

COURTNEY I. BEER

courtney.beer@maine.edu

LEGAL AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Maine School of Law, Portland, Maine

Professor of Law and Director of the Prisoner Assistance Clinic

Jan. 2020 – present

Associate Professor, January 2020 – September 2025; Professor of Law, September 2025 – present

- Direct the Prisoner Assistance Clinic, providing civil legal assistance to incarcerated individuals, and oversee the Clinics' Summer Internship Program
- Teach and supervise students in the Prisoner Assistance Clinic, General Practice Clinic, Advanced Clinic, and Lawyering Skills for Clinical Practice
- Guest lecture in Juvenile Law and Legal Research, Analysis, and Communication
- Supervise law students in civil, probate, and administrative matters; advise student independent writing projects
- Develop curriculum for case rounds, supervision meetings, and classroom teaching

Director of the Clinics at Maine Law

June 2025 – present

- Lead Clinics operations and oversee Clinics' administration, budget, and staff, including supervision of the Operations Manager
- Advocate before legislative committees, public hearings, and advisory groups for policies and funding advancing access to justice
- Direct fundraising and development efforts, including grant applications, funding reports, and donor relations, in partnership with the Development Office and Operations Manager
- Oversee production of annual reports, newsletters, and marketing materials with the Director of Communications and clinical faculty
- Build referral partnerships with courts, law firms, and community agencies; guide new clinic development with the Curriculum and Clinic/Externship Committees

Managing Co-Director of the Clinical Programs

Jan. 2024 – June 2025

- Co-lead overall management of the Clinics' academic programs alongside a faculty co-director
- Oversaw clinic budget, funding compliance, and reporting for external funders including IOLTA, the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund, and the Glickman Foundation
- Directed external engagement with Maine legal aid organizations, courts, and the Legislature on funding and access-to-justice initiatives
- Recruited and onboarded new clinic faculty and staff, including a long-term contract faculty member and a civil advocacy teaching fellow

Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., Portland, Maine

Directing Attorney, Kids Legal

Dec. 2014 – Dec. 2019

- Managed a high-volume, statewide caseload representing families and children in civil and education-related matters
- Hired, trained, and supervised attorneys, paralegals, and externs delivering statewide legal assistance to low-income clients
- Supervised student attorneys at Preble Street Law, a drop-in clinic for at-risk and homeless youth
- Developed curricula and trainings for advocates, social workers, attorneys, and guardians ad litem
- Collaborated statewide on juvenile incarceration, special education, inclusive education, and LGBTQ issues

Staff Attorney, Kids Legal and Family Law Unit

Sept. 2009 – Dec. 2014

- Represented sexual assault and domestic violence victims before Maine courts, the Maine Human Rights Commission, and administrative agencies
- Wrote two appellate briefs; argued before the Maine Supreme Court, securing a decision clarifying the protection from abuse statute
- Developed and trained on curricula addressing the legal needs of sexual assault and domestic violence victims

- Founded Protect Your Space, a project providing direct legal services to young victims of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- Co-developed Preble Street Law with the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic

Frank M. Coffin Fellow

Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2009

- Represented clients in protection-from-abuse, divorce, and parental rights matters before Maine courts
- Managed full case lifecycle: client interviews, legal research, pleadings, mediation, and trial
- Served as guardian ad litem in family law matters

EDUCATION

University of Maine School of Law, Portland, Maine

J.D., 2007

- Outstanding Law Student Volunteer, Maine Bar Foundation
- Volunteer Lawyers Project Pro Bono Publico Award

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

B.A., Communications (Honors Program), 2002

- Spanish-American Institute, Seville, Spain, Spring 2001

UNIVERSITY AND LAW SCHOOL SERVICE

- **Dean's Advisory Committee** — September 2025–present
- **Experiential Learning Committee** — September 2025–present
- **Curriculum Committee** — September 2025–present
- **Faculty Governance and Personnel Committee** — September 2025–present
- **Maine Law ACT Team** — September 2025–present
- **Faculty and Staff Hiring Committees (multiple)** — 2023–present
- **Appointments Subcommittee (Clinical Professor Searches)** — 2023–present
- **Admissions Committee** — 2021–2025
- **Strategic Planning Committees** — 2024–2025
- **Assessments Committee** — 2022–2024
- **DEI Task Force** — 2021–2022
- **Clerkships Committee** — 2020–2023
- **Pro Bono Committee** — 2020–2022
- **Other:** Faculty Advisor, Independent Writing Project Advisor, Judge for Moot Court and 1L arguments

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Rebuilding Main Street Law Firms: Clinical and Externship Strategies to Close the Rural Justice Gap

Presenter, AALS Conference on Clinical Education, Portland, Oregon — May 4, 2026

Conversations and Coffee with New Clinicians

Organizer and Host (Co-Chair, Membership, Outreach & Training Committee), AALS Conference on Clinical Education, Portland, Oregon — May 4, 2026

What's Happening at Maine Law and Why It Matters to Maine Lawyers

CLE Presentation and Panelist, Maine State Bar Association Winter Conference — January 30, 2026

School Discipline, Disciplinary Proceedings for Students with Disabilities, and the School to Prison Pipeline

Presenter, Portland, Maine — May 5, 2025

Conversations and Coffee with New Clinicians

Organizer and Host (Co-Chair, Membership, Outreach & Training Committee), AALS Clinical Section Conference, Baltimore, Maryland — April 27, 2025

Access to Justice Day

Testified before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary in support of LD 1022 (Access to Justice in Civil Legal Aid), representing the Clinics at Maine Law, Augusta, Maine — April 17, 2025

Presentation to the Judiciary Committee

On the Clinics at Maine Law, Committee orientation, Augusta, Maine — January 21, 2025

Enhancing Student Clinical Experience Through Court Participation

Presenter, New England Clinical Conference, University of Connecticut School of Law — November 2024

School Discipline, Disciplinary Protections to Children with Disabilities, and the School to Prison Pipeline

Presenter, statewide training for Juvenile Community Corrections Officers, Auburn, Maine — October 31, 2024

Every Student, All Day, Every Day: Updates in Education Law 2023

Presenter and Organizer — December 21, 2023

Education Law for Juvenile Defenders

Presenter, Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services Minimum Standards Training — September 28, 2023

Teaching Resilience: Tools for Sustainable Practice Within Oppressive Systems

Panelist, AALS New England Clinicians' Conference, Vermont — March 31, 2023

Special Education

Presenter, Eastern Maine Community College Survey of Exceptionality — September 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019

Education Law 101

Presenter, Central Maine Community College (Career & Technical Educators) — September 2022; September 2023

Special Education for Juvenile Community Corrections Officers

Presenter — June 30, 2022; December 22, 2022; June 2023

Education Law Issue Spotting for JCCOs

Presenter, with attorneys from Disability Rights Maine and Kids Legal, to a statewide JCCO group — December 22, 2022

Clinical Collaboration: Transferring Legal Writing Skills Into Practice

Presenter, Legal Writing Institute Conference on Teaching Social Justice and Legal Change in Legal Writing (virtual), hosted by ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law — December 1, 2022

Every Student, All Day, Every Day: Updates on School Exclusion — Review of LD 474

Presenter and Organizer — September 15, 2021

Education Law for Juvenile Defenders (issue-spotting, education law overview, DOJ settlement discussion)

Presenter, York Bar Association CLE — July 16, 2021

Reimagining the Clinic Seminar Through the Social Justice Lens

Presenter, New England Clinical Conference — March 26, 2021

Every Student, All Day, Every Day: Keeping Students Connected during COVID-19

Presenter and Organizer — November 18, 2020

Every Student, All Day, Every Day: Advocacy for Students Facing Suspension, Expulsion, and other Exclusionary Discipline

Presenter and Organizer, Augusta, Maine — November 13, 2019

Maine Youth Court Summit

Presenter, Portland, Maine — August 6, 2019

Additional Presentations, 2011–2018 (selected)

Education law and special education topics for the University of Maine School of Law, York Bar Association, and Maine Judicial Branch; domestic violence, sexual assault, and dating violence topics for the Muskie School of Public Service, Maine Equal Justice Partners, Maine Behavioral Health, and area high schools and colleges.

PUBLICATIONS AND WRITINGS

- Clinicians' Desk Reference, AALS (co-reviser), national resource for clinical faculty (2023)
- Every Student, All Day, Everyday: Legal Strategies to Keep Maine Kids in School (November 2019)

- Special Education Laws Made Simple (2018)
- Client educational materials, www.kidslegal.org (developed and maintained)

PUBLIC SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Membership, Outreach & Training Cmte., Section on Clinical Legal Education, AALS** — Co-Chair (Apr./May 2025–present); Member (2021–2025)
- **Board of Directors, Maine Child Welfare Ombudsman** — 2021–present
- **Pine Tree Legal Assistance Fundraising & Events Committee** — Member, 2018–present
- **Justice Action Group — Advisory Cmte. of Providers, Legislative Cmte., and Justice Systems Cmte.** — 2021–present
- **New England Public Policy Advocates (NEPPA)** — Member, 2020–present
- **Immigrant Youth Working Group & Special Immigrant Status Judicial Advocacy Group** — Member, 2017–present
- **Society of American Law Teachers** — Member
- **Maine State Bar Association, Women's Law Section & Family Law Section** — Member
- **Portland Greendrinks** — President (2014–2023); Board Member (2011–2014)
- **GLEAM** — Chair, 2013–2024
- **Survivor Civil Legal Services Council** — 2021–2024
- **One Mercy Capitol Campaign** — Leadership Committee, 2016–2023
- **Veterans Law Section, Maine State Bar Association** — Co-Chair, 2013–2015
- **New Lawyers Section, Maine State Bar Association** — Chair, 2012
- **Brick and Beam Society, United Way Greater Portland** — Founding Member, 2015–2018
- **LGBTQ Maine Youth Coalition** — Member, 2016–2019
- **Juvenile Justice Reform Group** — Member, 2017–2019
- **Maine Coalition for Inclusive Education** — Member, 2017–2019
- **York & Cumberland County Sexual Assault Response Teams** — 2009–2014
- **Campaign for Justice 10th Anniversary** — Fundraising Committee Member, 2013
- **Greater Portland Coalition Against Sex Trafficking and Exploitation** — 2010–2014

ADMISSIONS

- Maine State Bar, Admitted 2007
- United States District Court for the District of Maine, Admitted 2014
- State of Maine Guardian Ad Litem Roster, Approved 2008