

Annual Report 2014

MAINE
EQUAL



JUSTICE
PARTNERS

Finding solutions to poverty and improving the lives
of people with low income in Maine

Maine Equal Justice Partners Names New Executive Director



Robyn Merrill

*From the press release,
December 4, 2014*

After a national search, Maine Equal Justice Partners has chosen Robyn Merrill as its new executive director.

"Robyn has a real passion and energy for MEJP's mission of protecting the rights of Mainers with low income and providing pathways of opportunity to help people overcome poverty", said Charles Dingman, president of MEJP's board of directors. "With her experience both as a lawyer and a social worker, and deep knowledge of our organization, she brings a unique combination of skills to this important position."

... Merrill follows Sara Gagné-Holmes, who has joined the John T. Gorman Foundation as a senior program associate.

A Message from MEJP's New Executive Director

I am honored to become Maine Equal Justice Partners' next executive director. Maine Equal Justice has made a significant difference in the lives of thousands of Maine people as a result of its advocacy in the courts, legislature and administrative agencies, and I'm excited to be part of continuing that important work.

Recently, MEJP had conversations with hundreds of people across the state, old and young, in small towns and big cities, and from all political persuasions. The common message was resounding – we need to build routes to opportunities that are open to everyone and an economy where every person and every family has the chance to succeed. The economy has been slow to recover from the recession and too many people are struggling to make ends meet. Not everyone who wants a job can find a job, and many jobs that are available simply don't pay enough to get by. These systemic problems demand systemic solutions.

I look forward to working with MEJP's dedicated and skilled staff and board as well as policymakers and all of you to increase opportunity in our state. Together we can craft reforms so that people who work hard are able to support their families and our safety net adequately supports those who truly need it.

Robyn Merrill, Esq.

Thank you

November 2013 - October 2014

Maine Equal Justice is deeply grateful to our many supporters who make it possible for us to do the work we do. We thank the Maine Bar Foundation, the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund Commission and the Campaign for Justice, which provide core support to MEJP, as well as the foundations, businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals that have made a commitment to justice through their generosity to our organization.

Legal Services Funders

Maine Bar Foundation
Maine Civil Legal Services Fund
Muskie Fund for Legal Services
Campaign for Justice

Foundations/Funders

AARP
Center on Budget and Policy
Priorities
Community Catalyst
Elias Foundation
Frances Hollis Brain Foundation
Helen and George Ladd Charitable
Corporation
John T Gorman Foundation
Maine Health Access Foundation
MaineShare
Maine Community Foundation/
Broad Reach Fund
St. Paul Foundation
The Bingham Program

Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations

APS Healthcare
Assurant Foundation –Matching
Gifts Program
Bangor Savings Bank
CEI, Inc.
Every Child Matters Education
Fund
JD'A Consulting, Inc.
Kennebec Behavioral Health
Kennebec Valley Community Action
Program
Law Offices Of Joe Bornstein
Le Garage Restaurant
Legal Services for the Elderly
Maine Association of Area Agencies
on Aging
Maine Association of Nonprofits
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Community Health Options
Maine Medical Association
Maine Primary Care Association
Maine Initiatives
Maine Street Solutions

Nardi Appraisal Service
Opportunity Alliance
Penquis
Pew –Matching Gifts Program
Preble Street Resource Center
Roki Associates, Inc.
Resources for Organizing Social
Change
Schramm Health Partners/Optumas
Unum –Matching Gifts Program
Verrill Dana
Western Maine Community Action
York County Community Action
Corporation

Faith-Based Organizations

Lewiston Friends Meeting
MAZON: A Jewish Response to
Hunger

Individuals

Nancy Audet
Pat Averill
Leigh Baker
E Jeff Barnes
Sharon Barker and John Hoyt
T. Christopher and Katherine Beach
Pamela and Bruce Bell
Ed and Ruth Benedikt
Bernard Berube
Stephen Bien
Nancy Birkhimer
Emily and Jerry Bley
Laura Blutstein and Charles Duncan
Daniel and Sue Bonior
Jen Bonnet and Ben McAlexander
Laura Boyett
Sue Bradford
Emily and Norman Breitner
Margrethe and William Brown
Suzanne Brunner and Janet May
Chris and Diane Bryan
Robert Burgess
Sandra Butler
Kathy and Steve Carey
Kevin and Catherine Carey
Judith Chamberlain
Dennis Chinoy and Katherine Kates
Terry Cole and Sally Daniels

Eileen Coyne and Chaitanya York
Jeanine Crockett and Joan
Mansigian
Marc and Sung Cryer
Thomas and Beverly Daggett
Jay and Margo Davis
Joel Davis and Sarah Shed
Steven Davis and Suzanne Astolfi
Bill and Linda Deetjen
In Honor of Robyn Merrill
Luisa Deprez
Vinnie and Cheryl DiCara
Holly Dominie
Jeanne Dorland
Neria Douglass
Jane Driscoll
Benjamin Dudley and Lynn Davey
Helen and John Ellis
Susan Emmerling
Jonathan Falk and Laura Levenson
David Farmer and Erin Macey
Irv Faunce and Jan Collins
Judy Feinstein
Laura Fortman
Nancy Gilbert and Jane Fritz
Tim and Lila Gagné
In Honor of Mona and Asher
Gagné
Holly Gartmayer-Deyoung
Mary Geer
Melva Geores
Larry and Patricia Gilbert
Eleanor Goldberg and Malcolm
Burson
Lisa and Leon Gorman
Lani Graham
Gerry Gross
Alice Haines
Megan Hannan
Thomas Harnett and Lisa
Copenhaver
Laura Harper
Jody Harris
Elizabeth Hart and Chris Coulling
Julie Hayes and Norm Duphily
In Honor of Bob Hayes and Chris
Rusnov
Mary Henderson
Phil and Ruth Hicks

Michael Hillard
Jon and Erica Humphrey
In Honor of Kathy Moore
Bruce and Sandy Hunter
Gale Johnsen
James and Nancy Jurdak
Paul Kando and Beth McPherson
Barbara Kates and Solomon
Goldman
Arthur Keenan
Karen Keim
Marty and Mark Kelley
Thomas Kelly
Renate Klein and Bob Milardo
Dan and Caitlin Koehler
John and Susan LaCasse
Lynne Lamstein and Sandra Haggard
Ellen Lee
David Legere and Mary Griffith
Joan Litzer and Kenneth Spierer
Victoria Leuteman and Douglas
Robinson
Hildie Lipson
Rachel Lowe
Jean MacRae and Farahad Dastoor
Dennis Marble
Lydia Marden
Don and Jean Mason
Thomas McAdam
Robert McAfee
Dale McCormick
Francis and Susan McGinty
Penny McGovern
Powers and Ellen McGuire
James McKenna
Alex McPhedran
Mary McPherson and Jon LeVeen
Janet Mead
Larinda Meade
Judson Merrill
Stephanie Merrill and Patricia Ender
Dan Meyer and Wendy Flaschner
Lisa and Roy Miller
Ed Miller
Kathy Moore
Vernon Moore
Richard O'Meara
Daniel Oppenheim and Layne
Gregory
Barbara and David Page
Frederic Pease
David and Anna Perkins
Ilze Petersons and Doug Allen
Lisa Pohlmann
Kandyce Powell
Anne and Dale Rand
Lori and William Real
Ala Reid

Judy Reidt-Parker
Priscilla and Michael Rice
Patricia Riley
Debra Rothenberg
Andrew and Nina Roth-Wells
Estelle and Murray Rubinstein
Elizabeth Ruff
In Memory of Muriel Wilson
Kerry Sack
Craig Saddlemire
Paul Saucier and Myrna Koonce
Karen Saum
Jill and Ed Saxby
Hilary Schneider
Linda Schumacher
Michael Seitzinger
Deborah and Syd Sewall
Susan Shell
Margo Simmons
Janet Simpson
Judith B Solomon
Mark Solomon
In Honor of Lila and Tim Gagné
Susan Sparaco
Christopher and Eunice St. John
Jan Stallmeyer
Sarah Standiford and Jeff Fetterer
Mitchell and Martha Stein
Elizabeth Stickney
Gust and Jan Stringos
Sally Sutton and Charles Haeuser
Michael Tarpinian
Debra and Michael Taylor
Dan and Meredith Tipton
Wellington (Clough) Toppan
Eliza Townsend
Sharon Treat
Nancy Tucker
In Honor of Ana Hicks
Romaine Turyn
Kathryn Vezina and Douglas Moore
Robert Walker
Peter and Mary Walsh
Nancy Wanderer
Janie Waterhouse
In Honor of Caring Unlimited Staff
Lee Webb
David White
Virginia Williams
Barbara Winterson and Steve
Shannon
Paula Wood
Micca and Ben Wootten
Betty and Conrad Wurtz
Shawn and Rita Yardley
Donna Yellen
Jeffrey Young

In Honor of Sara Gagné-Holmes' Leadership

Miles and Jennifer Archer
Beverly Baker
Claire Berkowitz
Sandra Butler
Judith Chamberlain
Cathy Coffman
Jerrol Crouter
Steven Davis
Carla Dickstein
Charles Dingman
Shelley and Tom Doak
Jane Driscoll
Nancy Fritz and Jane
Gilbert
Rita Furlow
Laura Harper
Brenda Harvey
Mary Henderson
Claire Hersom
Lucky and Toby Hollander
Will and Marguerite
Holmes
John T. Gorman
Foundation
Le Garage Restaurant
Rachel Lowe
John and Andrea McCall
Mary McPherson and Jon
LeVeen
Maine Bar Foundation
Yvonne Mickles
Kathy Moore
Tina Nadeau
John Pelletier
Gerald and Charlene
Petrucci
Patricia Riley
Susan Roche
Linda Sanborn
Jill and Ed Saxby
Nancy Schiff-Slater
Ellen Schneiter
Diana Scully
Mitchell and Martha Stein
Michael Tarpinian
Eliza Townsend
Sharon Treat
Donna Yellen

What people are saying about MEJP

I received valuable information, support and guidance from MEJP. The process was daunting at times, at least it seemed that way to me. However, with the support of Mr. Comart and his team, the case has since been resolved and things have been working out well. No words can possibly represent my gratitude!

‘Pleased in Penobscot’

Thank you again for taking the time to present about MaineCare to our staff last week. The information you shared was incredibly helpful and you were so patient in how you explained such a complicated system to all of us.

Rochelle, Portland

We are grateful that we can turn to MEJP for reliable publications and up-to-date information regarding changes to the MaineCare program as well as the implementation of the ACA.

Sally M. Wagley, Esq., Winthrop

Crystal was super helpful, very knowledgeable, and cares about the work she does. She is such a gift to case managers.

Dawn, Case Manager who works with at-risk teens

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Financial Report

January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013

Revenues

Foundation Grants	572,053
Maine Civil Legal Services Fund	119,707
Donations	126,503
Interest/other	14,885

Expenses

Program	725,165
Administration	92,737
Fundraising	43,205

Assets and Liabilities

Assets (cash and real property)	595,685
Liabilities	27,109
Net Assets	568,535



Total 833,148



Total 861,107

Total surplus (deficit) (27,576)



Maine Equal Justice Partners

126 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-6822
(207) 626-7058 Toll Free: (866) 626-7059 www.mejp.org

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