

Former Chief Justice Honored at Webster Scholars Graduation

By Anna Berry

A special celebration calls for a special gift, John Garvey thought. But what do you get the recently-retired leader of the state's highest court?

When the 11th class of the University of New Hampshire Law School's Daniel Webster Scholars was sworn-in at the U.S. District Court in Concord on May 18, Garvey was ready with the perfect present — plus a story that would move many in the room to tears.

Garvey is the founding director of the Daniel Webster Scholars Honors Program but humbly attributes the program's success to recently-retired NH Supreme Court Justice Linda S. Dalianis. Dalianis helped create and champion the initiative more than a decade ago, after noticing a lack of preparation among the young lawyers who appeared before her at the Supreme Court.

The first class of Daniel Webster Scholars graduated in 2008, on the cusp of the Great Recession, and the program has since earned national accolades as a new model for innovative legal education at a time of change within the justice system.

A 2015 study found that the "Websters," as Garvey affectionately calls the students, outperformed their colleagues in the field who had been licensed to practice law for up to two years, despite the absence of a traditional bar exam in the program.

"The law is slow to change," Garvey said in an earlier interview in his office at UNH Law School. "Innovation often meets with resistance. ...

"You need a champion who has the stature to make

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Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Dalianis, right, was moved to receive a painting by 11-year-old Molly Della Valla at the swearing-in ceremony for Daniel Webster Scholars on May 18.



Survey Shows State Attorneys Face Threats on the Job

Editor's Note: Utah attorney Stephen D. Kelson has spent more than a decade studying violence against the legal profession and best practices in prevention. After finding limited data on the issue, he conducted surveys in 28 states to create a baseline for continued research. Here, Kelson reports on a 2017 survey of NH Bar members on work-related violence.

ALSO: Local responses to survey results (Pg. 18)

By Stephen D. Kelson

When discussing violence in the legal profession, many seasoned attorneys in New Hampshire recall the murder of part-time judge Vicky Bunnell. On August 19, 1997, a man with a long-standing grudge over a property assessment shot and killed Bunnell outside her Colebrook law office. The gunman also killed two state troopers and a newspaper editor before he was eventually killed in a firefright with police.

Two decades later, many members of the New Hampshire legal profession assume that work-related acts of violence are still too remote to occur or won't happen to them.

However, contrary to the general perception, many members of the New Hampshire legal profession experience threats of violence — and actual violence — arising from the practice of law.

In fact, 41 percent of respondents to a recent survey reported that they had been threatened and/or physically assaulted at least once. This article provides a brief summary of the responses to the 2017 survey and a glimpse into work-related threats and violence experienced, but seldom discussed, by members of the New Hampshire legal profession.

Statewide Studies of Violence Against the Legal Profession

Limited research exists on the subject of violence

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PRACTITIONER PROFILE

Teaching Trial Law, From The Hague to Belfast

By Kathie Ragsdale

Robert A. Stein's passion for trial advocacy has taken him to such far-flung places as the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, and to Belfast, Northern Ireland, just after "the troubles."

The Concord-based attorney grew up in western Pennsylvania and attended Washington & Jefferson College before deciding whether to seek a graduate degree in philosophy, English or history, or go to law school.

With the civil rights movement well underway and campus unrest making national headlines, he decided he wanted to help effect change. He chose the law school at the University of Michigan.

"It was the '60s," he says. "It was time to get involved."



Stein recalls. "Law schools in those days did not teach trial advocacy."

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