

## **Vermont Law School Alumni Trustee Self Nomination**

**Name:** J. Patrick Kennedy

**Year/VLS Grad Degree:** Juris Doctor, *summa cum laude*, 1993

### **5-Year Vision for VLS**

- Continue to focus on VLS' core strengths and innovative programs: environmental law programs; restorative justice; agriculture and food courses; energy program; and core J.D. curriculum;
- Promptly complete strategic plan initiative to evaluate Burlington option – announce decision and properly communicate decision and reasons to alumni/ae;
- Focus on improving VLS' communication and outreach plan to engage alumni/ae, including greater participation in Annual Fund giving and development; and
- Establish and set annual goals for VLS administration to meet regarding revenue enhancement, rankings improvement, and student success (bar passage rate; employment statistics).

### **Skills to Accomplish 5-year Vision for VLS**

- Proven leadership skills chairing meetings, directing committee work, and setting/meeting annual goals for VLSAA Board and Town of Cohasset Conservation Commission;
- 25-plus-year track record of devoted alumni/ae service to VLS, including at Leaders' Circle Annual Fund giving level for 10-plus years; and
- Strong advocacy skills as a 27-plus year litigation attorney in private practice, handling groundbreaking cases and appeals for banks and financial institutions in four New England states (MA, NH, VT and CT).

### **List of Alumni Service**

- President, Vermont Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors, 2020-present
- Vice President, VLSAA Board, 2019-2020
- Member, VLSAA Board, 2016-present
- Boston VLSAA Board Member, 2005-present
- Boston VLSAA President, 2013-2015
- VLS Annual Fund Leaders' Circle, 2016-present; 2005-2010
- VLS Class of '93 Reunion Committee, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 & 2018
- Career Services Panelist and Mentor to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students over many years of alumni service

### **VLS Student Activities**

- Dean's Fellow/Legal Writing Teaching Assistant, 1992-1993
- Member and Editor, *Vermont Law Review*, 1991-1993
- Member, Environmental Law Society, 1990-1993
- Research Assistant to Professor Stephen Dycus, *National Defense and the Environment*, published 1996
- Mentor to incoming students, 1991-1993
- Vermont Law School Scholar, 1991-1993

### **Relevant Professional and Community Activities**

- Associate Member, Town of Cohasset Conservation Commission, 2012-2013
- Member, Town of Cohasset Conservation Commission, 2013-2019
- Vice Chair, Town of Cohasset Conservation Commission, 2013-2015
- Chair, Town of Cohasset Conservation Commission, 2015-2017
- Member/Vice Chair, Town of Cohasset Master Plan Committee, 2017-2019
- Attorney in Private Litigation Practice, Boston MA, 1998-present
  - Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Senior Counsel, 2016-present
  - Bulkley Richardson & Gelinas LLP, Partner, 2007-2015
  - Bulkley Richardson & Gelinas LLP, Counsel, 2003-2007
  - Sally & Fitch, Litigation Counsel, 2002-2003
  - Testa Hurwitz & Thibeault, Associate, 1998-2002
- Attorney in Private Litigation Practice, Washington, DC, 1994-1998
  - Steptoe & Johnson, Associate, 1994-1998
- Law Clerk, Hon. Robert E. Cowen, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, 1993-1994

### **Resources & Ability to Meet Board of Trustees Obligations**

- In my community volunteer service and in my professional capacity, I have been engaged and hard-working. I am a critical thinker with a skill for problem solving. I have a particular passion for Vermont Law School and the unique legal education it offers. I will do everything I can to help it thrive, and provide the same foundation for a successful law career to incoming students that it provided for me in the early 1990s.
- My wife Diane is an advancement professional who has been both a volunteer and staff fundraiser for her alma mater; we understand the resource needs and challenges for educational institutions, and I have made VLS a philanthropic priority.