Maine State Bar ASSOCIATION
Celebrating 135 Years

BRIDGING THE GAP

Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport
December 3-4, 2026



Friday Option:

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES: INDIGENT DEFENSE IN MAINE

BRIDGING THE GAP: DECEMBER 3-4, 2026

The Maine State Bar Association's (MSBA) Bridging the Gap (BTG) seminar is designed to help attorneys navigate the early years of practice, with a focus on lawyers who have recently passed the Maine Bar. This two-day program offers practical guidance, valuable resources, and opportunities to connect with experienced attorneys and organizations throughout Maine's legal community.

The program will offer:

- Opportunities for networking and informal discussions with experienced attorneys, program presenters, and legal organizations throughout Maine.
- Practical tips, best practices, and guidance on navigating the early years of law practice.
- A practical alternative program on Friday presented by the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services, which will cover a variety of topics related to public defense in Maine.

BRIDGING THE GAP • DAY ONE • WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3, 2026
CLE CREDITS: UP TO 5.0 CLE CREDITS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN ETHICS

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 – 9:45 a.m. | PLENARY

#01 Practice Development, Client Advocacy Resources & Volunteer Opportunities

Each organization represented will provide attorneys with information about the goals and mission of their respective organizations. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions following the remarks.

Maine State Bar Association:
Angela P. Armstrong | Executive Director
James B. Haddow, Esq. | President-Elect
Erica Veazey, Esq. | MSBA CLE Committee
Grayson P. Szczepaniak, Esq. | New Lawyers Section

Christiana Mann, Esq. | Maine Trial Lawyers Assoc. (MTLA)

Shannon Karam, Esq. | Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA)

James L. Costello, Esq. | Maine Campaign for Justice
Eben M. Albert, Esq. | Maine Campaign for Justice

Tina H. Nadeau, Esq. | Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL)

Amanda J. LaBelle, Esq. | Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP)

TBD | Kids First

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Overview of Practice in Maine: Opportunities & Challenges

Which practice area and environment will best fit your career goals? Join experienced attorneys from a variety of practice settings for practical tips and guidance on building your legal career. Q&A session is included.

#02 Litigation Practice
Travis M. Brennan, Esq., Berman & Simmons PA
Meredith C. Eilers, Esq., Olafsen & Eilers, LLC

#03 Public Service Practice
Hunter C. Umphrey, Esq., Office of the Attorney General

#04 A New Attorney's Guide to the First Couple of Years of Law Practice
Daniel J. Rose, Esq., Drummond Woodsum

Panelists want to address your questions during these sessions. Submit your questions by emailing CLE at cle@mainebar.org **no later than Nov. 24, 2026.**

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. | PLENARY

#05 Maine Assistance Program: Prevention, Intervention & Ethics (ethics)
Christina R. Blake, Esq., Executive Director

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch

12:45 – 1:45 p.m. | PLENARY

#06 Ethics in Action: Advice for New Attorneys & Attorneys New to Maine (ethics)
Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar:
Aria Eee, Esq., Executive Director
Mara R. King, Esq.
Chris P. Leddy, Esq., Kids First Center

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Break

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. | PLENARY

#07 A View from the Bench: Tips for Effective Practice
Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court
Bruce C. Mallonee, Justice of the Superior Court
Eric Walker, Deputy Chief Judge of the District Court

3:15 p.m.

Program Adjourns

BRIDGING THE GAP • DAY TWO • THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 2026
CLE CREDITS: UP TO 5.0 CLE CREDITS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN ETHICS AND H&D

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#08 Alternative Dispute Resolution
James M. Bowie, Esq., Norman Hanson & DeTroy
Robert C. Hatch, Esq., Norman Hanson & DeTroy

#09 Employment Law
James B. Haddow, Esq., Petruccelli Martin & Haddow LLP
Christine A. Johnson, Esq., Norman Hanson & DeTroy

9:30 A.M. – 9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#10 Ageism in Maine (H&D)
Jessica L. Maurer, Esq., Maine Council on Aging
Britton R. Garon, Esq., BRG Legal, LLC

#11 Family and Medical Leave Act
Catherine Buxton, Maine Equal Justice
Catie Reed, Maine Women's Lobby

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PLENARY

#12 Values at Work (ethics)
Sherry Mason, Daymark Career Coaching
Amy Wood, Psy.D.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#13 Family Law
Karen E. Boston, Esq., Lipman Katz and Boston
Ilse Teeters-Trumpy, Esq., Taylor McCormack & Frame LLC

#14 Immigration Law
Kellie MacDonald, Esq., Pierce Atwood LLP

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15 – 3:15 p.m. | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#15 Bankruptcy Law
Anthony J. Manhart, Esq., Perkins Thompson
Tanya Sambatakos, Esq., Molleur Law Office

#16 Real Estate Law
Tiffany M. Dembowski, Esq., Fidelity National Title Ins. Co.

3:15 p.m.

Program Adjourns

#17 - PUBLIC DEFENSE IN MAINE: PRESENTED BY THE MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES
THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 2026 • CLE CREDITS: 6.25

This training will cover a range of topics related to indigent defense, including criminal, child protection, juvenile, and mental health law, as well as appeals. Participants will receive an overview of the various stages of a case and gain insight into representing clients in these areas. The program will conclude with a panel discussion on opportunities and next steps, with time for participants to ask questions of experienced attorneys.

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Overview of Public Defense in Maine
Frayla A. Tarpinian, Esq., PDS Executive Director

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Introduction to Criminal Defense
Logan E. Perkins, Esq., District Defender, Perkins Law Office
Frayla A. Tarpinian, Esq., PDS Executive Director

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Introduction to Child Protective Defense
Molly K. Owens, Esq., Chief, Parents Counsel Division

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Introduction to Juvenile Defense
Professor Sarah E. Branch, Esq., Branch Law LLC

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Lunch: Pick up your lunch to take to the next session.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Introduction to Appeals
Maxwell G. Coolidge, Esq., District Defender, Downeast PD

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Introduction to Mental Health Cases
Meegan J. Burbank, Esq., Berry & Burbank

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Opportunities & Next Steps
Professor Sarah E. Branch, Esq., Branch Law LLC
Meegan J. Burbank, Esq., Berry & Burbank
Maxwell G. Coolidge, Esq., District Defender, Downeast PD
Molly K. Owens, Esq., Chief, Parents Counsel Division
Logan E. Perkins, Esq., District Defender, Perkins Law Office
Frayla A. Tarpinian, Esq., PDS Executive Director

3:45 p.m.

Program Adjourns

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION:

Register by mail, fax, phone, or email. Online registration is unavailable.

- Payment is required with registration.
- Registration is **limited to 100 participants per program**.
- Pre-registration will close when **capacity is reached** or on **Nov. 30**, whichever comes first.
- Registrations received after this deadline may not be processed before the program begins on **Dec. 3**.
- Walk-in registrations will be accepted as space permits, and payment of the applicable registration fee is required at that time.

NEW ADMITTEES:

New admittees who were **admitted** to the **Maine Bar in 2026** can fulfill their CLE requirements for **2026 and 2027** as outlined in Maine Bar Rule 5(d)(2). One of these requirements must be met:

- **Option 1:** Attend the **BTG** program on **both days**.
- **Option 2**: Attend the **BTG** program on **Dec. 3** and the **MCPDS** program on **Dec. 4**.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:

- You may cancel your registration for a full refund through Nov. 23.
- NO REFUNDS will be issued after **Nov. 23.**
- The cancellation date is the date your request is received at the MSBA in Augusta.
- To cancel your registration, please contact Katie Dunn at kdunn@mainebar.org or 207-622-7554.

PROGRAM MATERIALS

The link to program materials will be provided by email to all registrants prior to the program.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Registrants, instructors, exhibitors, and guests attending a CLE event agree that they may be photographed during the event. Photographs are the sole property of the MSBA, and the MSBA reserves the right to use attendees' names and likenesses in promotional materials without monetary compensation.

CLE CREDITS

Earn **up to** 11.25 CLE credits, including the opportunity to earn ethics and H&D credit.

This program has been approved for practice and procedure credit (PRACPRO) under Maine's reciprocal admission rule.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY!

For those needing lodging, the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport is offering MSBA registrants a discounted group rate of **$129 per night, plus applicable taxes**, for **Dec. 3 through Dec. 4**. To reserve, call the hotel directly at 207-865-1433 and select option 1 for new reservations. Be sure to request the Maine State Bar Association group rate. You may also book **online**.

December 3-4, 2026: Bridging the Gap (BTG) & Maine Commission on Public Defense Services (MCPDS)

Name _____ Bar # _____ Date Admitted to the Maine Bar _____

Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel # _____ Email Address _____

Dietary Restrictions/Food Allergies: ☐ Gluten-Free ☐ Vegan ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Other: _____

Do You Qualify for BTG Waiver (See Below) ☐ YES ☐ NO

Attorneys admitted to the Maine Bar in 2026 who complete the qualifying training are exempt from CLE requirements for 2026 and 2027. To qualify, attorneys must attend either the BTG program on Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 or the BTG program on Dec. 3 and the MCPDS course on Dec. 4. **Both days must be attended in their entirety.**

REGISTRATION: Registration is limited to **100 participants per program** and will close when capacity is reached or on **Nov. 30**, whichever comes first. **Register by mail, fax, phone, or email. Online registration is unavailable.**

WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS: Accepted as space permits. Payment is required at the time of registration.

1 BTG & MCPDS Indigent Defense in Maine

Attorneys admitted to the Maine Bar in 2026:
Select one option below and your sessions in Step 4.

Two-Day Options: Qualify for the CLE Exemption
BTG: BOTH DAYS: 12/3 & 12/4 ..... ☐ $295
BTG: 12/3 & MCPDS: 12/4 ..... ☐ $295

One-Day Options: Do Not Qualify for the CLE Exemption
BTG: Day One Only: 12/3 ..... ☐ $190
BTG: Day Two Only: 12/4 ..... ☐ $190

2 MCPDS Indigent Defense in Maine: 12/4 Only

Attorneys admitted to the Maine Bar PRIOR to 2026:
Complete this block if you are not attending Bridging the Gap.

MSBA Members ..... ☐ $190
MSBA CLE Club Members ..... ☐ $160
Non-Members ..... ☐ $220

3 Individual Sessions: Bridging the Gap ONLY

Each Session ..... ☐ $95

5 Payment Information: See refund policy on page 4

☐ Check Enclosed #_____ Total: $_____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC Code _____

Name on CC _____

Billing Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____

4 Bridging the Gap: Session Options

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3: DAY ONE

8:30 - 9:45 *(Indicate if you are attending)*
☐ 01. Practice Development, Client Advocacy Resources & Volunteer Opportunities

10:00 - 11:00 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS *(choose one topic)*
☐ 02. Litigation Practice
☐ 03. Public Service Practice
☐ 04. A New Attorney's Guide to the First Couple of Years of Law Practice

11:15 - 11:45 *(Indicate if you are attending)*
☐ 05. Maine Assistance Program (ethics)

11:45 - 12:45 | LUNCH *(Indicate if you want lunch)*
☐ YES ☐ NO

12:45 - 1:45 *(Indicate if you are attending)*
☐ 06. Ethics in Action (ethics)

2:00 - 3:15 *(Indicate if you are attending)*
☐ 07. A View from the Bench

THURSDAY, DEC. 4: DAY TWO

8:30 - 9:30 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS *(choose one topic)*
☐ 08. Alternate Dispute Resolution
☐ 09. Employment Law

9:45 - 10:45 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS *(choose one topic)*
☐ 10. Ageism in Maine (H&D)
☐ 11. Family and Medical Leave Act

11:00 - 12:00 *(Indicate if you are attending)*
☐ 12. Values at Work (ethics)

12:00 - 1:00 | LUNCH *(Indicate if you want lunch)*
☐ YES ☐ NO

1:00 - 2:00 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS *(choose one topic)*
☐ 13. Family Law
☐ 14. Immigration Law

2:15 - 3:15 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS *(choose one topic)*
☐ 15. Bankruptcy Law
☐ 16. Real Estate Law

OR

MCPDS INDIGENT DEFENSE IN MAINE: SESSION OPTIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:00 - 3:45
☐ 17. Indigent Defense in Maine

12:00 - 12:30 | LUNCH *(Indicate if you want lunch)*
☐ YES ☐ NO

Online registration for this program is unavailable.
Please register by mail, phone, fax, or email.

Mail: Maine State Bar Association
124 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 207-622-7554
Fax: 207-623-0083 | **Email:** cle@mainebar.org