



## Rachel White Sears

### Attorney

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## Bio

Rachel Sears represents public school districts in a wide range of complex and rapidly-developing legal issues with an emphasis on special education and disability law. Rachel has substantial experience in matters arising under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as well as accompanying state and federal regulations.

Rachel is an experienced litigator who appears in special education due process proceedings and in appeals before the U.S. District Court and the First Circuit Court of Appeals. She also works diligently to help her clients resolve disputes in order to avoid litigation.

Rachel grew up in Maine, is the granddaughter of public school educators, and enjoys spending time outdoors with family and friends, especially boating, gardening, skiing, and running. Rachel serves on the Public Policy Committee of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, is a member of the Board for the University of Maine School of Law Foundation, and serves on the Board of the Foundation for Portland Public Schools.

## Education

University of Maine School of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*

Stanford University, M.A.

Stanford University, B.A.

## Judicial Clerkships

## Practice Areas

School & Education  
Disability Law  
Special Education

## Admissions

Maine  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
First Circuit  
U.S. District Court for the  
District of Maine

Hon. John A. Woodcock, Jr., U.S. District Court for the District of  
Maine

## **Recognition**

Best Lawyers USA, “Ones to Watch,” Education Law, 2026

Maine State Bar Association Leadership Academy, 2016-2017

Osher Scholar, University of Maine School of Law

Faculty Significant Achievement Award, University of Maine School of  
Law

Outstanding Graduate Paper, Department of Anthropological Sciences,  
Stanford University

## **Publications**

Rachel White & Stephanie Showalter Otts, *Preventing the Spread of  
Zebra and Quagga Mussels: The Role of the Lacey Act*, 3 ARIZ. J. L. &  
ENVTL. POL’Y 85 (Spring 2013).

Cecilia Engler-Palma, David L. VanderZwaag, Richard Apostle, Martin  
Castonguay, Julian J. Dodson, Emma Feltes, Charles Norchi & Rachel  
White, *Sustaining American Eels: A Slippery Species for Science and  
Governance*, 16 J.INT’L WILDLIFE LAW & POL. 128 (2013).

## **Memberships**

Maine State Bar Association

Cumberland Bar Association

## **Community/Public Service**

Maine Coast Heritage Trust, *Public Policy Committee*

Cumberland Bar Association, *Board of Directors*

University of Maine School of Law Foundation, *Board of Directors*