

CARLISLE TUGGEY MCLEAN

MOVING FORWARD GIVING BACK

GMVS CLASS OF 1996

~ By Kim Reynolds

Carlisle Tuggey McLean '96 dares anyone to provide her with a more challenging job than the one she currently holds. As General Counsel to Maine's Governor Paul LePage, she advises the Governor in legal matters and acts as liaison between the Governor, twelve state agencies, and the State Attorney General's Office on dozens of ongoing administrative and legal cases. She also serves as the Governor's Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor, guiding the Governor on policy positions involving Maine's natural resources.

Of the job she says, "It's an opportunity to help improve the state of Maine and to also test my own skills and boundaries. I attribute (or blame – whichever is more fitting) my perpetual push to be challenged in large part to the experiences I had as a teenager at GMVS," she said.

In her day-to-day capacity, Tuggey McLean operates much like an in-house counsel at a company (the state employs about 10,000 people), advising the Executive branch on pending lawsuits and proactively pursuing litigation to enforce state laws. As Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor, she works on policy matters involving marine resources, agriculture, forestry, state parks, state public lands, conservation, inland fish and wildlife, and on legislation.

Tuggey McLean has an impressive resume leading up to her current role in state politics. After leaving GMVS, she attended Bates College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2000. She then went on to pursue a Juris Doctor/Master of Environmental Management from Pace University School of Law dovetailing her studies with a Master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, graduating from both in 2005.

During graduate school, she targeted places and opportunities during the summer months that would later enhance her career, something she encourages all graduate students to do. "It provides perspective beyond academia and gives you a glimpse into what you're working toward," she said. During those summer months, she worked in the Freehills Law Firm, Australia's largest law firm, in Sydney, assisting on major infrastructure projects, public private partnerships, and the purchase and sale of large corporations. At the New York State Attorney General's office in New York City, she worked on litigation in both state and federal court; at the Trustees for Alaska, a non-profit environmental law firm in Anchorage, Alaska, she assisted staff attorneys in advocacy on behalf of the environment.

"I have pulled on all three of those experiences as I have transitioned in my professional life," she said.

After graduate school, she went on to work at one of Maine's four largest law firms, Preti Flaherty, where she specialized in land use, permitting, and compliance matters for both large and small clients prior to taking on her present role as General Counsel to Governor LePage.

GETTING OUTSIDE AND GIVING BACK

Along the route to her impressive career, Tuggey McLean has found time to ski, sail, and pursue the outdoors. She married a third generation Mainer who had never skied. She had never sailed; but they each taught the other their sport. Now Tuggey McLean sails in the Gulf of Maine Racing Association (GMORA); she is also a member of a J24 crew in Casco Bay, Maine. "We have been sailing together for five years. We are the only all-female crew in the fleet, and we won second place for the fleet last season."



“Being part of such a special and unique place endowed me with an understanding that the world has a tremendous amount to offer and you just have to think big and dive into opportunities as they arise.”

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She volunteers with SailMaine, a non-profit community based sailing program in Portland that aims to connect people of all ages, abilities, and income levels to sailing in Maine. In addition, a large part of her volunteer work has centered on the Maine Cancer Foundation, contributing to organizing the Annual Breast Cancer Awareness lunch as well as involvement with the Pink Tulip Project, which directly funds breast cancer research while connecting participants with gardening.

Her community involvement goes back to her days at Bates when she worked on the weekends at the Gould—Sunday River weekend program. Then, post graduate school she coached ski racing at a small local mountain in Maine working with young athletes (U14s) on the weekends. “I decided to coach kids in an effort to give back to the sport some of what I had learned, and particularly to encourage children of all abilities to push themselves to excel and do their very best.” she said.

Tuggey McLean has also run a marathon and two half marathons with her husband, something she finds particularly ironic. “I was never a fast runner,” while at GMVS. The two-mile (a physical test requisite that is no longer required) proved to be a real challenge, and took her several attempts to pass.

“As difficult and challenging as it was at the time, I believe those challenges contributed to my interest in staying fit and healthy as an adult, and I now very much enjoy running – something I could not have imagined from the hills of the Mad River Valley Circa 1994.”

