

Linsey Ruhl

University of Maine School of Law
Clinics at Maine Law
300 Fore Street, Portland, Maine

Education

Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C.

Juris Doctorate, 2012

Honors: CALI Award, Criminal Procedure; Merit Scholarship Recipient; 2011 Public Policy Fellow; 2012 Public Interest Student of the Year

Clinic: Student Attorney, Criminal Justice Clinic, 2010-2012

University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Bachelor of Arts, Magna cum laude, 2008

Honors: Awarded numerous scholarships and honors while working full time; Graduate of the Honors College where I received High Honors for my thesis on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDs Relief.

Teaching and Legal Experience

Clinics at Maine Law, Portland, Maine

Associate Professor of Clinical Law, Director of the General Practice Clinic

Appointed Associate Professor of Law in July 2024. Appointed Director of the General Practice Clinic in July 2025. Supervise the work of second and third year student attorneys in the General Practice Clinic on a wide range of cases including Divorce, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, Guardianship, Forcible Entry and Detainer, Criminal, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and Appellate matters. Teach students lawyering skills including, client interviewing and counseling, investigation, case planning and strategy, negotiation, legal writing, oral argument, problem-solving, professional development, and time management.

Co-teach the Clinic's two credit seminar class, Lawyering Skills for Clinical Practice. Supervise student in independent writing project and oral argument before the Maine Law Court.

Maine Law School Faculty Committees

September 2024, appointed Chair of the Admissions Committee and Dean's designee for character and fitness. September 2025, appointed to the Experiential Learning Committee.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Portland, Maine

Staff Attorney, December 2019 - July 2024

Litigated a wide array of civil cases including protection from abuse, divorce, parental rights and responsibilities, guardianships, adoptions, special immigrant juvenile petitions, eviction defense, public benefits, Title IX, probate, and consumer matters. Represented clients at dozens of hearings and trials; filed and argued original motions; mediated; examined lay and expert witnesses; and litigated appeals including oral argument in the Law Court and a jury trial appeal in Androscoggin Superior Court.

Committees and Appointments

Elected President of the Attorney Union 2022-2023. Negotiated a three year contract on behalf of membership. Served as co-chair of the Litigation Practice Group 2021-2024.

Colorado State Public Defender, Durango, CO

Litigation Assistant, October 2017 - June 2020

Assisted in preparing homicide cases for trial. Organized and reviewed discovery in advance of trial. Researched complex legal issues and wrote motions on heat of passion, venue, premeditation, sentencing, forensic anthropology, serology, crime scene investigation, DNA, the forensic use of human remains detection dogs, and the insanity defense.

The Bronx Defenders, Bronx, N.Y.

Staff Attorney, August 2016 - October 2017

Represented adults and juveniles charged with felonies in Bronx County. Provided holistic representation from arraignments through disposition, including acting as first chair for dozens of hearings, trials, sentencings, and press cases. Transformed the Bronx Defenders' probation

practice by ensuring that every client was represented at their probation hearing and drastically reducing the number of days each person spent incarcerated. Led training opportunities for entry level attorneys and collaborated with community organizations to provide “know your rights” presentations at Bronx high schools and community events.

The Legal Aid Society, Bronx, N.Y.

Staff Attorney, October 2012 - August 2016

Represented clients charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses. Zealously represented clients by making thousands of court appearances; conducting thorough arraignment interviews and bail applications; preparing clients for grand jury testimony; advocating for clients during hearings and trial; litigating forensic issues such as DNA and ballistics; and advising clients on collateral consequences of a plea or conviction. Designed and participated in community outreach and ‘Know Your Rights’ training programs.

SELECT TRAININGS

- Second Annual Child Protective Defense Conference, Public Defense System, March 2025.
- Pozner on Cross: Advanced Techniques using the Chapter Method, 2016 and 2022.
- Defender Academy, The Bronx Defenders, June 2017, New York, NY.
- Cross to Kill, May 2015, 2016, and 2017, New York, NY.
- National Criminal Defense College, Trial Practice Institute, July 2015, Macon, GA.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND COMMITTEE WORK

- Co-taught training and CLE opportunities for staff attorneys at Pine Tree Legal Assistance on topics including, client interviewing, investigation, direct and cross examination, expert witness designations, and developing case theme and theory, 2021-2024.
- Legal Services Representative on the Maine Family Law Advisory Commission. Appointed by the Law Court in 2022; resigned July 2024 when I joined the faculty at Maine Law School. As a member of the commission, I contributed to drafting legislation, testified before the legislature, and participated in working group sessions. I also drafted reports on behalf of

the Commission, advising the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary on issues such as grandparents' visitation rights, appointment of counsel in child protective matters, amendments to the Home Court Act, preliminary injunctions, and funding for essential services for crime victims. I continue to attend these monthly meetings and draft reports on behalf of the Commission, 2022 - present.

- Supervise student attorneys as they provide 30-minute consults to clients on a wide variety of family matters through the Courthouse Assistance Program (CHAP), 2024 - present.
- Co-taught a CLE attended by more than thirty members of the bar entitled "Client-Centered Advocacy: Leveraging Cultural Humility for Effective Legal Representation", September 2024.
- Faculty member, National Institute of Trial Advocacy program. Taught trial skills to thirty-two attorneys at a three day trial advocacy program, October 2024. As participants engaged in mock exercises, provided feedback on opening statements, direct and cross examination, objections, litigation strategy, and closing arguments.
- Presented at the New England Clinic Conference with Sara Cressey, "Teaching Resilience Through Community Building", November 2024.
- Provided family preparedness counseling to immigrant clients at a community workshop, February 2025.
- Guest-taught Legal Research and Writing class on Client Considerations, Maine Law School, April 2025 and 2026.
- Presented CLE training on Family Preparedness to more than 35 members of the Maine Bar, February 2026.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted and in good standing in Maine and U.S. District Court, District of Maine. Retired or Inactive and in good standing in New York, Massachusetts, and Colorado.