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May 1, 2020

Governor Janet T. Mills
State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

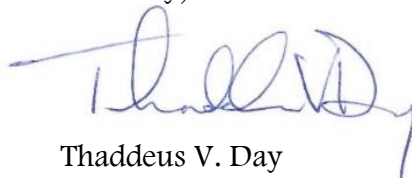
I write today on behalf of the 3000 members of the Maine State Bar Association regarding your Administration's plan to reopen Maine's economy. However, before getting to that, we did want to take a moment to thank you for your tireless work on behalf of the State during this very difficult period. Our members and their clients understand firsthand the challenges Maine faces as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the challenges faced by government as it attempts to balance safety and people's livelihoods.

With regard to the reopening plan, we have a question regarding application to lawyers. In particular, the Association requests clarification on the COVID-19 Prevention Checklists for businesses, as outlined on page 8 of the "Restarting Maine's Economy" booklet. The booklet explains that businesses which comply with these checklists – and so certify to the State – are entitled to receive a downloadable "badge." The Order also suggests that businesses previously allowed to be open may remain open, and in the case of lawyers, the legal profession has been operating for the last month and a half under the essential service guidelines. Because of this, it is our understanding from the review of the badging process that professional services are not subject to obtaining a badge. However, we are hoping this can be confirmed.

Second, as the organization representing the largest number of Maine lawyers, we are uniquely positioned to offer valuable guidance and assistance to the Department of Economic and Community Development as the legal community works to fully reopen. We can help, and we want to help. In this regard, we would ask that a member of the Maine State Bar Association be designated to serve on the stakeholder group tasked with forming any guidelines or checklists for the legal community.

Thank you for your continued guidance and leadership, and for your efforts to keep all Maine people safe during this crisis. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Thaddeus V. Day
President, Board of Governors

