



## PATRICIA A. DEJUNEAS

Partner, Sibbison & DeJuneas, Boston  
University of Connecticut School of Law

**"I've got the luxury now of becoming a full-time student of the law again. I just really thoroughly enjoy doing the research, figuring out the right answer, writing a brief and arguing it."**

**M**entors have shaped Patricia A. DeJuneas' journey from paralegal-certificate candidate to appellate lawyer.

First, there was the adjunct professor in her paralegal program who insisted that DeJuneas — who had dropped out of college — should attend law school. The professor's support ranged from giving DeJuneas a job while she was in school to helping her land an internship clerking for a Connecticut appellate court judge.

"This one woman in particular was responsible for me going to law school and being a lawyer," DeJuneas says today.

After clerkships and a stint with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Atlanta as part of the U.S. Department of Justice honors program for new lawyers, DeJuneas found her way to the field of criminal defense. She worked for storied criminal defense lawyer Richard M. Egbert for eight years. His unexpected death in 2008 prompted DeJuneas to do some soul searching, and she turned to attorney Wendy H. Sibbison for advice on breaking into appellate law. After DeJuneas practiced on her own for a few years, the two joined to form Sibbison & DeJuneas.

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a full-time student of the law again. I just really thoroughly enjoy doing the research, figuring out the right answer, writing a brief and arguing it," DeJuneas says.

Although she's "most attracted" to the intellectual side of the law, DeJuneas isn't afraid to get into the trenches and fight for her fellow attorneys.

In 2015, with help from the Massachusetts Bar Association and Committee for Public Counsel Services, DeJuneas successfully challenged invasive searches at the Department of Correction that called for female attorneys to lift their tops and shake out their bras while

checking into prison to visit clients. DeJuneas says she's proud of the role she played in getting new regulations that forbid such searches.

"It doesn't just affect me but also scores of my colleagues who go visit clients in prison," she says.

This year, with CPCS and individual attorneys including Victoria Kelleher of Boston, DeJuneas worked to change the Department of Correction dress code, which had deemed various types of business clothing female attorneys wear to court, such as fitted pants, inappropriate.

— SHERI QUALTERS

## KARA M. DELTUFO

Associate General Counsel,  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston  
Boston College Law School

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**K**ara M. DelTufo was drawn to the law because she was "very focused on fairness" and viewed attorneys as heroic figures who represent people who otherwise might not have a voice.

While she was at Boston College Law School, DelTufo's determination to help domestic violence victims motivated her to participate in the domestic violence clinic at another school — Northeastern University School of Law.

She gravitated towards labor and employment because she believes workplace systems that guarantee

fairness, predictability and structure benefit everyone.

"Jobs and workplaces are so central to everyone's lives. They can really affect everyone's lives in such a dramatic way," DelTufo says.

After practicing at Hirsch, Roberts, Weinstein, DelTufo took an in-house role at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where she focuses on litigation and labor and employment law as an associate general counsel.

"I like to think I am helping the people who help the people. By providing support from a labor and employment perspective at Dana-Farber, our researchers and our care providers

are able to do their really important work," she says.

DelTufo served as president of the Women's Bar Association for the 2014-2015 term. During her tenure, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2014 ruling in *McCullen v. Coakley* struck down a state law which required protesters and "pro-life counselors" to remain 35 feet away from Massachusetts abortion clinics.

Before the decision, "we had no reason to believe any sort of reproductive rights were at risk in Massachusetts," DelTufo says.

In the wake of the ruling, she testified in support of a new state law

before the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Judiciary, emphasizing that women need safe access to health care and shouldn't be impeded or forced to listen to messages they do not wish to hear.

An Act to Promote Public Safety and Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities took effect in 2014. The legislation gives law enforcement more authority to maintain safety and bars certain conduct outside reproductive health centers.

— SHERI QUALTERS

