

ACCESS TO JUSTICE UPDATE

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The Justice Action Group is a coalition of individuals and organizations established in 1995 to provide leadership and coordination in planning for the provision of civil legal aid to low-income and elderly Mainers.

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Because libraries are at the heart of our communities and justice is at the heart of our democracy.

On May 1, 2013, more than 60 attorneys donated their time to offer library patrons at 43 libraries across Maine referrals and information in order to assist them in navigating a legal problem.

This unique partnering of lawyers and libraries statewide is a first of its kind in the nation. It grew out of a need that was brought to the Justice Action Group (JAG) over three years ago by Maine librarians, who daily faced patrons with legal questions without the resources to point them in the right direction.

The Collaboration conceived of this event as a mode of access to legal information for those who would not or could not access that information through traditional venues: the courthouse, an attorney's office or a legal aid provider. But beyond individual access, it was a mode to educate communities about the need for access to compe-

tent legal advice and how that advice can better a community.

Turnout was robust in some locations and minimal in others. Yet even when two or three

patrons attended, librarians and patrons alike felt that this mode of access was valuable and should be maintained.

Members of the Collaboration Executive Committee donated endless hours to make Law Day 2013 a success. Thank you to: Penny Hilton, David Levesque, Kathleen Caldwell, Christopher Largay, Barbara McDade and Co-Chairs, Associate Justice Andrew Mead and Juliet Holmes-Smith. Thank you also to the enthusiastic support of the Maine State Bar Association and the County Bar Associations. And thank you to the invaluable support of the Maine Bar Foundation and the sixty attorneys who donated their time and talents to this effort. For more information visit: www.lawyersinlibraries.org.

JAG's chair, Justice Jon D. Levy, has been approved by the American Bar Association's Board of Governors to serve as a member of the ABA's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense ("SCLAID"). SCLAID addresses funding for civil legal aid and, in particular, the federal Legal Services Corporation, develops national standards for the delivery of civil legal aid, advocates for improvements to the provision of indigent defense representation, and promotes access to courts initiatives on a nationwide basis.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CALENDAR

- September 12, 2013: VLP/MBF 30th Anniversary Cruise
- September 25, 2013: JAG Board Meeting
- October 18, 2013: Campaign for Justice 10th Anniversary Celebration
- October 2013: Katahdin Counsel Recognition Events
- January 30-31, 2014: Access to Justice Symposium
- March 4, 2013: Access to Justice Day at the State Legislature

Reporting Deadline: September 15, 2013

Please complete a verification form found at http://www.courts.state.me.us/citizen_help/attorneys/katahdin/verification_form.pdf and return to the Administrative Office of the Courts at katahdin@courts.maine.gov or by mail to: PO Box 4820, Portland ME 04112. Recognition events with the Supreme Judicial Court will be held in October around the state. For additional information please review the Frequently Asked Questions. If you have questions or need more information please email katahdin@courts.maine.gov or call (207)822-0703.

Please complete a verification form found at http://www.courts.state.me.us/citizen_help/attorneys/katahdin/verification_form.pdf



MAINE BAR FOUNDATION NAMES A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Diana C. Scully has been the Executive Director of the Maine Bar Foundation since June 1, 2013. She returned home to Maine to begin this work after a 15-month interlude in Washington, D.C.,

where she served as Senior Director of State Services at the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities.

Diana has had three stints in Maine State Government. In 2006, she was appointed Director of Maine's Office of Elder Services. During the 1980s, she held key positions in Maine's Department of Human Services: Director of Rehabilitation, Director of Welfare Employment, and the Commissioner's Special Projects Director. During the mid-1970s, Diana served as a nonpartisan Legislative Analyst for the Maine Legislature.

Diana also has had extensive consulting experience. Throughout the 1990s until the mid-2000s and again during 2011, she operated her consulting firm Vantage Point.

Through Vantage Point, she served more than 60 private nonprofit and public clients, including the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission for whom she served as part-time Executive Director (and later was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Commission) and the Maine Health Access Foundation for whom she was start-up consultant (and later served on the Board of Trustees).

Early in her career, Diana worked as a research assistant at the National Institute of Mental Health, a policy analyst at the National Conference of State Legislatures, and a Peace Corps Community Organizer in the Philippines. She has a B.A. degree from Wellesley College and an M.S.W. degree from the University of Michigan. She has served on

many public and private nonprofit boards at the national, state and local levels.

Diana was married to Tom Downing, one of the first lawyers to be hired in the late 1960s by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Maine's first and largest provider of legal services for low income Mainers. When Tom died from brain cancer in 1985, the Downing Fund was born. Almost every year since then Diana has presented an award in Tom's memory to legal services staff who work tirelessly advocating on behalf of Maine's poor and vulnerable residents. She believes Tom would smile to see what she is doing today.

The Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program was created by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, in response to a proposal by the [Justice Action Group](#), to focus the public's attention on the critical role that *pro bono publico* plays in maintaining a vibrant civil justice system.

Maine lawyers are among the most generous in the nation in donating their time to pro bono representation for people who cannot afford an attorney and by donating money to support legal aid. The purpose of the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Pro-



gram is twofold. First, to establish an annual process for recognizing and honoring the pro bono work of Maine's lawyers. Second, to encourage more lawyers to provide such services for Maine's low-income residents to help to meet their growing unmet

legal needs.

As Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley stated in her 2011 [announcement](#) of the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program, "The bottom line is this: Maine lawyers need

simply to certify when they have personally completed 50 or more pro bono hours in a year. They will then receive the acknowledgement and gratitude of the Supreme Judicial Court, and the right to use the designation "Katahdin Counsel" on their letterhead

and publications. We anticipate that the identification of an attorney as receiving the Katahdin Counsel designation will bring better recognition and public attention to the good work of Maine lawyers."

The Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program is voluntary and based on self-reporting. The timeframe for completing the 50 hours of pro bono work are July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE: 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please join the Campaign for Justice 10th Anniversary celebration on October 18, 2013 for an afternoon of fun and inspiring activities. The festivities open at 3:30 and close around 7:00 at Ocean Gateway (on the waterfront just east of the ferry).

Please join Chief Justice Leigh Saufley, who will act as host of a Maine Legal Trivia Challenge from 4:00 to 5:00; Following Chief Justice Saufley, William J. Kayatta, Jr, Judge of the

United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, who was also the 2006 Chair of the Campaign, will speak about legal aid and the Campaign; and finally, 2013 Chair Bill Harwood will orchestrate recognitions and announce where the 10th Anniversary Campaign stands as of October 18.

Hearty hors d'oeuvres will be served by Blue Elephant Caterers during the reception that follows, and music will be

provided by Portland musician Connor Garvey and the band Sorcha and The Clearing.

Some of Portland's larger firms have already decided they will close early on the 18th in honor of the Campaign. More information about the event can be found on the Campaign's website, www.campaignforjustice.org and on Facebook at: maine campaign for justice.

THE CELEBRATION IS NOT A FUND-RAISING EVENT BUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL AID AND THE LEGAL COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEGAL AID.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE JAG BOARD

Barbara Schlichtman is an attorney with the Maine Center for Elder Law, LLC, in Kennebunk, Maine. Her practice focuses on MaineCare planning and MaineCare eligibility, special needs planning, Medicare Set Aside trusts, guardianships and conservatorships, and estate administration.

Barbara is a member of the Elder Law Section of the Maine State Bar Association,

the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and Elder Counsel, a national organization of attorneys specializing on elder law issues. In her career prior to a full-time law practice, she worked as a journalist for the daily newspaper in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, covering courts, crimes and many other stories arising between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. She also worked at CNN.com as the founding legal news editor

for the website.

Barbara has also held university appointments teaching journalism, communications law and conflict resolution. She earned her Bachelor's of Journalism degree and J.D. from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

Barbara lives on Peaks Island with her husband and two sons where she remains in constant awe of Maine's beauty.



Barbara Schlichtman, Esq.

Save the Date: January 30-31, 2014

Access to Justice Symposium 2014

**Relations & Rights:
Emerging Issues for Maine Families**

Join national and local experts for an exploration of recent developments in marriage equality, cross-cultural and legal issues in delivering justice to immigrant families, and the interaction of probate court and family court jurisdiction.

For more information please contact:
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Portland Marriot at Sable Oaks
South Portland, Maine
in conjunction with the MSBA
Annual Meeting

**REVISION TO
THE MAINE
CODE OF
JUDICIAL
CONDUCT**

The Supreme Judicial Court approved the adoption of a revision to the Maine Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 3. Effective June 1, 2013, this rule explicitly permits a judge to explain the requirements of applicable rules and statutes to ensure that all parties understand the process of the court.

TO VIEW THE REVISED RULE, PLEASE VISIT:

[HTTP://WWW.COURTS.STATE.ME.US/RULES_ADMINORDERS/RULES/](http://www.courts.state.me.us/rules_adminorders/rules/)

We are on the web!

www.mbf.org/justice-action-group

JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

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Charles F. Dingman ◊ Kevin Gildart ◊ Sen. David Hastings
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Barbara Schlichtman ◊ Diana C. Scully
Deborah Shaw ◊ Mary Toole ◊ Anne-Marie Storey
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Maine Justice Action Group

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Cathy Coffman, Campaign Director

The 2013 Campaign for Justice is headed for records. By the middle of August the 2013 Campaign for Justice had raised nearly \$384,000 from 859 donors, a new record by that date. “With the fact that nearly half of all donors usually give in the fall, the Campaign is set to make a statement about the legal community’s commitment to what it started ten years ago,” said Campaign Chair Bill Harwood of Verrill Dana.

Harwood and the Campaign Cabinet are hoping that the 2013 Campaign sets more records. “Our pre-

vious participation record was around 1,600 donors,” said Harwood. “We believe we can hit 1,700.” Campaign volunteers are working, he said, to set other records too, such as the number of leadership gifts and the number of gifts at \$100 and over.

“If everyone who gave last year would recommit their gift this fall, and if a few of these can increase their gift, and if some of those who may be lapsed from giving renew their support, we could get close to a half million,” said Harwood.

“Isn’t that exciting for a 10-year-old effort? Think of all the good that achievement will do.”

The Campaign hopes to be able to announce significant progress toward those records at the October 18 event celebrating the 10th Anniversary. “I sincerely hope everyone marks their calendar,” said Harwood. “There has been a terrific committee planning a celebration that is fun, inspirational, and social—a great way to celebrate the Campaign’s achievements and the Maine legal community.”