

# McLane News

JANUARY 2010

## McLane Welcomes Margaret R. Kerouac as a Director and Shareholder



Margaret R. Kerouac

McLane is pleased to announce that **Margaret R. Kerouac** has been elected as Director and Shareholder of the firm. Margie is a member of McLane's Litigation Department, and concentrates her legal practice primarily in domestic relations matters. Margie also serves as Chair of the New Hampshire Bar Association's Family Law Section and as a member of the Family

Division's Rules and Policy Group. Margie is a member of the New Hampshire Collaborative Law Alliance, the American Bar Association, the New Hampshire Association for Justice and the New Hampshire Women's Bar Association, for which she formerly served as a Director.

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## Gregory Smith Elected to Chair Management Committee in 2010



Gregory H. Smith

McLane Director **Gregory H. Smith** has been elected to lead the firm's Management Committee in 2010. Greg currently is Chair of McLane's Administrative Law Department. A former New Hampshire Attorney General, Greg has over 30 years' experience in environmental and regulatory law and litigation involving state, federal and local governments.

Greg is recognized by both *Chambers USA* and *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in environmental law. He also is an adjunct faculty member for public policy in the graduate program at New England College.

Greg is a member of the Board of Directors of The New England Council and is a Fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers.

## *To "E" or Not to "E" - That is the Question. . . .*



Thomas W. Hildreth

... many employers are asking themselves. But this year, it's not about e-commerce; rather, it is about E-Verify.

E-Verify is an internet-based system operated by the US Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Social Security Administration. E-Verify allows an employer, using information reported on an employee's Form I-9, to confirm the eligibility of that employee to work in the United States. Participation in E-Verify is currently free to employers. For most employers, the use of E-Verify is voluntary and limited to determining the employment eligibility of new hires only. Starting in September 2009, federal contractors and subcontractors have been required to use E-Verify, including for existing employees who are assigned to work under a federal contract.

For some businesses, voluntary participation in E-Verify may enhance employment options for foreign employees. Under U.S. immigration laws, foreign students who have been enrolled on a full-time basis for at least one full academic year in a post-secondary school certified by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program are eligible for 12 months of optional practical training (OPT) to work for a U.S. employer in a job directly related to the student's major area of study. If a U.S. employer is enrolled in the E-Verify program, a 17-month OPT extension is available for the employer's employees who are current OPT students and who have completed a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree. The ability to extend the employment tenure of a recent graduate for nearly a year and a half is a valuable work-around what has become an increasingly difficult process of obtaining H-1B Visas for non-national workers. The 2010 group of H-1B Visas were completely claimed as of December 21, 2009; and new H-1B Visas will not become available again until October 1, 2010.

McLane's Employment Law Group assists employers in evaluating whether to participate in the E-Verify program and in identifying the particular benefits and obligations of participation relevant to each employer. McLane also will work with businesses to facilitate the enrollment and training required to participate in E-Verify. Please contact **Tom Hildreth** or any other members of McLane's Employment Law Practice Group if you have questions or would like more information. *Tom can be reached at tom.hildreth@mcclane.com or (603) 625-6464.*

## Upcoming Events



Fri., Jan. 29, 2010 - "**Legal Issues in Behavioral Health in New Hampshire**" sponsored by Medical Educational Services, Inc., will be held at the Holiday Inn in Portsmouth, NH. McLane attorney **Andrea Daly** will be one of the presenters. The purpose of this one-day seminar is to provide professionals with important guidance and insight into mental health laws and regulations. For more information or to register please contact Medical Educational Services, Inc. at (715) 836-9900 or visit <https://www.meds-pdn.com>.

Mon., Feb. 22, 2010 - "**The Probate Process From Start To Finish**" sponsored by the National Business Institute, will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH. McLane attorney **Denis Dillon** will be one of the presenters. At this all-day seminar, participants will receive detailed, step-by-step information to confidently and ably navigate the New Hampshire probate system. Call NBI at 1-800-930-6182 or visit <http://www.nbi-sems.com> for more information or to register.

Fri., Mar. 19, 2010 – "**New Hampshire Not-For-Profit Corporations & Associations**" sponsored by the NH Bar Association, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the NH Bar Association Seminar Room in Concord, NH. McLane attorneys **Richard Samuels** and **William Zorn** will be among the presenters. The seminar will provide guidance to those who represent not-for-profit organizations and those who serve as directors, trustees, and managers of these organizations. For more information or to register, contact the NHBA at (603) 224-6942 or visit <http://www.legalspan.com/nhbar>.

Thu., Mar. 25, 2010 - "**Evidence and Expert Testimony Best Practices: Supporting Your Case**" sponsored by the National Business Institute, will be held at the Executive Court Banquet Center in Manchester, NH. McLane attorney **Bruce Felmy** will be one of the presenters. This intermediate level program is designed to provide attorneys of all experience levels with the strategies and tools they need to effectively work with evidence and expert testimony. Paralegals may also benefit from learning the latest strategies in working with evidence and expert witnesses. Call NBI at 1-800-930-6182 or visit <http://www.nbi-sems.com> for more information or to register.

## Jack B. Middleton Pro Bono Award



Thomas W. Hildreth

**Tom Hildreth**, a director and member of the McLane Corporate Department, was awarded the 2009 Jack B. Middleton Pro Bono Award.

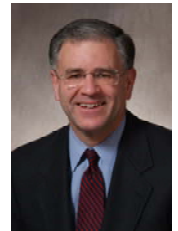
Since 2004, Tom has been deeply committed to providing pro bono assistance to a New Hampshire family whose members experienced horrific treatment in their native Africa. Tom worked to assure that each family member achieved legal immigration status in the United States. During the lengthy and complex immigration process, Tom helped family members stay together in the United States pending the outcomes of their immigration applications.

In working with the family, Tom went beyond merely ensuring that each family member's immigration status was secured. Tom also helped the family avoid foreclosure on their home and navigate the juvenile justice system. Throughout the many difficulties faced by this family, Tom remained steadfast and available, providing legal counsel and advice on the myriad issues faced by the family.

For his work on behalf of this family, as well as numerous others, and for embodying the best of the pro bono spirit, the McLane Firm congratulates Tom.

## Ralph Holmes Elected to McLane Management Committee for 2010

McLane Director **Ralph Holmes** was named to the McLane Management Committee for 2010. Ralph currently serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Litigation Department. With a practice that is focused on representing clients in complex, challenging litigation, Ralph has substantial experience handling medical malpractice, death and catastrophic injury claims, commercial disputes, trust and will contests, and other probate matters. Ralph represents clients in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and practices before federal and state courts.



Ralph F. Holmes

## McLane Welcomes Margaret R. Kerouac as a Director and Shareholder *(Continued from page 1)*

Margie was selected for inclusion in the *New England Rising Stars*® for 2009, a list of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Throughout her years of practice, Margie has been committed to serving New Hampshire's poor and underprivileged citizens. For her outstanding dedication to those in need, Margie's colleagues at McLane unanimously awarded her the first Jack B. Middleton Pro Bono Legal Services Award in 2006.

In addition to her outstanding work on behalf of McLane's clients, Margie has participated in fundraising and other activities for local public charities, including New Hampshire Legal Assistance, High Hopes, the YMCA, Junior Achievement, Child and Family Services, various animal welfare organizations and the United Way.

The firm congratulates Margie on her appointment.

**For more information by telephone, call (603) 625-6464.**