

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Report Required by the Ethics
in Government Act of 1978
(5 U.S.C. app. §§ 101-111)

1. Person Reporting (last name, first, middle initial) Laplane, Joseph N.	2. Court or Organization US District Court, D NH	3. Date of Report 8/13/2020
4. Title (Article III judges indicate active or senior status; magistrate judges indicate full- or part-time) US District Judge, Active	5a. Report Type (check appropriate type) ☐ Nomination ☐ Date ☐ Initial ☒ Annual ☐ Final	6. Reporting Period 1/1/2019 to 12/31/2019
	5b. ☐ Amended Report	
7. Chambers or Office Address United States District Court 55 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301		
IMPORTANT NOTES: The instructions accompanying this form must be followed. Complete all parts, checking the NONE box for each part where you have no reportable information.		

I. POSITIONS. (Reporting individual only; see pp. 9-13 of filing instructions)

☐ NONE (No reportable positions.)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME OF ORGANIZATION/ENTITY</u>
1. Trustee, Vice Chair (Board of Trustees)	Rivier University (non-profit)
2. Governor (Board of Directors)	Georgetown University Alumni Association (non-profit)
3. Trustee (Board of Trustees)	Southern NH Health System (non-profit)
4.	
5.	

II. AGREEMENTS. (Reporting individual only; see pp. 14-16 of filing instructions)

☒ NONE (No reportable agreements.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PARTIES AND TERMS</u>
1.	
2.	
3.	

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Page 2 of 7

Name of Person Reporting

Laplante, Joseph N.

Date of Report

8/13/2020

III. NON-INVESTMENT INCOME. *(Reporting individual and spouse; see pp. 17-24 of filing instructions)***A. Filer's Non-Investment Income**☐NONE *(No reportable non-investment income.)*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE AND TYPE</u>	<u>INCOME</u> (yours, not spouse's)
1. 2019	Georgetown Law - teaching	\$15,000.00
2. 2019	University of NH School of Law - teaching	\$3,500.00
3.		
4.		

B. Spouse's Non-Investment Income - *If you were married during any portion of the reporting year, complete this section.**(Dollar amount not required except for honoraria.)*☐NONE *(No reportable non-investment income.)*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE AND TYPE</u>
1. 2019	St. Christopher School (Development Office, parochial school)
2.	
3.	
4.	

IV. REIMBURSEMENTS -- *transportation, lodging, food, entertainment.**(Includes those to spouse and dependent children; see pp. 25-27 of filing instructions.)*☐NONE *(No reportable reimbursements.)*

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>ITEMS PAID OR PROVIDED</u>
1.				
2. Federal Judicial Association	4/15/19 - 4/16/19	Dallas, TX	Federal Judges Association Annual Meeting	Travel, meals, hotel
3. American Law Institute	5/19/19 - 5/24/19	Washington, DC	American Law Institute	Travel, meals, hotel
4. Georgetown University Law	9/20/19 - 9/21/19	Washington, DC	Judicial Interpretation Institute	Transportation, meals, hotel
5. New York University School of Law	9/26/10 - 9/27/19	New York, NY	Civil Jury Project	Transportation, meals, hotel

Name of Person Reporting	Date of Report
Laplane, Joseph N.	8/13/2020

V. GIFTS. (Includes those to spouse and dependent children; see pp. 28-31 of filing instructions.)

☒ NONE (No reportable gifts.)

SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

VI. LIABILITIES. (Includes those of spouse and dependent children; see pp. 32-33 of filing instructions.)

☒ NONE (No reportable liabilities.)

CREDITOR	DESCRIPTION	VALUE CODE
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Page 4 of 7

Name of Person Reporting

Laplante, Joseph N.

Date of Report

8/13/2020

VII. INVESTMENTS and TRUSTS -- income, value, transactions (Includes those of spouse and dependent children; see pp. 34-60 of filing instructions.)

☐ NONE (No reportable income, assets, or transactions.)

A Description of Assets (including trust assets) Place "(X)" after each asset exempt from prior disclosure	B Income during reporting period		C Gross value at end of reporting period		D Transactions during reporting period				
	(1) Amount Code 1 (A-H)	(2) Type (e g , div , rent, or int)	(1) Value Code 2 (J-P)	(2) Value Method Code 3 (Q-W)	(1) Type (e g , buy, sell, redemption)	(2) Date mm/dd/yy	(3) Value Code 2 (J-P)	(4) Gain Code 1 (A-H)	(5) Identity of buyer/seller (if private transaction)
1. Santander Bank	A	Interest	K	T					
2. Lake Sunapee Bank	A	Interest			Closed	06/03/19	J	A	
3. Digital Federal Credit Union	A	Interest	J	T					
4. Northwestern Mutual Brokerage Account (formerly American Mutual Funds)									
5. --Europacific Grown Fund - A	A	Dividend	J	T					
6. --The Growth Fund of America Class A	C	Dividend	L	T	Sold (part)	04/22/19	K	B	
7. Northwestern Mutual Roth IRA									
8. --The Growth Fund of America Class A	A	Dividend	J	T					
9. Northwestern Mutual IRA									
10. --The Bond Fund of America Class A	A	Dividend	K	T					
11. --The Growth Fund of America - Class A	A	Dividend	L	T					
12. Northwestern Mutual Roth IRA									
13. --The Bond Fund of America Class A	A	Dividend	J	T					
14. --The Growth Fund of America Class A	A	Dividend	K	T					
15. Northwestern Mutual IRA									
16. --The Bond Fund of America Class A	A	Dividend	J	T					
17. --The Growth Fund of America Class A	A	Dividend	K	T					

1 Income Gain Codes: (See Columns B1 and D4)	A =\$1,000 or less F =\$50,001 - \$100,000	B =\$1,001 - \$2,500 G =\$100,001 - \$1,000,000	C =\$2,501 - \$5,000 H1 =\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	D =\$5,001 - \$15,000 H2 =More than \$5,000,000	E =\$15,001 - \$50,000
2 Value Codes (See Columns C1 and D3)	J =\$15,000 or less N =\$250,001 - \$500,000 P3 =\$25,000,001 - \$50,000,000	K =\$15,001 - \$50,000 O =\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	L =\$50,001 - \$100,000 P1 =\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 P4 =More than \$50,000,000	M =\$100,001 - \$250,000 P2 =\$5,000,001 - \$25,000,000	
3 Value Method Codes (See Column C2)	Q =Appraisal U =Book Value	R =Cost (Real Estate Only) V =Other	S =Assessment W =Estimated	T =Cash Market	

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Page 5 of 7

Name of Person Reporting

Laplante, Joseph N.

Date of Report

8/13/2020

VII. INVESTMENTS and TRUSTS -- income, value, transactions (Includes those of spouse and dependent children; see pp. 34-60 of filing instructions.)

☐ NONE (No reportable income, assets, or transactions.)

A Description of Assets (including trust assets) Place "(X)" after each asset exempt from prior disclosure	B Income during reporting period		C Gross value at end of reporting period		D Transactions during reporting period				
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Amount Code 1 (A-H)	Type (e g , div , rent, or int)	Value Code 2 (J-P)	Value Method Code 3 (Q-W)	Type (e g , buy, sell, redemption)	Date mm/dd/yy	Value Code 2 (J-P)	Gain Code 1 (A-H)	Identity of buyer/seller (if private transaction)
18. Investments									
19. --Carta Molinari LLC	A				Donated	01/01/19			
20. Coverdell ESA's (Northwestern Mutual Education Savings)									
21. --U.S. Government Securities Class A	A	Dividend			Sold (part)	01/22/19	J	A	
22. --The Growth Fund of America Class A)	C	Dividend	L	T					
23. 529 Plans									
24. --American Balanced Fund Class A	D	Dividend	K	T					
25. --The Growth Fund of America Class A)	D	Dividend	M	T					
26. --American Funds U.S. Government Money Market Fd Class A	A	Dividend			Sold (part)	08/19/19	K	A	
27. --American Funds U.S. Government Money Market Fd Class A	A	Dividend			Sold (part)	08/19/19	K	A	
28. --U.S. Government Securities Class A	A	Dividend			Sold (part)	01/22/19	J	A	
29. --American Funds U.S. Government Money Market Class A	C	Dividend	M	T					

1 Income Gain Codes: (See Columns B1 and D4)	A =\$1,000 or less F =\$50,001 - \$100,000	B =\$1,001 - \$2,500 G =\$100,001 - \$1,000,000	C =\$2,501 - \$5,000 H1 =\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	D =\$5,001 - \$15,000 H2 =More than \$5,000,000	E =\$15,001 - \$50,000
2 Value Codes (See Columns C1 and D3)	J =\$15,000 or less N =\$250,001 - \$500,000 P3 =\$250,000,001 - \$50,000,000	K =\$15,001 - \$50,000 O =\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	L =\$50,001 - \$100,000 P1 =\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 P4 =More than \$50,000,000	M =\$100,001 - \$250,000 P2 =\$5,000,001 - \$25,000,000	
3 Value Method Codes (See Column C2)	Q =Appraisal U =Book Value	R =Cost (Real Estate Only) V =Other	S =Assessment W =Estimated	T =Cash Market	

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Page 6 of 7

Name of Person Reporting	Date of Report
Laplane, Joseph N.	8/13/2020

VIII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR EXPLANATIONS. *(Indicate part of report.)*

The lack of clarity with respect to lines 30, 31, 32 and 34 in Part VII (referring to funds not named in the 2017 Disclosure) in Part VII is attributable to (a) liquidations of and (b) fund changes made in education savings accounts. I have used those mutual fund-based accounts to save money for, and only for education purposes. I maintain six college education accounts, three "529" accounts and three "Coverdale ESA" education savings accounts. All of these college savings accounts were constituted by various mutual funds from the "American Funds" family of mutual funds.

In recent years, with dependents attending and graduating from a private Catholic high school and all three moving on to post-secondary education, I have sold shares of those accounts to pay for college tuition at Georgetown University and Bishop Guertin High School. There have been occasions when I have liquidated certain funds to pay tuition, and other times to simply re-allocate the education savings to higher or lower risk funds for later-arising obligations, such as potential graduate school. This created the impression of multiple mutual fund transactions or liquidations where, in reality, I was merely selling funds to pay tuition and related college costs, or just changing funds within the American Funds family of funds for my education savings accounts.

The appearance (but not the reality) of further complicated transactions was created when I occasionally utilized funds in an education account maintained under one dependent's name to pay the tuition for a different dependent. My funds manager also believed it was necessary to effectuate those transfers through my American Funds money market account, which appeared to add yet another layer to these transactions. This is permissible under the rules and regulations governing these accounts.

Unfortunately, I believe all of this activity - all involving saving for and paying for post-secondary educations - unnecessarily created confusion for me and for my accountant as we prepared by 2018 Financial Disclosure Statement. (Similar confusion had been created in prior years.) My accountant and I worked together to try to address the confusing tangle of transactions, but we had some difficulty following the chain based on the documents provided by my account managers. We also consulted with my financial planner who employs the account managers, but it appears that our efforts did not result in a sufficiently clear Part VII of my Disclosure.

What I can certify, without any question in my mind, is that ever dollar liquidated for any of these 529 or Coverdale accounts was utilized lawfully to pay educational tuition and authorized related expenses, or simply transferred to a different American Funds 529 or Coverdell fund within my existing education saving structure for future use in the same way.

List of transactions:

04/22/2019 Sold \$13,000.00 of Growth Fund of America (AGTHX)

08/09/2019 Exchanged \$34,209.93 from US Government Securities Fund (CGTAX) to American Funds US Government Money Market Fund (AAFXX)

08/09/2019 Exchanged \$142,473.34 from American Growth Fund (CGFAX) to American Funds US Government Money Market Fund (AAFXX)

08/15/2019 transferred \$15,000.00 from US Government Money Market (AAFXX) from one 529 to another 529 account

11/01/2019 transferred \$2,500.00 from US Government Money Market (AAFXX) from one 529 account to another 529 account

08/15/2019 transferred \$15,000.00 from US Government Money Market (AAFXX) from one 529 account another 529 account

11/01/2019 transferred \$2,500.00 from US Government Money Market (AAFXX) from one 529 account another 529 account

01/03/2019 Sold \$6,026.00 of American Funds US Government Money Market (AAFXX) and disbursed out of account to Georgetown University

08/19/2019 Sold \$29,412.00 of American Funds US Government Money Market (AAFXX) and disbursed out of account to Georgetown University

11/06/2019 Sold \$2,500.00 of American Funds US Government Money Market (AAFXX) and disbursed out of account to Joseph Laplane directly for college related expenses

01/22/2019 Sold \$7,262.50 of American Funds US Government Money Market Fund (AFAXX) and disbursed directly to Bishop Guertin High School

Trades placed in 2018 within one 529 account were put into a money market, which supplemented another 529 account having been depleted from college related expenses. Transfers occurred from one 529 account to another 529 account which are both under the same ownership of Joseph Laplane, and then distributed out for college expenses throughout 2019. Additionally, on 12/30/2019 - one 529 account, had a trade occur to free up cash for the same purpose of funding college tuition into 2020, to not concentrate all distributions from one 529 account.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Page 7 of 7

Name of Person Reporting

Laplane, Joseph N.

Date of Report

8/13/2020

IX. CERTIFICATION.

I certify that all information given above (including information pertaining to my spouse and minor or dependent children, if any) is accurate, true, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that any information not reported was withheld because it met applicable statutory provisions permitting non-disclosure.

I further certify that earned income from outside employment and honoraria and the acceptance of gifts which have been reported are in compliance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. app. § 501 et. seq., 5 U.S.C. § 7353, and Judicial Conference regulations.

Signature: s/ **Joseph N. Laplane**

NOTE: ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY FALSIFIES OR FAILS TO FILE THIS REPORT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL AND CRIMINAL SANCTIONS (5 U.S.C. app. § 104)

Committee on Financial Disclosure
Administrative Office of the United States Courts
Suite 2-301
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20544