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Don Kopp, a graduate of Amherst College and Columbia University Law School, began his legal career in 1968 at a Wall Street firm. From there he served in the U.S. Coast Guard as a legal officer. Stationed on Governor's Island in New York City, he handled court martials, maritime investigations, and administrative proceedings, providing legal assistant to military and civilian personnel.

Don practiced law in Maine beginning in 1972 representing employers, schools and businesses. His legal practice concentrated on school law, employment law and labor law. He taught the Maine School Law course at the University of Southern Maine for several years, and with Harry Pringle, taught Drummond Woodsum's Maine School Law Institute, is the editor of Significant Cases in Maine School Law, Second Edition, is a contributing author of Maine School Law, Third Edition, and lectured frequently on legal topics state-wide.

Don's civic involvement included being a director and chair of the Maine Education Assistance Board and a director of the Finance Authority of Maine.