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News

Landgon Thaxter Joins the Firm

Norman, Hanson & DeTroy is pleased to announce that Langdon Thaxter has joined the firm as an associate attorney in our Commercial Group.

Langdon is a Maine native who grew up in Portland. He attended Bard College in New York State, where he majored in philosophy with a focus on the philosophy of language. After getting his undergraduate degree, Langdon worked for a non-profit in Lewiston where he helped high school students navigate the college application process.

Langdon attended the University Of Maine School Of Law where he graduated *magna cum laude*. During law school he interned at the Federal Defenders Office for the District of Maine and worked at the Cumberland Legal Aid clinic as student attorney where he represented juveniles. Langdon also helped asylum seekers through Maine Law's Immigration Clinic and he traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border as part of Jones Day's Laredo Project where he worked with Jones Day attorneys representing asylum seekers at the border. During the end of his law school career, Langdon was selected to serve as a judicial intern with the Hon. Kermit V. Lipez on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

After law school, Langdon was chosen to serve as a law clerk to the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court by former Chief Justice Leigh Saufley. He clerked for the Court for one year before joining Norman Hanson & DeTroy where he is excited to be starting his legal career. Langdon lives in Portland with his dog Hector, and he enjoys hiking with his dog and skiing in the winter months.

Joe Mavodones Joins NHD

Norman, Hanson & DeTroy is proud to announce that Joe Mavodones has joined the firm's Professional Liability Group focusing on professional malpractice defense, general liability defense, and commercial litigation.

Before joining Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, Joe worked as a judicial law clerk for Justice Thomas E. Humphrey at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and, most recently, for Magistrate Judge John C. Nivison at the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine.

Joe graduated from the University of Maine School of Law, where he served as Articles Editor on the Maine Law Review. During law school, he interned with the Maine District Court in Portland and with Justice Donald G. Alexander at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Prior to attending law school, Joe worked for a ferry company that services the islands off the coast of Portland, during which time he obtained his 100-ton captain's license.

Joe and his wife, Emily, live in Cape Elizabeth with their three kids and enjoy exploring the coast of Maine.

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Matthew Mehalic admitted to the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts

Matthew Mehalic was admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Matthew focuses his practice on insurance coverage and defense matters, but also handles general litigation matters, including, but not limited to, construction litigation, product liability, and personal injury. Matthew is willing to assist all of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy's clients with matters pending in Massachusetts state and federal courts.

Bob Bower Named Best Lawyers' 2022 Lawyer of the Year in Workers' Compensation

Norman, Hanson & DeTroy is proud to announce that *Best Lawyers* recognized Bob Bower as its 2022 *Lawyer of the Year* in the practice area of workers' compensation law. Bob has also been highlighted in the 28th Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his high caliber work in the practice area of labor law.

Wuesthoff Elected as Member of the Firm

Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC is pleased to announce the election of Noah Wuesthoff as a Member of the firm.

Noah is a 1991 graduate of McGill University and graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 1994. Noah worked at a local law firm before joining Norman, Hanson & DeTroy.

Noah is a vital part of the firm's Healthcare and Professional Practice Defense Group where his practice focuses on identifying, vetting, and recruiting highly qualified medical expert witnesses and drafting science-backed trial briefs and motions for medical malpractice trial preparation.

Noah's longstanding relationships with nationally prominent medical experts and researchers enhances the firm's practice and provides clients with a competitive advantage in medical malpractice litigation. Noah is admitted to practice law in the Maine state and federal courts.

In his time away from work, Noah enjoys the Maine woods and spending time with his two children, who both attend the University of Virginia.

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Grant Henderson Elected as a Member of the Firm

Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC is pleased to announce the election of Grant Henderson as a Member of the firm.

Grant is a 2007 graduate of Boston University and graduated *cum laude* from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2013. While at Temple Law, Grant was a Staff Editor of the Temple Law Review.

Following graduation, Grant joined a boutique Philadelphia law firm specializing in insurance defense and affirmative civil RICO actions. He later transitioned to a large law firm in New Jersey, where he practiced workers' compensation defense and commercial litigation for three years. After years of visiting his wife's family in Maine, Grant could no longer resist the urge and moved to Portland in the spring of 2017.

Since joining Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, Grant has concentrated his practice on defending clients in workers' compensation matters, and government relations issues. He has been recognized by *Super Lawyers* a a "Rising Star" since 2018 and was named a *Best Lawyers*' "Ones to Watch" in 2021.

Grant lives in Falmouth with his wife and their young son, and enjoys outdoor activities with his family.

John Bonneau Awarded Maine State Bar Association Life Member Award

Norman, Hanson & DeTroy is pleased to announce that John V. Bonneau was recognized last month by the Maine State Bar Association and presented with the Life Member Award. The Maine State Bar Association's Life Member Award expresses its appreciation to Attorney Bonneau whose 50 years of faithful and meritorious service to the Bar have contributed substantially to the honor and dignity of the legal profession.

John is a Lewiston native who attended Bowdoin College and Villanova Law School. Immediately after law school John developed his corporate and business law and estate planning skills with a large and well regarded law firm in Philadelphia. John returned to practice in his hometown in Lewiston in 1976 and practiced there until his retirement in 2019. John's intelligence, keen personal instincts and curiosity were emblems of the professional service he provided to his clients. Norman, Hanson & DeTroy is proud of John and pleased by this recognition from the Maine State Bar Association.

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David Goldman Wins Major Land Use Case

The Law Court upended practitioners' expectations regarding how local municipal land use officials are expected to act in the face of a property rights dispute between neighbors in its decision in *Tomasino v. Town of Casco* that a recent Maine Bar Journal article referred to as "arguably the most significant land use decision of 2020."

This decision arose out of the Tomasinos' application for a permit to cut down trees whose trunks straddled both sides of the boundary line separating an area encumbered by the Tomasinos' easement rights that burdened our client's land while the remainder of land was unencumbered by any easement rights. Although the Tomasinos' deed gave them easement rights, it failed in any way to specify the scope of those rights.

Prior to the *Tomasino* decision, most lawyers' understanding was that local code enforcement officers should not weigh their assessment of applicants' property rights into their decision on whether to grant a permit. However, the Law Court adopted David Goldman's argument that the Tomasinos were required to seek clarity from a Superior Court judge as to whether they held a property right to cut our client's trees before seeking a land use permit to do so.

Although the full impact of the new land use application regime established by the *Tomasino* decision will not be known for some time, it has already forced many practitioners to rethink what they believed they knew about the standards applicable to land use permit applications. Going forward, parties involved in land use permit disputes that implicate questions regarding a party's property rights would be wise to closely study the Law Court's reasoning in *Tomasino* as that decision represents a potential sea change in how disputes of this kind are to be resolved.

For more information regarding the decision in *Tomasino v. Town of Casco* and other land use issues, please contact David Goldman at (207) 553-4609 or DGoldman@nhdlaw.com.

> *David Goldman has a wide ranging litigation practice, representing clients involved in a broad variety of complex civil litigation, including real estate and business disputes, as well as administrative appeals of municipal and state agency decisions. David also has a particular focus on appellate practice, with significant experience representing clients before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and before Federal Courts of Appeal.*

Stay Up-To-Date with Emerging Legal Issues

The coronavirus pandemic may have changed how we do business, but it is has not reduced the need for up-to-date information on legal trends and decisions issued by the state and federal courts. To provide clients with fast and concise information on a variety of legal topics, Norman, Hanson & DeTroy is rolling out *Maine Law Reports* for our clients.

To subscribe to *Maine Law Report*, please click here. You will be directed to the subscription page, and you can select Law Reports on the following subjects:

- Medical and Professional Liability Law
- General Liability and Insurance Law
- Commercial Law

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- Workers Compensation Law
- Legislative Developments.

You will also receive analyses of a variety of legal issues in each of these subjects. Thank you.

John McGough Joins NHD as a Non-Attorney Labor & Employment Consultant

Norman Hanson & DeTroy LLC is pleased to announce that John G. McGough has joined the firm as the newest member of the Labor & Employment Law Practice Group as a non-attorney Labor & Employment Consultant. McGough served approximately 25 years in a variety of senior federal, state, and local public sector positions with responsibility for all aspects of management/human resources & labor relations. McGough's consulting practice is focused on all aspects of human resource policy-making and audits, employment investigations and workplace conflict resolution. McGough represents management in public sector collective bargaining, provides comprehensive recruitment & hiring services and is available to employers seeking an interim manager or human resource leader for their organization.

Prior to joining the firm, McGough served as New England Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services with responsibility for the six New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as the Region's 10 federally recognized Tribes. As the primary New England representative for former DHHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II, McGough led the Secretary's whole-of-government response to COVID-19 through collaboration with Governors, State Heath Officers, and locally elected officials. Secretary Azar additionally tasked McGough for a year to concurrently serve as Regional Director for the Southeast (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, & TN), a total of 14 states.

Prior to his appointment with DHHS, McGough served for 7 years as Chief of Staff to former Maine Governor Paul R. LePage. Before serving the Governor, McGough held local government leadership positions including Director of Human Resources for the City of South Portland and Assistant City Administrator/Human Resources Officer for the City of Waterville. McGough is also a former Chief of Staff for the House Minority Leader in the Maine House of Representatives. He earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Maine system and resides in Brunswick.

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