Christopher M. Northrop
23 University Drive
Fort Kent, Maine
christopher.northrop@maine.edu

Employment

University of Maine School of Law – Portland, Maine

Professor Emeritus, Supervising Professor	2024 - present
Co-Director of Clinical Programs	2022 - 2024
Director of Summer Clinical Program	2019 - 2022
Professor	2012 - 2024
Associate Clinical Professor	2007 - 2012
Visiting Clinical Professor	2006 – 2007

Maine Law: Professor Emeritus, Supervising Professor 2024 – present

Responsible for all aspects of the Law School's Rural Practice Clinic including supervision of student attorneys, coordination between Maine Law and University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK) and building relationships between Maine Law and the local community. Class taught: Rural Practice Clinic (Maine Law), Constitutional Law (UMFK).

Maine Law: Professor 2006 – 2024

Oversaw the doctrinal aspects of the Law School's clinical education program including supervision of faculty, program and curriculum development, and coordination with bench, bar, and other legal aid providers. Helped develop and oversee the Youth Justice Clinic, the Rural Practice Clinic and the Summer Clinical Program, supervision of student attorneys in their representation of juvenile, criminal and family matters at all stages of litigation including post-judgment motions and appellate advocacy. Supervision of students' independent writing and group study projects. Classes taught: Juvenile Law (seminar and podium), General Practice Clinic, Youth Justice Clinic.

Gault Center: Consultant 2001 - 2021
Washington D.C.

Member of investigative teams that observe court hearings and detention centers, conduct interviews with stakeholders, and contribute research, writing, and editing to statewide juvenile defender assessments. Projects include assessments of juvenile defender systems in Kansas, New Hampshire, Missouri, Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia, Illinois, Mississippi, Louisiana, Maine and Ohio.

Moulton, Forte & Northrop: Founding Law Partner 1993 - 2006
Wells, Maine

Education

Juris Doctor, University of North Carolina School of Law
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 1989

Bachelor of Arts, Grinnell College
Grinnell, Iowa 1983

Selected Publications and Podcasts

One Year's Seeding: Looking Back on the Last Seven Years of Maine's Progress Toward Rural Justice, 78 Me. L. Rev. 347 (2026), co-authored with Seth Main

What's My Age Again? Adolescent Development and the Case for Expanding Original Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and Investing in Alternatives for Emerging Adults Involved in Maine's Justice System, 74 Me. L. Rev. 244 (2022), co-authored with Jill Ward, Jonathan Ruterbories, and Jess Mizzi

Limited Justice: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Delinquency Proceedings in Kansas, Primary Author Christina Gilbert, National Juvenile Defender Center, December 2, 2020 (contributed research and text as assessment team member)

Undervalued: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Delinquency Proceedings in New Hampshire, Primary Author Amy Borror, National Juvenile Defender Center, August 19, 2020 (contributed research and text as assessment team member)

Juvenile Justice: Past, Present, and Future (parts 1 and 2), The Greater Good Podcast, University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center and WMPG Radio (2019), speaker and co-author with Jill Ward and Jonathan Ruterbories

Kids will be Kids: Time for a "Reasonable Child" Standard for the Proof of Objective Mens Rea Elements, 69 Me. L. Rev. 110 (2016), co-authored with Kristina Dougherty

Juvenile Training Immersion Program: Coordinator and Trainer's Guide, National Juvenile Defense Center (2014), drafting and review committee

National Juvenile Defense Standards, National Juvenile Defense Center (2013), drafting and review committee

Selected Speaking Engagements

Perspectives on Legal Deserts and the Impacts of Attorney Shortages, Rural Law Conference, panelist
Colby College, Waterville, Maine on April 24, 2026

Challenging Probable Cause and Detention, Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Conference faculty, speaker
Lewiston, Maine on October 25, 2025

Swimming with Sharks, the Sequel, Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Conference faculty, speaker

Augusta, Maine (via Zoom) on August 25, 2025

Expanding Access to Justice – Law School Initiatives and Collaborations, Cornell University Law School conference: The Role of Law Schools in Addressing Legal Deserts
Panelist
Ithaca, New York (via Zoom) on April 17, 2025

Youth Community Support Initiative, Maine Judicial Branch's Child Welfare Conference
Panelist
Newry, Maine on April 3, 2025

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status in Maine (Series), Multiple Sponsors
Development Committee and Speaker
Portland, Maine on June 26, 2024, for Family Law attorneys
- Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Newry, Maine on April 4, 2024, for Judiciary and Attorney General's office
- Maine Judicial Branch, Court Improvement Project

Lewiston, Maine on April 2, 2024, for Attorneys in Protective Custody proceedings
- Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services

Juvenile Defense, Minimum Standards, Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services
Panelist, Moderator
Portland, Maine on September 28 – 29, 2023

What is Youth? Redefining Jurisdictional Boundaries for Juvenile Court, Gault Center
Speaker
San Juan, Puerto Rico on October 15, 2022

2021 Changes to the Maine Juvenile Code, Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group,
Development Committee and Conference Faculty
Portland, Maine (via Zoom) on October 1, 2021

Youth Defenders and Implicit Racial Bias, New England Juvenile Defender Center
Development Committee and Conference Faculty
Portland, Maine (via Zoom) on June 25, 2021

Juvenile Defense Training, University of Maine School of Law
Development Committee and Conference Faculty
Portland, Maine on March 12, 2021

Defending Youth in Time of COVID, New England Juvenile Defender Center, Development Committee and Conference Faculty
Portland, Maine on June 26, 2020

Racial Injustice: Reimagining Policy and Public Safety, Maine Law Racial Injustice Forums Development Committee and Panelist
Portland, Maine on June 19, 2020

Every Student, All Day, Every Day: Legal Strategies to Keep Maine Kids in School KIDS Legal, Disability Rights Center of Maine, Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic Development Committee and Conference Faculty
Augusta, Maine on November 13, 2019

Selected Professional Activities
Gault Center: Youth Defender Advocacy Program Certified Trainer

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, Vice Chair

Maine Department of Corrections, Member, Methods for Improving Youth Community Supervision and Increasing Juvenile Diversion from Formal Judicial Processing Task Force

Awards
2025 Downing Award from the Maine Justice Foundation for "dedication, compassion, and tireless advocacy essential for creating a more just and equitable landscape for all Mainers"

2025 Attorney Change Agent Award from Disability Rights Maine for "significantly advancing disability rights through dedication to justice and systemic change"

2018 Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Leadership Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense from the National Juvenile Defender Center for "outstanding dedication and advocacy in the field of juvenile defense"

2017 Unsung Hero Award from the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for "highest level of commitment, passion and tireless pursuit of justice in the representation of indigent defendants"

2014 Maine Youth Transition Collaboration Award for my work helping youth transition from foster care to independent living

2009 University of Southern Maine Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching