hildreth, Tyler & Troubh in Portland 1973-82
- > Wright & Mills law firm in Skowhegan since 1982 (now Mills, Shay, Lexier & Talbot)
- > President, Maine Trial Lawyers 1992-94; Fellow of American College of Trial Lawyers since 1992
- > State Senate 1994-2002; Maine House 2002-04; State Senate 2004-10
- > Ran unsuccessfully in Republican Gubernatorial Primaries of 2006 and 2010
- > Executive Director, Maine Turnpike Authority since March 17, 2011

#### **What led you to a career in public service?**

My father and grandfather were both Maine lawyers who made occasional forays into legislative service. Fascinated by public policy, I followed in that tradition after intervening mentorships by Harry Richardson and Hoddy Hildreth.

#### **How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?**

The first year of law school is a boot camp for life, a great preparation for any professional challenge. You learn three basic skills: policy analysis, writing with clarity, and how to advocate persuasively.

#### **What do you see as Maine Law's role in preparing the state's future leaders?**

Pound for pound, Maine Law is the state's most important public institution. Lawyers everywhere are the architects of the economic and social structures that enable society to grow and prosper. To the extent that Maine Law can attract and retain the very best candidates to live here, the long-range benefit to our state is immeasurable. There is no other source for growth quite so powerful.

#### **What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?**

Get into the practice of law and gain real world experience before attempting public service. Then proceed with patience. To get elected requires humbling yourself from door to door. To pass laws in the Legislature means playing bridge with 185 other players. Success comes from learning how to make yourself indispensable to others. It requires mastering every skill that Maine Law ever taught you.

#### **What is your proudest professional accomplishment?**

Leading the 1998 overhaul of unemployment insurance, enabling Maine to become one of the few states not forced to borrow for UI during recessions. I also led two successful efforts to stop the state from incurring large and inappropriate debts to meet ordinary expenses. In 2002, I played a role in expanding Medicaid coverage to childless adults, many of whom survived only by this extension of needed care. It was taken away in 2012, but I was pleased to see it restored after my sister became governor in 2019. Returning care to this population has greatly enhanced the ability of my wife Nancy to find services for defendants served by the specialty courts that she administers for the mentally ill, for those afflicted by substance abuse, and for veterans.



# Nancy Mills '82

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- > Law Clerk, Maine Supreme Judicial Court  
1982-83
- > Judge, Maine District Court, 1991-94
- > Chief Justice, Maine Superior Court,  
2001-04
- > Justice, Maine Superior Court, 1993-2019

“Law school provides a road map for how things are supposed to work, how they actually work, and how they could work in a better world.”



### What led you to a career in public service?

It may sound trite, but I believe that “from those to whom much has been given, much is expected.” Life’s circumstances seem so randomly bestowed. I have been given opportunities and support and must use those benefits to help others.

### How did Maine Law prepare you for your career?

I had to work harder in law school than I ever had previously. Being willing to work hard and to be prepared trumps any number of deficiencies.

### What do you see as Maine Law’s role in preparing the state’s future leaders?

Maine Law is the only law school in the state. If the school attracts bright and dedicated students, they will stay here and want to make this great state an even better place. This is a small state in terms of relationships and communication. People in Portland know and work with people in Caribou. Maine Law can promote the reality that in Maine, we can accomplish goals and improve life for everyone.

### What advice would you offer a student (or a prospective student) considering a public service career?

Law school is the best preparation for any career. Law school provides a road map for how things are supposed to work, how they actually work, and how they could work in a better world.

### What are your proudest professional accomplishments?

First, establishing (along with many others) and presiding over Maine’s first and still only Co-Occurring Disorders Court in 2005 and Maine’s two Veterans Courts in 2011 and 2018.

Second, developing (along with others) the Cumberland County Mental Health Docket and Jail-Court Committee to address mentally ill defendants in the criminal justice system.