

## Hannah Norton Coon Bio

Hannah graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Conservation Studies from the University of New Hampshire in 2012. After 3 years of traveling, volunteering, and taking stock of a variety of environmental challenges in Europe, Latin America, and the United States, Hannah settled permanently back in the U.S. to obtain a master's degree from Vermont Law School in Environmental Law and Policy with a focus on mediation, negotiation and solutions to finding common ground between people and their environment. While at Vermont Law School Hannah worked in North Dakota assisting the Sioux Nation and volunteers at Standing Rock who were protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline construction. More recently, her work has focused on interactions within Maine's non-profit sector using her background in collaboration to foster partnerships between small businesses and community organizations driven to work efficiently with a goal of environmental and social stewardship.

Her best experience, she believes, comes from those around her, whose stories and plights she has heard and taken to heart with increasing realization that environmental issues are not isolated from other social, humanitarian and economic concerns. She believes in striving for a more just environmental, social and humanitarian world and attempts to help people understand the links between them and the environment. She takes to heart the admonition of a tribal elder in Standing Rock: "You can't drink oil." In her decision to work for the firm of John R. Coon, she cited the need to take an active role confronting significant environmental issues, using tools that go beyond the often narrow constructs of law and include galvanized community action, collaborative governance approaches, and precautionary land use planning and design.

As a paralegal with the John Coon firm, she has assisted in significant PFAS groundwater contamination cases in Michigan, New Hampshire, and elsewhere. She has assisted with development threats in Nantucket and Maine. She continues to strive for fairness and for the rights of clients to dignity, a prosperous existence, and a healthy environment.