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Mariah E. Thomas Thurston\*

## Risk Taking and Reform in Legal Education

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

On behalf of the Editors of *The University of New Hampshire Law Review*, I am pleased to present this special symposium issue on "Risk Taking and Reform in Legal Education." The articles published in this issue cover a variety of topics on legal education, including pieces based on presentations and panels given at the Law Review's annual symposium held on January 26, 2024. All the articles contribute to scholarly literature on legal education by providing unique perspectives on various reform opportunities.

The topic of legal education is particularly meaningful to the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Two of Franklin Pierce School of Law's latest innovations in legal education have increased legal education's accessibility. Franklin Pierce School of Law is home to the first ABA-accredited, part-time hybrid J.D. program, which enables students currently working in an Intellectual Property, or related, field to access legal education without the need for uprooting or leaving their full-time role by attending courses "primarily online with minimal in-person immersion period requirements."<sup>1</sup> The Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program is "a first-of-its-kind program in the country allowing students to graduate without the need to take the traditional . . . bar exam."<sup>2</sup> Both programs represent great risks the Law School has taken to reform

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\* Mariah Elizabeth Thomas Thurston is the Symposium Editor of *The University of New Hampshire Law Review*. She earned a B.A. in film & media studies and a B.A., with distinction, in political science, with minors in global & international relations and sociology from Wells College.

<sup>1</sup> *Hybrid JD*, UNIV. OF N.H. FRANKLIN PIERCE SCH. OF L., [https://law.unh.edu/academics/degrees-certificates/hybrid-jd?utm\\_term=&utm\\_campaign=UNH+Hybrid+JD&utm\\_source=adwords&utm\\_medium=ppc&hsa\\_acc=6395936961&hsa\\_cam=1657137582&hsa\\_grp=99816327067&hsa\\_ad=641513755564&hsa\\_src=g&hsa\\_tgt=dsa-2207223375788&hsa\\_kw=&hsa\\_mt=&hsa\\_net=adwords&hsa\\_ver=3&gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAiP2tBhBXEiwACslfnkFp2hDI-g\\_GjOzQkKM4VCRo6vMC6RJ3E2hBckvzjI84MoBkuw1P7hoCYkwQAvD\\_BwE](https://law.unh.edu/academics/degrees-certificates/hybrid-jd?utm_term=&utm_campaign=UNH+Hybrid+JD&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_acc=6395936961&hsa_cam=1657137582&hsa_grp=99816327067&hsa_ad=641513755564&hsa_src=g&hsa_tgt=dsa-2207223375788&hsa_kw=&hsa_mt=&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAiP2tBhBXEiwACslfnkFp2hDI-g_GjOzQkKM4VCRo6vMC6RJ3E2hBckvzjI84MoBkuw1P7hoCYkwQAvD_BwE) [https://perma.cc/QB5C-2NGK] (last visited May 8, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> *Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program*, UNIV. OF N.H. FRANKLIN PIERCE SCH. OF L.,

legal education, and both have been received positively by the legal profession.

I personally want to thank and recognize all the presenters and panelists who took part in the symposium:

- ❖ William Adams, Jr., Managing Director, Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, American Bar Association
- ❖ Sara Berman, Director of Academic Success Program \* Professor of Lawyer Skills, USC Gould School of Law
- ❖ Greg Brandes, COO & CFO, Monterey College of Law
- ❖ Megan Carpenter, Dean & Professor of Law, University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law
- ❖ Dr. Michael Conklin, Professor of Law, Texas Tech University
- ❖ Barry Currier, Former Managing Director, Accreditation and Legal Education, American Bar Association
- ❖ Zack DeMeola, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, Law School Admission Council
- ❖ Nachman Gutowski, Director of Academic Success Program, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, University of Nevada Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law
- ❖ Dr. Stan Kowalski, Senior Lecturer, University of New Hampshire School of Law
- ❖ Albert Scherr, Professor of Law, University of New Hampshire School of Law
- ❖ Michael Smith, Assistant Professor of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law
- ❖ Sophie Sparrow, Professor of Law, University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law

In addition, it is important to underscore that the symposium would not have been possible without the support of several individuals and groups at the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law. To that end, I offer my thanks to Dean Megan Carpenter, Associate Dean Rebecca Purdom, Assistant Dean Lauren Berger, Professor Peter Karol, C.L. Quinn, Lauren Terry, Courtney Thurston, Dale Kenny, Jess Place, Ellen Musinsky, Daniel Cwynar, and all the members of the Law Review. On a personal note, I am especially grateful to my husband, Ryan Thomas, and parents, Lloyd and Elizabeth Thurston, for their endless patience, support and encouragement during my tenure as a law student and member of this Law Review.

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<https://law.unh.edu/academics/daniel-webster-scholar-honors-program>  
[<https://perma.cc/286X-PHSQ>] (last visited May 8, 2024).