

124 State Street  
Augusta, Maine 04330

T 207.622.7523  
F 207.623.0083  
info@mainebar.org  
www.mainebar.org



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May 1, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Mead  
Penobscot Judicial Center  
78 Exchange Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401-4913  
[andrew.m.mead@courts.maine.gov](mailto:andrew.m.mead@courts.maine.gov)

Dear Acting Chief Justice Mead:

I am writing on behalf of the largest attorney association in Maine and following up on my recent correspondence with Amy Quinlan requesting your audience regarding growing concerns the Board of Governors and the Bar Association's constituents have voiced in recent days regarding the Judicial Branch's transparency and decision-making processes.

Based on my own experiences in practice over the past seven weeks, as well as feedback from members, we are concerned that the Judicial Branch may be making decisions in a vacuum. While the Judicial Branch must, of course, protect the safety of its employees, attorneys and their clients are becoming increasingly unsettled by the lack of transparency as to process, and access to justice.

With the courts closed, attorneys are unclear how to guide clients moving forward. The economic impact on attorneys, firms, and litigants, is growing daily. Layoffs at law firms are looming, and in some cases, have already begun. Not all Sheriffs are not providing civil service, and -- perhaps most important -- the MSBA is not aware of a single attorney reporting a Motion for expediting a matter pursuant to page 3 of PMO-SJC-1 being granted.

Finally, on your recommendation, we invited Chief Justice Mullen and Chief Judge French to share information and challenges facing trial judges. Ten days later we were provided a declination stating that they lacked time in their schedules to share their thoughts on Bar Talk, and reported their decisions take into consideration "all relevant" information. As you know, Bar Talk is a 15-minute daily update. Many of our members join us every day, and they appreciate the direct line of open communication. I want to express our appreciation to you for joining the MSBA on Bar Talk April 16 to shed some light on what the Judicial Branch is doing and considering.



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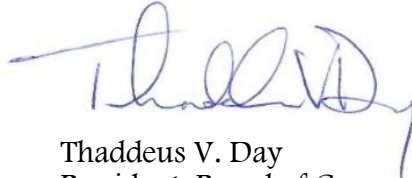
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While we appreciate that this is a difficult time for everyone, and we do not doubt that the Judicial Branch is working hard behind the scenes, we respectfully request that the Courts take this opportunity to collaborate with the Maine Bar, and possibly other stakeholders, as we look toward all the facets of reopening the Judicial Branch for business. We have some recommendations and we may be able to offer some solutions.

Please let me know when you are available for a conference call to discuss.

Sincerely,



Thaddeus V. Day  
President, Board of Governors

