

## Race no reason to yank a judge

“First thing we do, let’s kill all the lawyers.” Lawyers like to wear William Shakespeare’s famous line as a badge of honor. They claim the Bard was praising them for defending the rule of law in the face of anarchy.

They’re wrong. It was simply a n early lawyer joke. Even in the 16th century, lawyers weren’t well-liked. And since I followed Sun Tzu’s advice to “know thy enemy” and earned a JD, let me say: I get it. Lawyers can be insufferable, present company included.

But like coyotes and carrion birds, lawyers serve an important role. The ideal of zealous representation was woven into the very fabric of our nation. John Adams defended



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CARLO ALLEGRI | REUTERS

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event at the Trump National Golf Club Westchester in Briarcliff Manor, New York, on Tuesday.

the British redcoats who committed the Boston Massacre, and Abraham Lincoln represented slave owners. Their countrymen did not punish them for taking unpopular stands. Adams was soon elected to office in Massachusetts. Lincoln grew a successful law practice en route to national prominence. Famously, they went on to serve as a leader of the revolution and the “great emancipator,” respectively.

While Shakespeare’s line may have been a wisecrack, Adams and the other founders did believe practitioners of law were a bulwark against anarchy and mob rule. Creating an independent judiciary — wise individuals with the imprimatur of the two political branches — was intended to protect the Constitution against whims and ambition. A court’s power is derived solely from its legitimacy; without it, judges have no means to enforce their decisions. If legitimacy is lost, the delicate “checks and balances” of our government fail and the repercussions to the republic are severe.

That is why it has become de rigueur to call Donald Trump out for his attacks on Judge Gonzalo Curiel. Maybe there are valid grounds to ask for his recusal, but “being Mexican” is not one of them. And if judges are called illegitimate by political leaders, why should they carry any weight with the people?

The law is supposed to be blind; See *Cianchette*, Page D3



COURTESY OF CHIRSSY GREENLAW

Joey Newell delivers his salutatory address at Shead High School in Eastport in June 2015.

# Facing the elephants in the classroom

BY BENJAMIN BRIGHAM  
SPECIAL TO THE BDN

Around this time of year 15 years ago, one of my former students lost his mother. Around this time of year one year ago, another of my former students delivered the most inspirational salutatory address I have ever witnessed. These two young men, Mike Moore and Joey Newell, are both successful college students now.

The stories of how they overcame tremendous adversity to find academic and personal success give us insight into and hope for building an educational system that meets the needs of all Maine students.

With this hope in mind and a great love and respect for these two young men, I hope the words that follow honor their stories and give you a

## Two students of mine overcame great adversity. Here’s what they can teach us all.

better understanding of the challenges facing Maine’s students and schools.

### Elephants

While Mike and Joey are unique young men, they share a lot of commonalities. Like many young men, they both enjoy sports and video games. They both graduated from Shead High School in Eastport. They also both have Passamaquoddy heritage and spent part of their lives living on the reservation in Pleasant Point (Sipayik). Most important for the sake of this story, they both know a lot about the elephants in our community and our classrooms.

You see, in a survey of the

2015 state Teachers of the Year, these teachers named “family stress, followed by poverty, and learning and psychological problems” as “the greatest barriers to school success for K-12 students.”

As Jennifer Dorman, the 2015 Maine Teacher of the Year explained, “those three factors in many ways are the white elephant in the living room for us in education. As teachers, we know those factors present huge barriers to our students’ success. ... But on a national level, those problems are not being recognized as the primary obstacles.”

Like many students throughout the state of Maine, our students at Shead High School live with the elephants of family stress, poverty and psychological or learning problems daily. The percentage of students receiving free and reduced-price lunch is often used as a way to gauge the number of economically disadvantaged students in a school. At Shead High School, 60 percent of our students receive free or reduced-price lunch.

In Washington County, 26.2 percent of children

and 19.5 percent of all individuals live in poverty; the unemployment rate in 2014 was 8.4 percent, compared to the statewide rate of 5.7 percent.

As if those figures were not daunting enough on the county level, Perry, one of the towns Shead High School serves, recently was identified as the poorest town in Maine, with 35.1 percent of its residents living in poverty. While the connection between poverty and low levels of academic achievement are well-established, the stories of how students are able to overcome family stress, poverty and psychological or learning problems to achieve academic and personal success often are not told.

Mike and Joey’s stories give us insight into just what it takes for students who face these elephants in our classroom to achieve.

### Mike’s story

Mike can tell you about family stress. Mike lost his mother suddenly and unexpectedly on May 18, 2001. While his father, Doug Moore, did his best to provide for and support Mike after his mother’s passing, the

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COURTESY OF CHIRSSY GREENLAW  
Mike Moore with his father, Doug Moore.

# Antiquities Act a powerful tool best used with caution

BY JOHN FREEMUTH  
THE CONVERSATION

As Americans anticipate summer vacation, many are planning trips to our nation’s iconic national parks, such as the Grand Canyon, Zion, Acadia and Olympic. But they may not realize that these and other parks exist because presidents used their power under the Antiquities Act, enacted June 8, 1906, to protect those places from exploitation and development.

The Antiquities Act has saved many special places, but at times its use has angered nearby communities. Some critics argue that presidents have used the act to restrict natural resource development. Others simply do not like the fact that the president has such power — even though Congress gave it to presidents by passing the law.

As a seasonal park ranger at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the 1970s, I hiked through areas that were first protected

under the Antiquities Act. They include Zion and Capitol Reef national parks, Natural Bridges National Monument and the area that would become the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Much of the scenic red rock Colorado Plateau region, which covers 140,000 square miles in the Four Corners region of the Southwest, has been protected from development under the Antiquities Act.

While the Antiquities Act has played a crucial role in the growth of our National Park System, it has become a flashpoint for disputes from Alaska to Maine over protection and use of public lands. For that reason, it works best when it is not used arbitrarily or too often and when the public understands and supports its use.

### Looting and vandalism

The Antiquities Act was passed to conserve the stunning archaeological treasures of the American Southwest. As settlers, prospec-



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tors, ranchers and explorers pushed into the region in the late 1800s, they discovered unique and spectacular sites left by Anasazi

— ancestral Pueblo people who lived in the area from about 700 to 1600 A.D. Examples included dwellings such as the Cliff Palace

and Spruce Tree House — what eventually would become Mesa Verde National Park.

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Jordan Pond in Acadia National Park in May. The mountains in the background are (from left) Penobscot Mountain, The Bubbles and Pemetic Mountain.