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Prior to joining Suffolk Law School, Associate Dean of Students Ann McGonigle Santos served as an Assistant District Attorney at the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office. Mrs. Santos tried several cases in both the District and Superior Courts, ranging from simple assault and battery to rape and attempted murder.

A Glimpse into a Dean's World: Featuring Dean Santos

By: Nicholas Williams

From early on, long before I enrolled in law school, and back when I wanted to be an OB/GYN, I was always told that there was a challenging work-life balance in the lives of lawyers. As I got to know the faculty, staff, and administrators during my first year, I started to wonder what many of their roles entail. My chief curiosity was what the actual role of a law school Dean. (1) How does one

become a Professor of Law; (2) What qualifications are necessary for such titles, considering we all end up getting the same Juris Doctorate; and (3) What exactly sets one on the path towards becoming a Professor or a Dean at a law school? After having contemplating it long enough, I decided it was time to ask the questions I wanted to ask and actually get to know the person behind the title. So I decided to sit down with the Associate Dean of Students, Ann McGonigle Santos. Dean Santos was happy to share her life experience as a Dean, Lawyer, Professional, and Mother.

Q: What qualifications are required to become a Dean?

DS: Deans are professors that have shown some quality in leadership on either the academic or student services side.

Q: How long have you been a Dean?

DS: When the position opened

up and I was asked to apply, I thought it would be a great opportunity to do something different, but still stay connected to the students and teaching. I love what I do now as it allows me to work closely with students and still teach!

Q: Walk me through the day you decided to go to law school.

DS: It was after my first year of college that I did a summer internship as a victim witness advocate. During that internship I simply fell

in love with the court system because there were always exciting things happening, I had also always wanted to be a prosecutor, so that, too, played a huge role in my decision to go to law school.

Q: Following up on the previous question, what made you leave the prosecution field if you loved it so?

DS: I did love it and I still do, but things changed. I wanted to start a family soon, and back then a \$26,000 salary was not a salary to start a family on. Although, I love prosecution, I also found I had a real passion for teaching that probably was connected to my mother being a teacher for 30 years.

Q: What would you say about the field of prosecution now?

DS: The job is different now than when I was prosecuting because there are more virulent drugs; more mental health issues involving both defendants and victims, and potentially less resources for some programs. However, once a prosecutor always a prosecutor—it felt like a family back then and I am still close to many of my colleagues. Also, I met my husband, who is a police officer, in Courtroom 6B of the Middlesex Superior Court when he was appearing as a witness!

Q: Can you tell me about the hardest case you ever had to prosecute?

DS: The most difficult case? There are many, but there was one in particular: a sexual assault case of a child. Although I won the case, the defendant had a prominent reputation in the community so many people didn't or didn't want to believe the 11-year-old victim. I have a real passion for prosecuting cases that involve children; there

Deans World Continued on page 3

Dicta

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Suffolk Law Students and faculty enjoy a delicious night of potluck with Latin American Law Students Association.

A school newspaper of the people, by the people, and for the people. Dicta is your source for news, stories and opinions of immediate concern to the Suffolk Law student body. The content we provide is a reflection of the community involvement we all crave but don't have the time to enjoy. So speak up by reading & contributing to Dicta!

Dicta is the official student newspaper of the Suffolk Law School community, existing solely to help foster a sense of community through communication. The goal of Dicta is to educate, inform, enlighten, and entertain the student body through outstanding reporting and editorials on news, events, trends, sports, arts, food, and popular culture. The opinions and views expressed in Dicta are not necessarily those of the Dicta staff and are not the opinions of Suffolk University Law School or the student body. Suffolk Law School students control and conduct all facets of this paper. Dicta does not discriminate against any persons and complies with the university policies concerning equality. Dicta encourages students, alumni, faculty, and administrators to submit letters to the editor and articles for publication. Submissions should include the author's name, class and/or position at the university or in the community. Dicta reserves the right to edit and publish all submissions. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Deans' world continued from page 1.

is something refreshing and liberating about getting justice on behalf of children.

Q: Is there any advice you would like to give to other law students?

DS: If a student had a true passion for a field of law, be it criminal or patent law or bankruptcy, I would tell that student to take classes that highlight that interest and show a commitment to that area of the law. Because I always knew that I wanted to be a prosecutor, I took classes that made it clear to prospective employers that I was passionate about criminal law. However, if a student is unsure, I would suggest taking a myriad of courses that will expose them to different areas to see what sparks their interest. I would also take advantage of all of the panels and networking events that we host to further expose a student to different areas of the law.

Q: How do you factor outside considerations to run the school? Are there any problems or issues encountered?

DS: Sometimes funding can be an issue with certain programs, but generally, no. We consider what the market demands and how we can make sure our students are prepared attorneys according to the current legal market trend. We use practical approaches by producing practice ready and specific interest courses. For instance, the accelerator program

and our many different clinics are specifically designed to prepare students to be ready to practice when they graduate from law school.

After having grilled Dean Santos about the professional aspect of her work and on gauging my own agenda, I begin to inquire, just a bit, into her personal life. Deans really are not as intimidating as we some might mistakenly think, and underneath their “tough as nails” personalities, they really are personable!

Q: As a child I used to participate in “take your child to work” day, I’m not sure if Massachusetts has a similar tradition, but did you ever have the opportunity to take yours to work with you?

DS: Well, I have two—a boy and a girl. My daughter came with me to work before, but not anymore since she’s older now.

Q: Do you have any favorite sports?

DS: Well I like all sports, to be honest! Particularly Hockey and college basketball. I was also very athletic growing up, so I still find ways to stay active by playing tennis!

Q: What do you do during your free time?

DS: I really don't have much free time based on how active my son and daughter are. Most weekends are spent going to their hockey games or hopefully grabbing a bite to eat and nice glass of wine with family and friends!

Q: Oh, so you're like the suburban soccer mom with a minivan and all?

DS: Not quite! More like a hockey mom minus the minivan!

Q: How do you find time to read for leisure? I haven't had such an opportunity since undergrad.

DS: I make time. It's my “must” do. I dedicate 20 minutes a night to just read a book, preferably a mystery/crime fiction book.

Q: What are your favorite TV shows?

DS: Hm, I like West-Wing, Game of Thrones, BBC: Sherlock, MI-5.

Q: Did you ever consider running for office?

DS: I actually am on the Board of Selectman of my town. I ended up living in the town I grew up in so it is very rewarding to be a part of its progress.

Q: Last question, especially since I know time is running out: why do you stay so busy?

DS: To be honest, I just really, *really* like to be involved in many things. I would never like to limit myself, and I don't anticipate slowing down soon.

SPECIAL THANKS to Dean Santos for taking the time to speak with me, giving me insight into not only her life as a Dean, but also her life as a Mom and Professor.

How President-Elect Trump's Policies Could Impact Law Students

By Alison Farquhar, Staff Writer



Following his upset victory, President-Elect Trump has begun walking back some of his campaign promises, and his plans for addressing some issues have yet to be fully elucidated. With the national mood still turbulent and uncertain, *Dicta* examines how President Trump could affect the personal and professional lives of law students and attorneys starting on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2017.

Student Loans

The average private school law student has over \$120,000 in student loan debt at graduation, and the average undergraduate student has over \$28,000.

In a campaign speech in October, Mr. Trump pledged to enact a plan that would cap student loan payments at 12.5% of an individual's earnings per month, and forgive unpaid debts after 15 years. Rather than addressing existing student debt, however, he focused on the obligation of colleges with tax-exempt endowments to keep tuition low, and pledged to motivate colleges to cut tuition. Further, he promised to eliminate some federal regulations which he claims lead to schools spending inordinate amounts on compliance and creating "administrative bloat", which in turn raises tuition. Earlier in the campaign season, Mr. Trump stated that the Department of Education can be "largely eliminated" and that without it, schools and private lenders could work together to determine student lending rates. Mr. Trump's official website offers no additional information on his plans for addressing this issue.

Taxes and Job Creation (in the Legal Field)

Mr. Trump has not laid out policies that explicitly affect the market for attorneys; indeed, his campaign focused on blue-collar job creation. However, work for attorneys will conceivably increase in the wake of his administration's policies, as he has proposed sweeping procedural and substantive statutory legal changes.

Mr. Trump's plan to create jobs promises "unbridled economic growth" through "tax, trade, energy, and regulatory" policy reforms. He proposes income tax cuts for every tax bracket, and a 20% reduction in "business" taxes. His plan would reduce the number of income tax brackets from seven to three, and increase the amount individuals can deduct. He pledges to repeal the alternative minimum tax and the estate tax, though his website provides little to no information on point regarding how he will implement these policies or make up for any lost government revenue. Many points of Mr. Trump's tax plan focus on manufacturing jobs, which are unlikely to

impact attorney firms directly, but instead impact many clients of attorneys. What is clear is attorneys should anticipate the Trump Administration making many statutory changes in the fields of tax law, administrative law, and several areas of finance.

Childcare for Working Parents

Childcare in Massachusetts is among the most expensive in the country, with average annual costs exceeding \$15,000 per year per household. In households in which both parents work full-time, childcare is often a necessary, and huge, expense.

In a document available on his campaign website that focuses on mothers, Mr. Trump promises to make the average cost of childcare in a taxpayer's state of residence tax-deductible for households earning up to \$500,000 per year. He includes both "institutional, private, nursery school, afterschool care, and enrichment activities," and the services of a stay-at-home parent or grandparent, in his list of expenses that would qualify for the deduction. Mr. Trump's plan would also allow families to open savings accounts for childcare expenses that would be tax-free up to \$2,000, plus pledging a \$500 match to contributed by the government. His plan also includes tax incentives for businesses to provide employee childcare. Mr. Trump's plan has been criticized as unhelpful to low-income families, as the lowest-earning families do not pay income taxes, and therefore could not benefit from his plan's income tax breaks.

The coming months will see the appointment of more officials to the Trump Cabinet, possibly shedding light on the president-elect's plans to "make America great again". *Dicta* will provide updates on this topic in our next issue.



We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit. --Aristotle.

The calling for a reformation on the rehabilitation process of Prisoners in the U.S.

By Samantha Leburn

Up until the mid-1970s, rehabilitation was a key part of U.S. prison policy. Prisoners were encouraged to develop occupational skills and to resolve psychological problems such as substance abuse or aggression that might interfere with their reintegration into society, and indeed, many inmates received court sentences that mandated treatment for such problems. Since then, however, rehabilitation has taken a back seat to a "tough on crime" approach that sees punishment as prison's main function. Research has shown that this approach has created explosive growth in the prison population, while having a very low effect on crime rates. As a result, the United States now has more than 2 million people in prisons or jails: the most of any developed country in the world. While many believe the primary purpose of prisons and jails is punishment, a growing movement

intends to change that perception. These reformers say prisons and jails should serve as a deterrent to crime, to help rehabilitate people with the hope of integrating them back into society. By targeting prisoners' behavior, reducing prison populations and offering job skills, researchers argue we could reduce prisoner aggression and prevent recidivism.

According to criminal justice expert Joel Dvoskin, with a PhD from the University of Arizona, "The current design of prison systems don't work. Overly punitive approaches used on violent, angry criminals only provide a breeding ground for more anger and more violence." In furtherance of supporting this theory, it is important to first understand the basic needs of a human being. Throughout most studies done on human behavior by previous and current psychologist, they all began their research from Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. This is a comprehensive and holistic view of human necessity accompanied by the emotional, physiological, physical, spiritual and social support systems that should be provided in order for the individual to become a better citizen. According to Maslow's Hierarchy there are five basic needs: Biological and Physiological, Safety, Love, Esteem, and Self-Actualization.

Biological and Physiological needs (such as air, food and shelter) are provided in the U.S. prison system. However, Safety needs, the need for an individual to feel safe and not live in fear or uncertainty is greatly absent in the life of a prisoner in the U.S. It has been reported that due to lack of funds, there is a substantially higher amount of prisoners within a prison with a very low amount of staff members in facilities. The prison staff is trained to handle multiple inmates at once. The result of this overcrowding is guards, free within limits, doing whatever is thought to be necessary to maintain law and order in the prison and to command the respect of the prisoners. This in turn leads to lack of order for inmates because staff members often do not follow protocol and, in some cases, abuse. As a result, inmates often get sexually assaulted, physically abused, emotionally abused and mentally abused. Such conditions, worsened by the overcrowding of prisons, have contributed to a number of prison riots.

"What happens when you put good people in an evil place? Does humanity win over evil or does evil triumph?" These were some of the questions posed by the infamous simulation of prison life conducted in 1971 at Stanford University under Professor Philip G. Zimbardo. Throughout the experiment, prisoners were identified through numbers and not by name. After just a few days, those given the titles of "guard" subjected those given the titles of "prisoner" were subject to harassment, abuse, and loss of control. This article and this study do not intend to malign prison guards, but to show that everyday people are capable of great wrongs when power goes unchecked. "Absolute power corrupts absolutely," as the saying goes, and Safety needs are not met under these conditions.

Love needs come in the form of friendship, intimacy, and affection from work group, family, friends, and romantic

relationships. Many people who enter prison do not have this need on the outside, as many come from broken homes, and the ability to build friendships or trusting relationships becomes even more impossible in prison. Often, fights break out when inmates are given the opportunity to be together, and guards take advantage of racial divides and in order to maintain some semblance of order. This in turn encourages inmates to turn on each other. Under these extreme circumstances it is not likely that one will gain trust yet alone obtain love and affection through this environment, in spite of any love and support they may or may not have on the outside. Not to mention, the overuse of solitary confinement literally leaves inmates isolated and without human contact for weeks, months, or even years.

As for the Esteem needs, Maslow posits they take two forms: (a) a need for strength, achievement, mastery and competence; (b) a need for reputation, status, recognition and appreciation. Fulfillment of these needs leads to a sense of self-confidence, worth, and value to the world. Most prisoners have monotonous daily routine, leading to frustration, both as an emotional response to their circumstances but also due to lack of possibility of getting released. Although not every inmate is in solitary confinement there are also not a lot of recreational activities for the rest of the population to get involved in while in prison. It is very hard for anyone to feel as though they have a true self-worth when they are not in an environment that enables them to identify what their true potential is. Some prisoners try to create a name for themselves, by either acting out to create fear and respect from other inmates or by being obedient in hopes of being left alone or gaining benefits like early release. As an inmate in the Zimbardo study lamented,

"I began to feel that I was losing my identity, that the person that I called Clay, the person who put me in this place, the person who volunteered to go into this prison – because it was a prison to me; it still is a prison to me... I began to feel that that identity, the person that I was that had decided to go to prison was distant from me – was remote until finally I wasn't that, I was # 416. I was really my number."

It is clear that this loss of self contributes to overall feelings of worthlessness to prisoners.

Trying to meet Maslow's forth level of Hierarchy is nearly impossible under the conditions of these prisons in America. After analyzing the first four of levels of Maslow's Hierarchy it becomes more evident that an inmate may never reach the stage of Self Actualization needs. Most inmates never actually learn the skills needed to transfer back into society after such long periods of time. For those who have completed their time in prison, they quickly realize they are not quite equipped to deal with the real world, and prefer to go back because they have been so accustomed to living in that environment. Incarceration is not meant to be fun, but a combination of strict sentencing guidelines, budget shortfalls and a punitive philosophy of corrections has made today's prisons much

more unpleasant and much less likely to rehabilitate their inhabitants than in the past.

For these listed reasons, some experts believe that it would be cheaper, more humane, and more productive to reform the prison system into one focused on rehabilitation to reduce recidivism and turn out better citizens than were brought in. The findings suggest that individual-centered approaches to crime prevention need to be complemented by community-based approaches. When properly implemented, work programs, education, and psychotherapy can ease prisoners' transitions to the free world. More staff members should be hired and properly trained to prevent abuses. When a staff member is found to have abused or improperly implemented his or her power, that staff member should be let go. Mandatory minimum sentences should be abolished to take into account the specifics of a crime, and community service should be an option so as to reduce the prison

population. To take this a step further, small offenses should automatically be removed from a prisoners' record after a certain number of years has passed so they can continue their life with a clean slate and be open to job opportunities that may not be available to those who have served prison time.

Overall, these services help rehabilitate individuals and make a much smoother transition back into society. If the prison system in America begins these reforms, they will see a decrease in our tax dollars going strictly to incarcerating the same people over and over, an increase in turnout of productive citizens post-prison, and a more manageable prison system to the benefit of our citizenry.

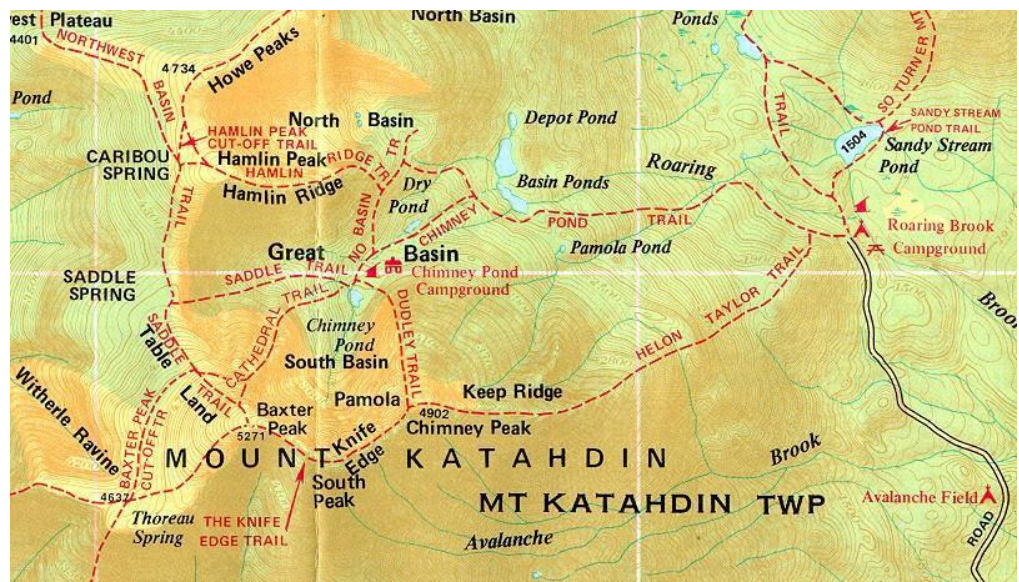
My Katahdin Experience

By Kierra MacDougall

Saturday, 3:30am: Beep... beep... beep... my mind turns on like a switch at the sound of the alarm. What time is it? What day is it? Do I have a meeting? Is something due? Is something wrong? All questions leading me to answer why I am getting up in the middle of the night – and then it hits me I do not *have* to be anywhere but rather *need* to be somewhere. Katahdin.

It was the last long weekend of the summer and we were ready to seize every moment of it. With a two-pound tent and a couple of hammocks, the place we would call home for next seventy-two hours was out there somewhere. We prepared for different camping situations because this trip was planned last minute; we did not have a camping site lined up for the weekend. We did however do some research and used Google Earth to pin-point some possible camping locations. In order to better see the possible “sites we put Google Earth on satellite images that were captured during the Spring. This view captured that the leaves were no longer on the trees and we were able to spot some lean-to sites that were free and first-come-first-serve. We made a list of about a half-dozen GPS coordinates of potential sites for us and left a copy with our family and friends back home for safekeeping. We were off.”

Experience continued on page 8.



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Experience continued from page 6

Down the Dirt Road

We had our list of coordinates, GPS, a printed map and a good attitude. The first six hours of driving on the highway were nothing out of the ordinary. Green trees, Maine license plates, highway signs and the occasional road kill entertained our eyes. Our highway drive was exactly as expected except for the slight delay in Bangor due to accidentally locking the keys in the car.

The GPS told us to take a right on a dirt road that appeared to be a farmer's personal driveway. Despite our suspicions, we took that right turn and headed down the dirt road that would hopefully lead us to an open campsite. After driving an hour we were faced with an obstacle—more accurately our Toyota Camry was faced with an obstacle.

We were at a beat up bridge only wide enough for one car to pass. Fully confident in our car we trudged over the bridge. However, our confidence was short lived when we realized the bridge was missing 2 by 4s and could not make it over the lip of the wood at the last section of bridge. At this point a few cars had lined up behind us and were watching us make our mistake. Stuck on the bridge we got out of the car to find the bridge was not only missing a layer of wood to make it an even ground but also there were a few sections of the bridge with rotted wood that created holes the size of tires. We tackled this challenge with the help of a ranger and we decided then and there that the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was a place like no other.

Our Little Oasis

We passed by a few occupied campsites before reaching our own little oasis. We parked the car and walked about a half mile until we reached our own lean-to site that was situated on the International Appalachian Trail. After a few trips back and forth to the car we finally had our luxurious campsite set up.

One of our goals on this trip was to hike Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park. Although physically we were only a few miles away from the mountain, to get to the entrance of Baxter State Park we needed to drive 3 hours through the

logging roads of the Katahdin Woods. It was on these logging roads where we bumped into four moose, a fox, four deers, and two owls! Never had I seen so much wildlife. Fortunately, we did not run into a black bear but other hikers there was one roaming around camp area told us. In addition to the wildlife, the roaring brooks, lakes, rivers, and stars were breathtaking. It is no wonder Henry David Thoreau was drawn to explore these woods many years ago.

Local Katahdin

Katahdin Woods and Waters showed me a world where New England remains untouched by the average type of tourism you see in places like the White Mountains in New Hampshire. At the same time I saw wildlife I also saw how the local community is part of this land. The logging roads we went on were large dirt roads with broken stop signs and debris. There were signs at every corner that said "No National Parks." We couldn't understand why people wouldn't want to preserve such a beautiful land. We were lucky enough to be one of the first visitors to this land as a national monument. Already they were reconstructing the land for scenic views and informative signs on the particular locations. We saw the land as it was transitioning from a world where logging and wildlife collided to a land that will soon be fluttered with tourism and wildlife. The experience was a perfect end to our summer but just the beginning for these local communities that will be affected by this new national monument.

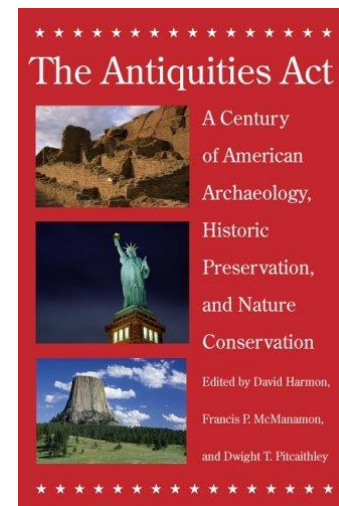
National Monuments: Serving to Protect Nature's Beauty

There were a few things that inspired our last-minute adventure to Katahdin Woods and Waters: a challenging hike at Mt. Katahdin, the sure possibility of a seeing a moose and a way to connect back to nature one last time before the summer was gone. When we found out Katahdin Woods and Waters was made into a National Monument that was the final decision maker to go.

The Antiquities Act

The earliest versions of the Antiquities Act of 1906 were used to protect historic and prehistoric objects and artifacts. At the turn of the nineteenth century, archeological treasures of the

American Southwest faced an increasing threat from private collectors and looters. Thus, enforcement needed to be created to protect these



treasures. Others, including the Department of the Interior, believed the protection of such treasures had a narrow archeological focus. Instead, they wanted to broaden the president's authority to protect public lands for their scenic and other values.

Members of Congress, particularly from western states, pushed back and believed the president's authority designating national monuments of public land was too broad. A compromise between a narrow archeological focus and a broad public land protection focus had to be met.

In 1906 President Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law that helped compromise the competing interests. Under the Antiquities Act, the president is authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest to be national monuments. This expanded the president's authority of designating national monuments to include both archeological interests and public land interests. Since the Antiquities Act enactment in 1906, almost every president (except for Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and George H. W. Bush) has designated national monuments.

Challenges to Preservation

National monuments are usually designated from land the federal government already owns from various uses (logging, mining, etc.) in favor of long-term conservation. In the past, monuments were used to protect a single, identifiable resource. However, in recent years monuments are being used to protect large ecosystems. Long-term conservation helps us evaluate our land's precious resources and beauty but unfortunately may have a negative impact on those closest to the protected land.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

The land of Katahdin Woods and Waters was made into a national monument with the help of Roxanne Quimby, founder of Bert's Bees and philanthropist. Quimby donated more than 87,500 acres in the Katahdin Region to the federal government. In his executive order designating the new national monument, Obama described Katahdin Woods and Waters as an "exceptional example of the rich and storied Maine woods." Its particular location is enhanced by larger protected landscapes such as Baxter State Park. Prior to becoming a national monument, the rich land was a vital source for Maine's logging and papermaking industry. Even though the new national monument seeks to protect the valued land not everyone agreed with Obama's decision.



Oppositions

In response to Obama's decision, Governor Paul LePage of Maine said that Obama's unilateral action of establishing the monument "demonstrates that rich, out-of-state liberals can force an unpopular agenda on the Maine people against their will." Even though Legislature passed a resolution opposing the national monument, members of Maine's congressional delegation opposed it and local citizens voted against it repeatedly the executive order was still signed. LePage also fueled his disapproval of the national monument by saying how "the Quimby family used high-paid lobbyists in Washington, D.C., to go around the people of Maine and have President Obama use his authority to designate this area a National Monument." Other state leaders such as United States Representative Bruce Poliquin and United States Senator Susan Collins also expressed their hesitations over the decision due to stakeholders' opposition, the impact on the local community,

and the logistics of funding this monument. Disappointment also came from local figures like Dana Doran, the Executive Director for Professional Logging Contractors of Maine. Doran stated that "Maine loggers need reliable and safe access to the area's working forests and the PLC will work closely with our Congressional delegation, the communities surrounding the proposed monument and the National Park Service to address the very real access and road safety issues this monument creates." Despite her disappointments, Doran says she will make sure this decision does not cost jobs in Maine's logging industry.

Supporters

The establishments of the national monuments do end up benefiting society in one way or another. There are many people in support of Obama's designation of Maine's new monument. As I have seen first hand, this national monument is drawing in visitors from all over and the land is rebuilding with the goal of long-term conservation in mind. Local supporters of the national monument, such as key figures from the Appalachian Mountain Club, Environment Maine, and Natural Resources Council of Maine, are thrilled with the decision because it will protect the remote North Woods and create new opportunities for conservation, recreation and nature-based tourism jobs in the region. This remote land is home to bears, moose, the threatened Canada lynx, streams, and lakes. This designation may give mill towns a new opportunity to rebrand themselves to attract tourism and businesses.

Another national monument that faced similar challenges during its establishment is the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Before Clinton established this national monument in 1996, 47% of Utahns opposed its creation. However, six months later opposition jumped down to 32% , in one year tourism rose 58% and in ten years the monument's 430 jobs contributed \$26 million to the local economy. When Grand Staircase-Escalante was designated a national monument there was very little consultation with local stakeholders and mainly created as a political favor. Although local consultation was overlooked, over time the local community of the Grand Staircase-Escalante benefited from the decision.

An Ode to National Parks

Nature is a place that energizes the soul. As a law student, a mental retreat for just 20 minutes can revitalize my mind and better prepare myself for a busy schedule. When time and money are on my side, the best kind of place has no roofs or walls. So, as a salute to the end of the summer and the starting gunshot mark to the new school year, my top soul-energizing place ended up being in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Two days before Katahdin Woods and Waters was declared a national monument the National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday. The national monument is a designation of protected land within the National Park and later down the road we may see the new monument turn into a National Park. Other designated national monuments we treasure today include Grand Canyon National Park and Joshua Tree National Park. Already around the corner is Acadia National Park, a national park that draws in over two million people each year so Maine is not a stranger to scenic hungry visitors.

The natural landscape of America is unique and deserves to be treasured. The past century we have made great efforts in preserving America's beauty but it is becoming more tricky to satisfy the needs of all those effected by long-term conservation. In America, we seem to respond better when there are financial gains and short-term rewards but long-term rewards (or consequences) should be taken into consideration. Society's views towards land and wildlife protection are different today than what they were in the 1900s. More people today would agree that protecting our land is more than just preserving its natural beauty. As our cities become more urbanized we are losing touch with the natural world. Not only does our land need protection from destruction but also we need our land to prosper for our own health benefit.





Daniel Hahn, Suffolk University Law School Student Bar Association (SBA) President

A Word with the President

I thought long and hard about what I wanted this op-ed piece to tailor its focus on. As much as it has dominated discussion this past week, I think there's enough being said on and enough forums for it to be said in about the US election. That is not to say I do not think it's an important subject—maybe it's even a vital subject—but I want to take a step away from that. I want to talk about Suffolk and where we are.

I want to talk specifically about Suffolk this year and my experience with my role in its student leadership. It's an appropriate moment, halfway through our academic year, and it is a good moment. What I mean to say is—from the perspective of this moment—it does seem good to be enrolled at Suffolk. Now I know there are problems that

weigh on people's minds. The bar passage was low. There's no getting around that. Students are frustrated with sharing the facilities. Again, there is really no way to talk around that but I believe truly that these things are not indications of failure but markers of the progress we are capable of making.

To some that may come across as a surprising assessment but there's a lot that has happened in the last year that leads me towards an optimistic appraisal. Some of these things have been loud and easy to see like the shuffling of the Board of Trustees, others have been quiet like the professors who have included cross-discipline teachers in classes where their outside perspective may be valuable but the trend is one that does overall suggest steady and sustainable improvement to the quality of our education and the environment in which we receive it.

Even this week for example, should be the week of November 14th, there are a series of town hall style meetings hosted by Suffolk leadership to get constituent feedback on finding the best next President. That's a fairly progressive stance. Not only is it a progressive stance but it's an action that says the Board of Trustees heard the concerns raised after last year's media coverage and is actively responding to them in a way that seeks to actually amend them.

If we want to zoom in on Suffolk Law we see the same trend. Bar passage was announced about a month ago but that email did not come out with just results. That email was coupled with a link to the administration's "Five-Point" plan to boost results in the future and follows the heels of a partnering with Barbri to provide better access to bar prep materials starting as soon as a student's 1L year.

Even further, if we zoom in to the SBA level, we met social setbacks when last year Fall Ball was declared cancelled. We

weren't sure if we'd even attempt a replacement but as many of you know ended up hosting the first fall event in recent memory that has not ended with (to the full extent of my knowledge) a single altercation. It was not only successful by that metric but was one of the most financially responsible fall events the SBA has hosted and has given us the fiscal freedom to give clubs almost double the budgets they had last year and boost the total number of events we are having to reach the greatest possible number of students no matter what their interests may be.

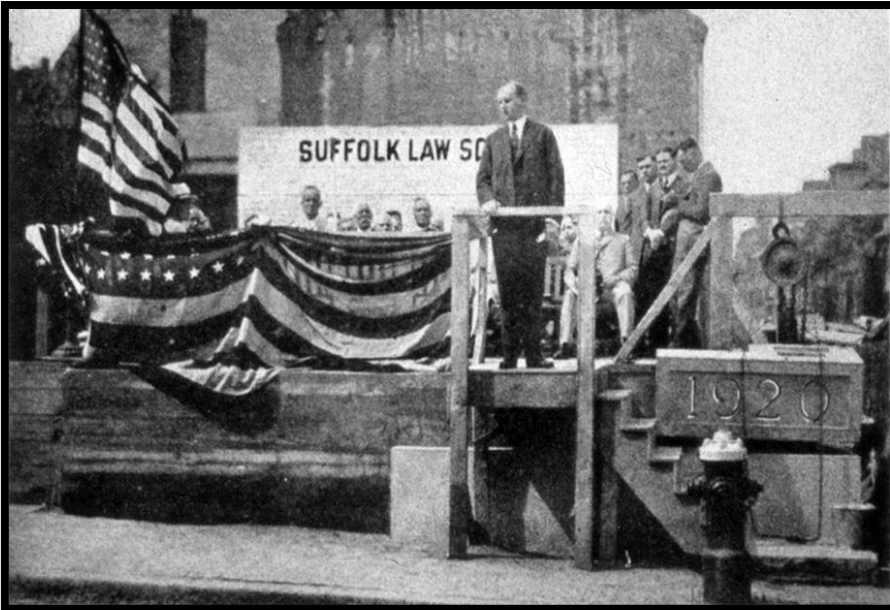
These are the kinds of things that lend themselves to a positive appraisal. Setbacks happen. Inevitably bad news happens but the ability to rebound is not likewise a guarantee. From the student all the way to the highest administrators, Suffolk has consistently proven itself one of the most stalwart and resolved bodies of people. It's easy to unfairly game the bar passage numbers or pour finances towards problems but Suffolk emphasizes a trust in its constituents when there are bad days to build towards a better tomorrow. There is a focus here on reinventing policies and providing tools for success not patches for aesthetics' sake and that trend is one that is easy to be proud of as a student.

In a time when I think everyone could use some good news I am proud to be a member of an institution that empowers us to be the initiators of that good news.

Case and point the return of our student newspaper, Dicta who overcame many early hurdles this year to reinvent and revitalize itself for the future. It is quite the honor to be included in its inaugural pages and as always, the greatest of honors to be your SBA President.

Thank you all,

Daniel Hahn



Top: Governor Calvin Coolidge, laying the cornerstone of Suffolk Law School in Boston in August 1920 *Photo courtesy of Familypedia.com*

Right: Suffolk Law School Alumni Event 2016



As Presidential Search Continues, two New Trustees were confirmed by the board on Oct. 21. Larry Smith, co-founder of the Nation Safe Drivers Group in Boca Raton, Florida, and Patricia J. "Trish" Gannon, executive vice president of finance and planning and chief financial officer for Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston.
Photo Courtesy Suffolk University News Archive, November 2016



DICTA: “We Will Survive”

By: Keicha Ivelisse Mora

Dicta has been the official Student newspaper of Suffolk Law School for over 40 years.

“Dicta is the official student newspaper of the Suffolk Law School community, existing solely to help foster a sense of community through communication. The goal of dicta is to educate, inform, enlighten, and entertain the student body through outstanding reporting and editorials on news, events, trends, sports, arts, food, and popular culture.” This is the message the last printed copy of Dicta conveyed to the Suffolk University student body in the year 2015-

2016. Dicta has undergone a very arduous 2016-2017 year. The board was very close to losing its credentials as being apart of the Suffolk Community. The staff this year has worked very hard to ensure that our goal as the school newspaper to “enlighten, inform, and educate” is not lost. This year we have attempted a more modern approach to convey Dicta to the public by printing a digital copy for the community to have readily available access to. The board has also been working to create as many events and opportunities as possible to engage the student body in being affiliated with such a prestigious body of Suffolk Law School spirit. Dicta has been

apart of the Suffolk Law School community for over forty years giving students who are not involved in a journal or clinic the opportunity to share their perspectives on the values of the University. It has been an honor to keep the spirit of Dicta alive this year as a 2L student. My engagement as a staff member has been invaluable because we have had the pleasure of bringing Dicta back to life. As Gloria Gaynor sang in her famous song, “I will Survive”: “As long as I know how to love, I know I’ll stay alive, I’ve got all my life to live, I’ve got all my love to give and I will survive, Dicta will survive, hey, hey.”

Suffolk Law School Community Engagement Snapshots



Suffolk University Pro-Bono Fair

Photos courtesy of The Boston Bar Association, Twitter, 2016



Boston Bar Association Luncheon

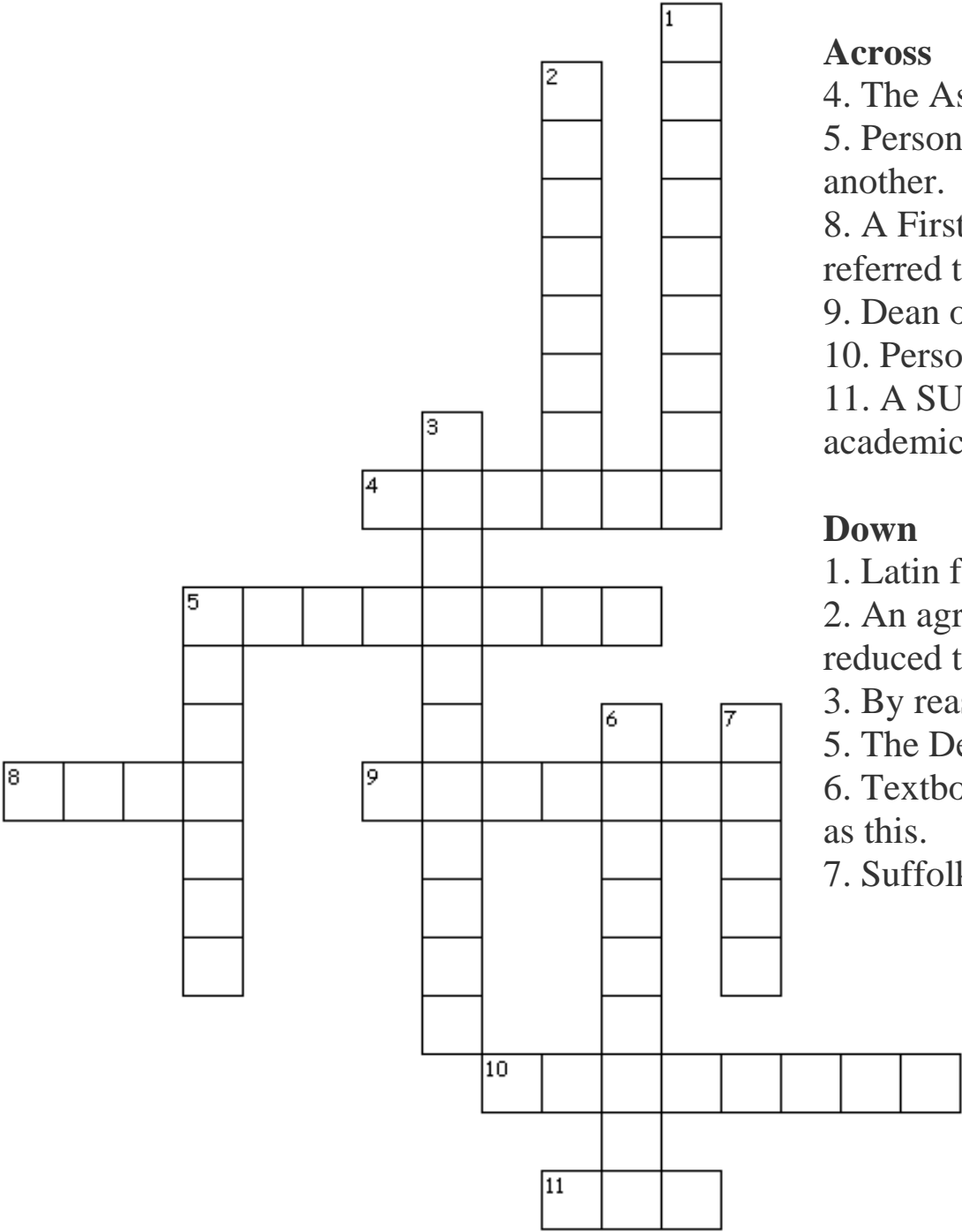
Photos courtesy of The Boston Bar Association, Twitter, 2016



Massachusetts Bar Association President Jeffrey Catalano (right) visited Professor R. Lisle Baker's (left) Positive Psychology for Lawyers class on Tuesday, November 15, to discuss work-life balance, community involvement, and self-care."

Photo Credit Alison Farauhar

Back at Suffolk University
Law School



- Across**
- 4. The Associate Dean of Students at SULS.
 - 5. Person who accepts promise from another.
 - 8. A First Year law student is commonly referred to as this.
 - 9. Dean of Students at SULS.
 - 10. Person who makes a promise to another.
 - 11. A SULS program designed to ensure academic success in Law School.

- Down**
- 1. Latin for guilty act.
 - 2. An agreement between two people reduced to writing.
 - 3. By reason of the soil.
 - 5. The Dean of SULS.
 - 6. Textbooks in Law School are referred to as this.
 - 7. Suffolk Law Newspaper.

Across: 4. santos 5. Promise 8. oneel 9. ferrari 10. promisor 11. asp
Down: 1. actus reus 2. contract 3. ratiome soli 5. Perlman 6. casebooks 7. dicta