MCILS

March 17, 2020 Commissioner's Meeting Packet

MARCH 17, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM, ROOM 438, STATEHOUSE, AUGUSTA AGENDA

- 1) Approval of February 25, 2020, Commission Meeting Minutes
- 2) Operations Reports
- 3) Sub-Committee Activity and Next Steps Discussion
- 4) Legislative/Budget Update
- 5) LOD Staffing
- 6) OPEGA Update
- 7) Compensation for CLE Attendance
- 8) Public Comment
- 9) Set Date, Time and Location of Next Regular Meeting of the Commission
- 10) Executive Session, if needed (Closed to Public)

(1.)

February 25, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes

Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services – Commissioners Meeting February 25, 2020

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michael Carey, Sarah Churchill, Robert LeBrasseur, Ronald Schneider, Joshua Tardy, Mary Zmigrodski,

Robert Cummins (participated by telephone)

MCILS Staff Present: Ellie Maciag, John Pelletier

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action
		Item/Responsible Party
Approval of the	No discussion of meeting minutes.	Commissioner
February 11, 2020		Schneider moved to
Commission		approve. Commissioner
Meeting Minutes		Churchill seconded. All
_		voted in favor.
		Approved.
Report of Sub-	Each subcommittee gave a status update of their group's efforts to date:	
Committee		
Activity and Next	Public Defender	
Steps Discussions	The public defender subcommittee recommended a statewide appellate public	
	defender office and a trial level public defender office in Cumberland County.	
	Commissioner Schneider proposed using a non-profit model similar to New	
	Hampshire, noting that it would not require a statute change. He expressed that this	
	would be the best way to provide predictability, stability and quality representation.	
	Commissioner Cummins expressed that a public defender is right for Maine. Chair	
	Tardy asked the subcommittee to continue its work and refine the financial proposal	
	and be ready to discuss specifics for the biennial budget process.	
	Practice Standards	
	Commissioner Zmigrodski reported that additional work is required for revising the	
	child protective practice standards and drafting the involuntary commitment practice	
	standards and that the subcommittee would continue its work. Commissioner	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action Item/Responsible Party
	LeBrasseur stated that the revisions to the criminal practice standards submitted at the previous meeting which focused on increased oversight of attorney performance should not move forward unless there is a concurrent effort to increase the hourly rate. Commissioner Zmigrodski agreed with that assessment. Chair Tardy stated that the rate change should be a separate discussion and not tied to an overhaul of the practice standards. Commissioner Carey noted that evaluation of attorneys should be the second priority after reforming the lawyer of the day program. Commissioner Churchill stated that the low barrier to entry on the rosters should also be a priority. Director Pelletier suggested an expanded resource counsel role and soliciting of applications for the positions as a way to increase evaluation and oversight. He noted that this would require rulemaking. Commissioner LeBrasseur pointed to the mentor panel in the proposed practice standards as another option. A discussion ensued about the rulemaking process and the required timelines and deadlines.	
	Training The Commissioners voted unanimously (Commissioner Carey was not present for the vote) to adopt the training subcommittee's recommendation that the current minimum standards training for new lawyers be replaced with a 5-day training. The Commissioners then voted unanimously to issue an RFP for a consultant to create the training curriculum, invite the faculty, and coordinate the location logistics for the 5-day training.	
	Financial Commissioner Carey relayed that the financial subcommittee is suggesting an overhaul of the way the staff currently tracks alerts it receives about attorney billing for over 12 hours in a day. He noted that the tracking process is mostly manual after the initial electronic alert and this has proven to be unworkable. He suggested staff move to a more electronic way of tracking the information to make it more efficient and increase the ability to conduct audits. He believes that the current staffing request should make it so that the Commission can fulfil the financial control functions. He concluded that the financial subcommittee will finalize its	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action Item/Responsible Party
	recommendations for Commission consideration once it incorporates OPEGA's initial report back findings.	
LOD Staffing	Director Pelletier provided the Commissioners with the cost breakdown of increasing the lawyer of the day attorney numbers by 50% and by 100% between now and June 30, roughly \$172,000 and \$340,000, respectively. Director Pelletier noted that finding additional lawyers of the day in more rural areas might prove to be very difficult. Commissioner Carey requested staff do some data collection to identify where there is an additional need for LOD lawyers. Director Pelletier suggested focusing on Cumberland and York Counties to start with and collect additional data on the need for increased LOD staffing in other parts of the state. The Commissioner voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to increase the ratios of LODs by 25% on an as needed basis.	
Financial Screener Status	Director Pelletier gave an update on the pending bill that would transfer the financial screeners to the Judicial Branch and sought direction from the Commission on what position to take at the work session for the bill. Chair Tardy suggested the Commission remain neutral on the bill.	·
Supplemental Budget Update	Director Pelletier have a quick update on the supplemental budget. A hearing on the Commission's budget will take place that afternoon. He relayed that the Commission received a favorable reception at last week's meeting with Appropriations.	
Juvenile Defense Grant	Director Pelletier informed the Commission about a federal grant opportunity for juvenile defense. Due to current staffing levels and the work involved in applying for a federal grant, Director Pelletier stated that the Commission would most likely be unable to apply for the grant without outside assistance. Chair Tardy asked staff to start tracking lost opportunities due to lack of staff resources.	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action Item/Responsible Party
Public Comment	Cynthia Dill, Esq.: Attorney Dill presented several documents to the Commissioners for their review, including a financial affidavit form that includes items that are not included in the Commission's rule and an instance were taxpayer subsidy was not warranted since the person exceeded the guidelines. Another document was an invoice submitted by a law firm for expert attorney fees for an attorney who was a rostered PCR attorney but did not bill at the assigned counsel rate of \$60/hr for the expert services. A third document was an interpreter invoice that exceeded the hourly rate that the Judicial Branch pays for interpreters.	
	Zachary Heiden, Esq.: Attorney Heiden reminded the Commission that regardless of the type of public defender model, the State still retains the obligation under the Sixth Amendment. He endorses a public defender office in Maine. He believes an increase in attorney ratios is a short-term fix and that much more attention should be made on this issue. He also cautioned the Commission that attorney supervision is not happening, and the Commission needs to act immediately to bring it into compliance.	
	Robert Ruffner, Esq.: Attorney Ruffner stated that the Commission has been on notice for nearly a decade that the lawyer of the day program was an issue and did nothing about it. He urged the Commission to seek an amendment this legislative session to remove the major substantive rule designation in its attorney qualification rule. He concluded that the Commission will never make any progress on reforms until it gets additional staff.	
Executive Session	Following the subcommittee reports, Commissioner Carey made a motion to move into executive session to consult with counsel on the Commission's legal rights and duties pursuant to 1 MRS section 405, subsection (6)(E). Commissioner Churchill seconded. All voted in favor. Commissioner Carey made a motion to move out of executive session and Commissioner LeBrasseur seconded. All voted in favor. Commissioner Cummins moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a MOU with the Attorney General's Office to formalize the attorney-client relationship	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action Item/Responsible Party
	with the Commission. Commissioner Carey seconded. All voted in favor, with Commissioner Churchill absent for the vote.	
Adjournment of meeting	The next meeting will be on March 17, 2020 at 9 am.	

(2.) Operations Reports

TO: MCILS COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JOHN D. PELLETIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2020 OPERATIONS REPORTS

DATE: MARCH 3, 2020

Attached you will find the February, 2020, Operations Reports for your review and our discussion at the Commission meeting on March 17, 2020. A summary of the operations reports follows:

- 2,395 new cases were opened in the DefenderData system in February. This was a 231 case decrease from January. Year to date, new cases are up by approximately 10%, from 18,207 at this time last year to 20,035 this year.
- The number of vouchers submitted electronically in February was 2,869, a decrease of 184 vouchers over January, totaling \$1,415,410.69, a decrease of \$27,000 over January. Year to date, the number of submitted vouchers is up by approximately 6%, from 21,874 at this time last year to 23,154 this year, but the total amount for submitted vouchers is down by approximately 2%, from \$11,483,000 at this time last year to \$11,260,000 this year.
- In February, we paid 2,340 electronic vouchers totaling \$1,131868.08, representing an increase of 480 vouchers and \$199,000.00 compared to January. Year to date, the number of paid vouchers is basically flat, but the total amount paid is down by approximately 5%, from \$11,108,000 at this time last year to \$10,502,000 this year.
- We paid one paper voucher in February totaling \$240.00. This was submitted by an experienced criminal defense lawyer who had not been on our roster for many years but was recruited by a judge to fill in as lawyer of the day when no rostered attorney was available.
- The average price per voucher in February was \$483.70, down \$17.65 per voucher from January. Year to date, the average price per voucher is down approximately 7.5%, from \$526.13 at this time last year to \$489.16 this year.
- Appeal and Post-Conviction Review cases had the highest average voucher in February. There were 6 vouchers exceeding \$5,000 paid in February. See attached addendum for details.
- In February, we issued 94 authorizations to expend funds: 58 for private investigators, 24 for experts, and 12 for miscellaneous services such as interpreters and transcriptionists. In February, we paid \$121,935.95 for experts and investigators, etc. No requests for funds were denied or modified in February.

- In February, we received two complaints about attorneys. One involved lack of contact with the attorney. The complaint was addressed with the attorney and resolved based on the attorney's documented efforts to contact the client. The other related to the performance of an attorney at a Lawyer of the Day session. Staff is in the process of following up on this complaint.
- In February, we approved four requests for co-counsel. One request came from a relatively new attorney seeking co-counsel for the attorney's first felony jury trial. Another came from an experienced attorney seeking permission to involve a newer attorney in an upcoming felony jury trial. The third was from an attorney representing a client with extensive mental health issues. The attorney sought co-counsel to assist with review and management of voluminous mental health records, as well as to assist with client relations up to and during an anticipated trial. Finally, co-counsel was approved for a Murder case.

In our All Other Account, the total expenses for the month of February were \$1,269,483.45. Of that amount, just over \$15,000 was devoted to the Commission's operating expenses.

In the Personal Services Account, we had \$59,062.25 in expenses for the month of February.

In the Revenue Account, the transfer for February, reflecting January's collections, totaled \$73,756.21, an increase of approximately \$12,000 over the previous month.

During February, the only financial activity related to training was a fee charged for a registration fee check that bounced. The payment issue has been remedied by the attorney, including reimbursement for the bounced check fee.

VOUCHERS EXCEEDING \$5,000 PAID FEBRUARY 2020

Voucher Total Case Total Voucher after a five-day Murder trial. Defendant found \$20,136 \$20,1356 guilty of two counts of Murder. Case lasted 23 months. Voucher in a Murder case where the defendant pled guilty to \$13,050 \$22,598 (Interim Manslaughter and received a sentence of less than 7 years. vouchers of \$1,632 and \$6,607 paid to co-counsel from a different firm and \$1,309 paid to initial counsel discharged by the client) \$45,367 (\$33,253 Voucher after a ten-day Murder trial. High profile case in \$12,114 which jury selection took three days. Case lasted 18 months. paid to co-counsel Defendant found guilty. from a different firm) Voucher in a Class A Aggravated Trafficking case. Charge \$7,523 \$7,523 dismissed in return to a misdemeanor plea agreed upon on the eve of suppression hearing. Review of multiple videos required as initial stop lasted 3 hours and was attended by numerous law enforcement officers. Voucher reflecting time involved in 17 juvenile cases. \$6,150 \$6,150 Representation focused on obtaining appropriate treatment for the juvenile, who was ultimately found not competent and placed in DHHS custody up dismissal of all juvenile charges. \$5,945 \$5,945 Voucher in an Arson case involving an occupied building. Defendant pled guilty. Additional work required to address possible federal prosecution and ensure the matter remained

FUNDS REQUESTS DENIED/MODIFIED FEBRUARY 2020

- No requests for funds were denied or modified in February.

in State court.

Activity Report by Case Type

2/29/2020

			1	Fiscal Year 2020											
Defender Data Case Type	New Cases	Vouchers Submitted	7	Submitted Amount	Vouchers Paid	Approved Amount	Average Amount	Cases Opened	Vouchers Paid		Amount Paid		verage Amount		
Appeal	14	34	\$	69,613.93	24	\$ 38,642.63	\$ 1,610.11	128	168	\$	269,983.44	\$	1,607.04		
Child Protection Petition	239	435	\$	226,537.45	353	\$ 190,873.26	\$ 540.72	1,799	3,464	\$	1,910,572.30	\$	551.55		
Drug Court	1	10	\$	8,676.32	5	\$ 5,148.00	\$ 1,029.60	5	51	\$	52,666.51	\$	1,032.68		
Emancipation	3	3	\$	1,267.52	3	\$ 1,151.40	\$ 383.80	51	40	\$	12,159.30	\$	303.98		
Felony	594	606	\$	462,524.53	449	\$ 339,541.15	\$ 756.22	4,671	4,228	\$	3,232,331.88	\$	764.51		
Involuntary Civil Commitment	78	71	\$	15,574.06	76	\$ 14,033.14	\$ 184.65	698	581	\$	125,289.30	\$	215.64		
Juvenile	53	83	\$	50,225.71	89	\$ 40,744.34	\$ 457.80	569	579	\$	274,472.30	\$	474.05		
Lawyer of the Day - Custody	213	198	\$	49,261.95	183	\$ 45,381.90	\$ 247.99	2,038	1,807	\$	424,715.19	\$	235.04		
Lawyer of the Day - Juvenile	26	23	\$	4,381.12	20	\$ 3,507.16	\$ 175.36	304	272	\$	52,338.84	\$	192.42		
Lawyer of the Day - Walk-in	102	101	\$	24,395.62	95	\$ 23,988.67	\$ 252.51	998	873	\$	216,355.01	\$	247.83		
Misdemeanor	834	855	\$	295,821.43	638	\$ 232,166.20	\$ 363.90	6,550	5,783	\$	2,135,303.67	\$	369.24		
Petition, Modified Release Treatment	0	2	\$	1,052.00	9	\$ 3,639.01	\$ 404.33	6	33	\$	14,784.09	\$	448.00		
Petition, Release or Discharge	0	0			1	\$ 216.10	\$ 216.10	0	6	\$	1,902.40	\$	317.07		
Petition, Termination of Parental Rights	26	34	\$	22,168.88	45	\$ 28,630.12	\$ 636.22	205	445	\$	315,238.62	\$	708.40		
Post Conviction Review	7	12	\$	18,166.26	7	\$ 10,308.42	\$ 1,472.63	78	64	\$	91,107.53	\$	1,423.56		
Probate	2	0			0			22	18	\$	19,356.54	\$	1,075.36		
Probation Violation	145	171	\$	64,019.09	131	\$ 48,828.80	\$ 372.74	1,348	1,237	\$	481,285.16	\$	389.07		
Represent Witness on 5th Amendment	3	3	\$	546.00	2	\$ 366.00	\$ 183.00	8	8	\$	4,179.00	\$	522.38		
Resource Counsel Criminal	0	3	\$	582.00	3	\$ 1,032.00	\$ 344.00	1	23	\$	2,808.00	\$	122.09		
Resource Counsel Juvenile	1	2	\$	294.00	0			1	7	\$	528.00	\$	75.43		
Resource Counsel Protective Custody	0	0			0			3	8	\$	1,596.00	\$	199.50		
Review of Child Protection Order	49	222	\$	100,086.82	207	\$ 103,669.78	\$ 500.82	531	1,767	\$	860,859.26	\$	487.19		
Revocation of Administrative Release	5	1	\$	216.00	0			21	9	\$	3,075.28	\$	341.70		
Defender Data Sub-Total	2,395	2,869	\$	1,415,410.69	2,340	\$ 1,131,868.08	\$ 483.70	20,035	21,471	\$	10,502,907.62	\$	489.17		
Paper Voucher Sub-Total	1	2401	\$	240.00	1	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	1	1	\$	240.00	\$	240.00		
TOTAL	2,396	5,270	\$1	,415,650.69	2,341	\$ 1,132,108.08	\$ 483.60	20,036	21,472	\$	10,503,147.62	\$	489.16		

MAINE COMMISSION ON INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES FY20 FUND ACCOUNTING

AS OF 02/29/2020

								71 02/23/2020						
Account 014 95F Z258 01 (All Other)		Mo.			Q1	Mo.		Q2	Mo.		Q3	Mo.	Q4	FY20 Total
FY20 Professional Services Allotme	nt			\$	4,727,001.00		\$	4,597,001.00		\$	4,737,477.00		\$ 2,413,246.00	
13.74				4						Ś			\$ 48,000.00	
FY20 General Operations Allotmen				>	48,000.00		\$	48,000.00		>	48,000.00		46,000.00	
FY19 Encumbered Balance Forward	1			\$	32,712.53		\$	=		\$	-		\$	
Budget Order Adjustment				\$	(224,979.00)		\$	224,979.00						
Reduction due to encumberance cl	osure									\$	(0.04)			
Financial Order Unencumbered Bal	lance Fv	wd											\$ 768,774.00	
Total Budget Allotments				\$	4,582,734.53	11	\$	4,869,980.00		\$	4,785,476.96		\$ 3,230,020.00	\$ 17,468,211.4
Total Expenses		1		\$	(947,049.13)	4	\$	(1,377,980.25)	7	\$	(1,080,553.54)	10	\$ 3	
		2		\$	(1,849,796.47)	5	\$	(1,100,530.17)	8	\$	(1,269,483.45)	11	\$ 9	
		3		\$	(1,715,368.33)	6	\$	(2,053,491.02)	9	\$	-	12	\$ -	
					, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		5							
Encumbrances (Justice Works)				Ś	(52,720.00)		\$	18,135.00		\$	12,862.50			\$ (21,722.5
Encumbrances (B Taylor)				\$	(13,000.04)		\$	(17,853.34)		\$	13,173.37		\$ -	\$ (17,680.0
Encumbrances (Videographer & bu	isiness o	cards)		\$	(4,800.00)		\$			\$	(900.00)		\$ -	\$ (5,700.0
TOTAL REMAINING				\$	0.56		\$	338,260.22		\$	2,460,575.84		\$ 3,230,020.00	\$ 6,028,856.6
Q3 Month 8														
INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES			1	IND	IGENT LEGAL SER	VICES								
Counsel Payments	\$	(1,132,108.08)		03 A	llotment					\$	4,785,476.96			
Interpreters	\$	(668.61)		10000	ncumbrances for Ju	istice V	Morks (contract		Ś	12,862.50			
Private Investigators	Š	(16,827.53)	1	1000			VOIK3	contract		Ś	13,173.37			
Mental Health Expert	¢	(24,560.62)	1	1	ara Taylor Contract					, ,	5			
2 45 00000 45 0550 0000 0000 000 0000 00	, ,			1	ographer					\$	(900.00)			
Misc Prof Fees & Serv	Ş	(405.00)			xpenses to date					\$	(2,350,036.99)			
Transcripts	\$	(53,411.45)		Rem	aining Q3 Allotmen	t				\$	2,460,575.84			
Other Expert	\$	(25,311.00)												
Process Servers	\$	(731.62)												
Subpoena Witness Fees	\$	(20.12												
Out of State Witness Travel	\$	-		Non	-Counsel Indigen	t Lega	al Serv	rices						
SUB-TOTAL ILS	\$	(1,254,044.03)		Mon	thly Total					\$	(121,935.95)			
OPERATING EXPENSES				Tota	IQ1					\$	276,360.62			
Service Center	\$	82		Tota	I Q2					\$	230,435.64			
DefenderData	\$	(6,520.00)		Tota						S	242,569.18			
Parking Fees	S			Tota	8					Š				
Mileage/Tolls/Parking	Ś	(1,168.81)			25					÷	740 265 44			
	Ś			FISCA	l Year Total					٠,	749,365.44			
Mailing/Postage/Freight	ç	(60.18												
West Publishing Corp	>	(198.09)				No.								
Shredding on Site	\$						10/15							
Office Supplies/Eqp.	\$	(263.40)		Con	ference Account	Trans	action	ıs						
Cellular Phones	\$	(129.73)		NSF	Charges					\$	(20.00)			
OIT/TELCO	\$	(2,498.18)		Train	ning Facilities & Mea	als				\$	-			
Office Equipment Rental	\$	(111.03)			ing/Binding					\$	-			
Training Videographer	\$			Over	seers of the Bar CLI	E fee				\$				
Barbara Taylor monthly fees	\$	(4,420.00)			ected Registration F	ees				\$	⊒ 7			
Notary Fees	\$	(50.00)		Curr	ent Month Total					\$	(20.00)			
NSF Charges	\$	(20.00												
Training Printing Fees	Ş	(15 420 42												
SUB-TOTAL OE	è	(15,439.42												

TOTAL

(1,269,483.45)

MAINE COMMISSION ON INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES FY20 FUND ACCOUNTING

As of 02/29/20

Account 014 95F Z258 01 (Revenue)	Mo.	Q1	Mo.	Q2	Mo.	Q3	Mo.	Q4		FY20 Total
Total Budget Allotments	10000	\$ 275,000.00		\$ 275,000.00		\$ 275,000.00	(3) 'S	\$ 275,000.00	\$	1,100,000.00
Financial Order Adjustment	1	\$ -	4	\$ -	7	\$ -	10	\$ -		
Financial Order Adjustment	2	\$ -	5	\$ -	8	\$ -	11			
Budget Order Adjustment	3	\$ -	6	\$ -	9	\$	12	\$ 		
Budget Order Adjustment		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	12	\$ -	\$	-
Total Budget Allotments		\$ 275,000.00		\$ 275,000.00		\$ 275,000.00	3.0	\$ 275,000.00	\$	1,100,000.00
Cash Carryover from Prior Quarter		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		
Collected Revenue from JB	1	\$ 78,559.60	4	\$ 86,636.49	7	\$ 61,320.62	10	\$ -		
Promissory Note Payments		\$		\$ =		\$ -		\$ -		
Collected Revenue from JB	2	\$ 79,457.90	5	\$ 93,840.18	8	\$ 73,756.21	11	\$ -		
Court Ordered Counsel Fee	1	\$		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		
Collected Revenue from JB (late transfer)	1	\$ -		\$ -	9	\$ -		\$ -		
Collected Revenue from JB	3	\$ 114,887.22	6	\$ 103,917.30	9	\$ 	12	\$ -		
Returned Checks-stopped payments		\$		\$ -		\$ -		\$ (8)		
TOTAL CASH PLUS REVENUE COLLECTED		\$ 272,904.72		\$ 284,393.97		\$ 135,076.83		\$	\$	692,375.52
Counsel Payments	1	\$ -	4	\$ -	7	\$ -	10	\$ -		
Other Expenses	1	\$ -		\$ _		\$ -	***	\$ -		
Counsel Payments	2	\$ (=)	5	\$ **	8	\$:=:	11	\$ -		
Other Expenses	1	\$ -		\$ =				\$ -		
Counsel Payments	3	\$ =1	6	\$ ~	9	\$ -	12	\$ -	l	
Other Expenses	*	\$ -	**	\$ -	***	\$ -		\$ -		
REMAINING ALLOTMENT		\$ 275,000.00		\$ 275,000.00		\$ 275,000.00	atil an	\$ 275,000.00	\$	1,100,000.00
Overpayment Reimbursements	1	\$ (168.00)	4	\$ (434.53)	7	\$ 138.00	10	\$ -		
	2	\$ (904.00)	5	\$ (200.00)	8	\$ -	11	\$ -		
	3	\$ 	6	\$ 2	9	\$ -	12	\$ 141		
REMAINING CASH Year to Date		\$ 271,832.72		\$ 283,759.44		\$ 135,214.83		\$	\$	690,806.99

Collections versus Allotment	***	
Monthly Total	\$	73,756.21
Total Q1	\$	274,669.72
Total Q2	\$	284,393.97
Total Q3	\$	135,214.83
Total Q4	\$	-
Allotment Expended to Date	\$	
Fiscal Year Total	\$	694,278.52

MAINE COMMISSION ON INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES FY20 FUND ACCOUNTING

AS OF 02/29/2020

Account 014 95F Z258 01 (Personal Services)	Mo.		Q1	Mo.		Q2	Mo.	Q3	Mo.		Q4	_	FY20 Total
FY20 Allotment		\$	326,128.00		\$	242,565.00		\$ 214,283.00		\$	233,702.00	\$	•
Financial Order Adjustments		\$	-		\$	-		\$ _		\$	-		
Financial Order Adjustments		\$	-		\$	-		\$ -		\$	-		
Budget Order Adjustments					\$	-		\$ -					
TotaliBudget Allotments		(\$)	826,128(00)		(\$)	242 E6500	Transfer	\$ 214,283,00		\$.	233/702(00)	\$	1,016,678,00
Total Expenses	1	\$	(62,240.56)	4	\$	(99,140.23)	7	\$ (70,131.98)	10	\$	•		_
	2	\$	(174,797.03)	5	\$	(71,894.07)	8	\$ (59,062.25)	11	\$	-		
	3	\$	(68,346.25)	6	\$	(69,821.39)	9	\$ -	12	\$	-		
TOTAL REMAINING		\$	20,744.16		\$	1,709.31		\$ 85,088.77		\$	233,702.00	\$	341,244.24

Q3	Month 8	
	Per Diem	\$ (220.00)
	Salary	\$ (29,953.08)
	Vacation Pay	\$ (1,688.16)
ł	Holiday Pay	\$ (2,046.82)
	Sick Pay	\$ (1,136.94)
l	Empl Hith SVS/Worker Comp	\$ (166.00)
	Health Insurance	\$ (9,359.15)
	Dental Insurance	\$ (320.79)
	Employer Retiree Health	\$ (3,861.11)
	Employer Retirement	\$ (2,404.83)
	Employer Group Life	\$ (336.42)
	Employer Medicare	\$ (523.72)
	Retiree Unfunded Liability	\$ (6,752.13)
	Longevity Pay	\$ (80.00)
	Perm Part Time Full Ben	\$ (2,797.55)
	Premium Overtime	\$ (792.99)
	Returned Funds from DOT	\$ 3,377.44
	TOTAL	\$ (59,062.25)

Activity Report by Court

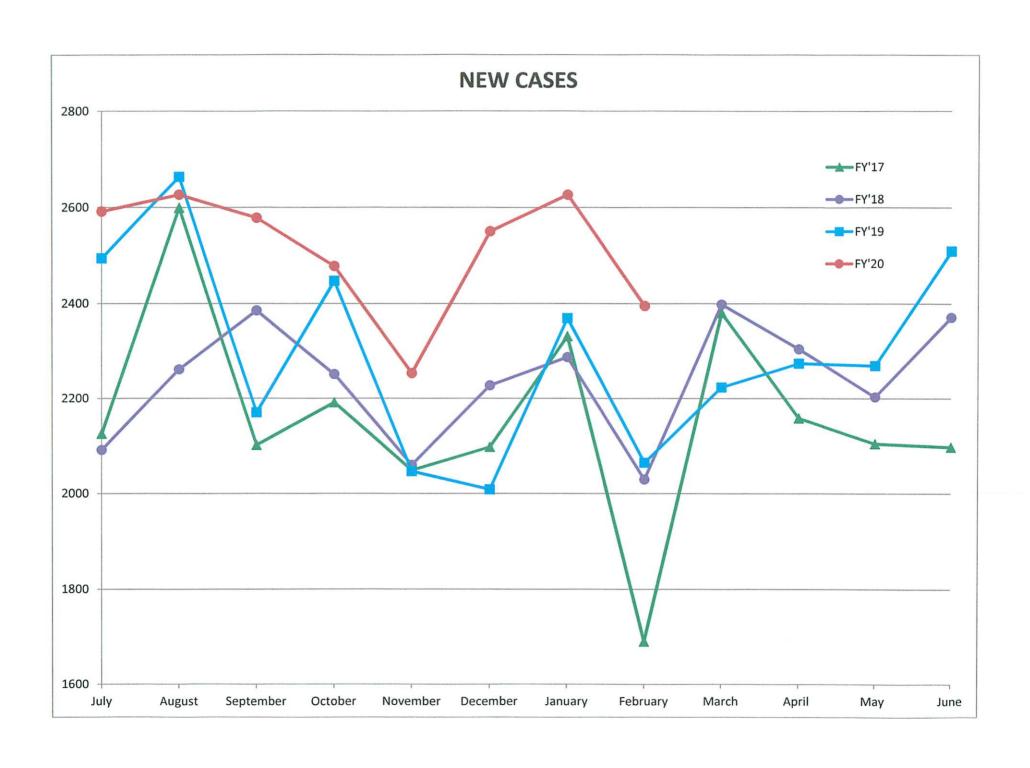
2/29/2020

			Feb-	Fiscal Year 2020											
Court	New Cases	Vouchers Submitted		Submitted Amount	Vouchers Paid		Approved Amount		Average Amount	Cases Opened	Vouchers Paid		Amount Paid		Average Amount
ALFSC	2	4	\$	2,224.00	5	\$	3,022.60	\$	604.52	31	35	\$	18,454.73	\$	527.28
AUBSC	3	2	\$	588.00	0					17	13	\$	9,304.20	\$	715.71
AUGDC	25	51	\$	34,119.04	50	\$	24,707.12	\$	494.14	404	484	\$	242,288.57	\$	500.60
AUGSC	2	5	\$	2,750.00	11	\$	6,397.88	\$	581.63	34	80	\$	50,022.54	\$	625.28
BANDC	48	101	\$	28,980.52	77	\$	23,609.60	\$	306.62	487	822	\$	266,790.66	\$	324.56
BANSC	0	0			0			1505	A PARTIE	5	4	\$	450.00	\$	112.50
BELDC	9	13	\$	4,299,64	14	\$	4,697.57	\$	335.54	107	243	\$	132.00 117,865.85	\$	132.00 485.04
BELSC	0	0	J	4,233.04	0	ې	4,037.37	Ş	333.34	0	1	\$	1,530.64	\$	1,530.64
BIDDC	72	75	\$	34,097.60	67	Ś	35,700.80	\$	532.85	534	667	\$	372,276.53	\$	558.14
BRIDC	12	21	\$	12,658.42	16	\$	10,035.20	\$	627.20	84	154	\$	79,073.10	\$	513.46
CALDC	3	3	\$	943.84	5	\$	1,195.84	\$	239.17	43	69	\$	30,970.72	\$	448.85
CARDC	20	23	\$	9,824.02	19	\$	6,812.86	\$	358.57	111	196	\$	77,460.76	\$	395.21
CARSC	0	1	\$	102.00	1	\$	102.00	\$	102.00	6	7	\$	3,581.50	\$	511.64
DOVDC	2	14	\$	4,159.34	9	\$	3,905.00	\$	433.89	40	107	\$	38,434.58	\$	359.20
DOVSC	0	0			0					0	0				
ELLDC	11	38	\$	27,031.86	44	\$	33,027.76	\$	750.63	125	305	\$	184,078.71	\$	603.54
ELLSC	0	0			0					3	2	\$	831.00	\$	415.50
FARDC	8	11	\$	10,237.78	20	\$	14,208.56	\$	710.43	66	157	\$	108,212.63	\$	689.25
FARSC	0	1	\$	42.00	1	\$	42.00	\$	42.00	3	3	\$	370.16	\$	123.39
FORDC	9	12	\$	7,923.50	9	\$	3,354.65	\$	372.74	46	62	\$	30,046.40	\$	484.62
HOUDC	22 0	32 0	\$	13,603.05	29 0	\$	8,234.56	\$	283.95	207	267	\$	105,061.43	\$	393.49 408.00
HOUSC	75	114	\$	39,230.63	91	\$	36,225.77	\$	398.09	641	802	\$	356,434.49	\$	444.43
LINDC	8	10	\$	3,811.28	11	\$	3,389.84	\$	308.17	78	132	\$	64,547.00	\$	488.99
MACDC	2	3	\$	390.00	7	\$	1,854.00	\$	264.86	70	132	\$	55,073.88	\$	417.23
MACSC	0	0	7	550.00	0	7	2,05 1100	7	20 1100	0	2	\$	360.00	\$	180.00
MADDC	2	2	\$	473.36	1	\$	390.00	\$	390.00	16	14	\$	4,506.64	\$	321.90
MILDC	0	4	\$	1,057.28	7	\$	2,362.00	\$	337.43	40	72	\$	20,406.40	\$	283.42
NEWDC	17	25	\$	8,302.09	27	\$	6,649.24	\$	246.27	120	271	\$	91,810.71	\$	338.78
PORDC	92	132	\$	72,077.04	137	\$	69,482.84	\$	507.17	646	820	\$	410,666.14	\$	500.81
PORSC	3	1	\$	3,462.00	1	\$	3,462.00	\$	3,462.00	13	8	\$	7,629.44	\$	953.68
PREDC	39	30	\$	12,724.74	22	\$	7,932.20	\$	360.55	172	205	\$	85,774.30	\$	418.41
ROCDC	19	12	\$	5,638.98	13	\$	4,931.74	\$	379.36	154	238	\$	103,297.48	\$	434.02
ROCSC	0	1	\$	172.36	3	\$	918.72	\$	306.24	10	12	\$	3,709.48	\$	309.12
RUMDC	7	18	\$	18,110.10	17	\$	15,522.34	\$	913.08	115	110	\$	110,805.30	\$	1,007.32
SKODC	20	71	\$	24,833.91	69 0	\$	27,170.12	\$	393.77	261	581	\$	232,070.50 815.20	\$	399.43 815.20
SKOSC	9	0 15	\$	8,200.89	12	\$	7,510.39	\$	625.87	115	168	\$	101,856.76	1	606.29
SOUSC	0	0	· ·	8,200.83	0	7	7,510.55	7	023.87	2	6	\$	4,307.75	\$	717.96
SPRDC	41	56	\$	38,284.94	44	Ś	20,356.54	\$	462.65	323	443	\$	237,437.28	\$	535.98
Law Ct	10	29	\$	61,362.29	22	\$	32,837.36	\$		94	131	\$	220,055.34	\$	1,679.81
YORCD	226	231	\$	150,676.77	141	\$	93,476.85	\$	662.96	1,792	1,768	\$	1,176,255.25	\$	665.30
AROCD	145	130	\$	46,206.70	102	\$	36,358.55	\$	356.46	1,116	925	\$	431,850.40	\$	466.87
ANDCD	164	182	\$	82,694.17	152	\$	71,923.18	\$	473.18	1,276	1,222	\$	553,619.13	\$	453.04
KENCD	138	172	\$	68,043.85	144	\$	51,742.52	\$	359.32	1,434	1,265	\$	519,147.48	\$	410.39
PENCD	232	292	\$	142,094.65	170	\$	97,567.28	\$	573.93	2,033	1,718	\$	737,285.32	\$	429.15
SAGCD	33	24	\$	9,381.44	23	\$	10,969.44	\$	476.93	231	198	\$	89,957.44	\$	454.33
WALCD	31	41	\$	19,080.51	22	\$	11,306.56	\$	513.93	279	285	\$	150,427.51	\$	527.82
PISCD	17	11	\$	2,070.84	11	\$	2,557.77	\$	232.52	151	135	\$	38,401.78	\$	284.46
HANCD	50	48	\$	23,106.56	41	\$	20,463.56	\$	499.11	370	387	\$	192,429.64	\$	497.23
FRACD	37	56	\$	32,811.86	50	\$	26,856.55	\$	537.13	319	360 339	\$	186,173.64	\$	517.15 366.20
CUMCD	40 388	32 384	\$	9,884.20	60 286	\$	16,300.40 168,387.00	\$	271.67 588.77	312 2,922	2,757	\$	124,141.56 1,533,603.74	\$	556.26
KNOCD	49	67	\$	27,806.63	59	\$	21,216.16	\$	359.60	454	389	\$	168,424.66	\$	432.97
SOMCD	98	85	\$	21,246.28	66	\$	14,842.30	\$	224.88	795	426	\$	100,830.81	\$	236.69
OXFCD	73	77	\$	32,043.72	56	\$	22,469.20	\$	401.24	612	536	\$	213,675.92	\$	398.65
LINCD	27	26	\$	13,246.37	27	\$	11,257.01	\$	416.93	237	231	\$	105,895.65	\$	458.42
WATDC	15	48	\$	22,550.68	43	\$	24,821.68	\$	577.25	196	346	\$	168,228.01	\$	486.21
WESDC	24	21	\$	6,841.87	13	\$	3,834.00	\$	294.92	163	201	\$	87,429.62	\$	434.97
WISDC	9	4	\$	615.87	5	\$	1,764.44	\$	352.89	52	75	\$	38,166.25	\$	508.88
WISSC	0	0			0	T.	ate Zhi			4	2	\$	1,055.50	\$	527.75
YORDC	2 205	3.860	\$	4,992.26	3 340	\$	3,704.53	-	463.07	59	77	\$	36,291.51		471.32
TOTAL	2,395	2,869	\$	1,415,410.69	2,340	Ş	1,131,868.08	\$	483.70	20,035	21,471	\$	10,502,907.62	\$	489.17

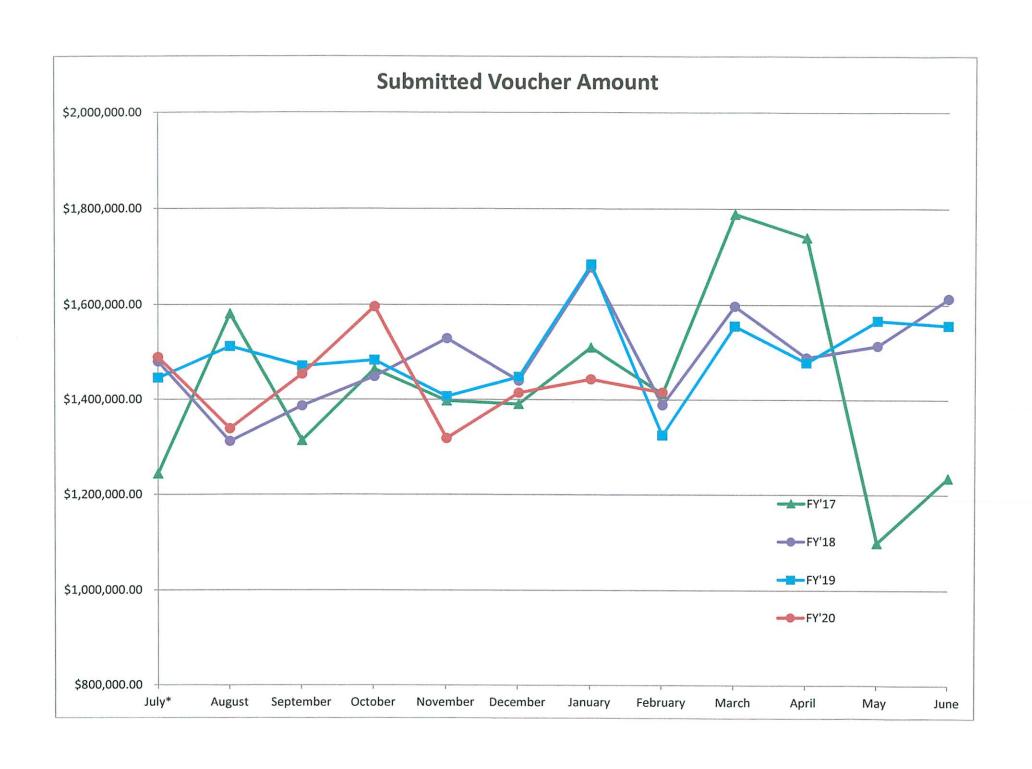
Number of Attorneys Rostered by Court 02/29/2020

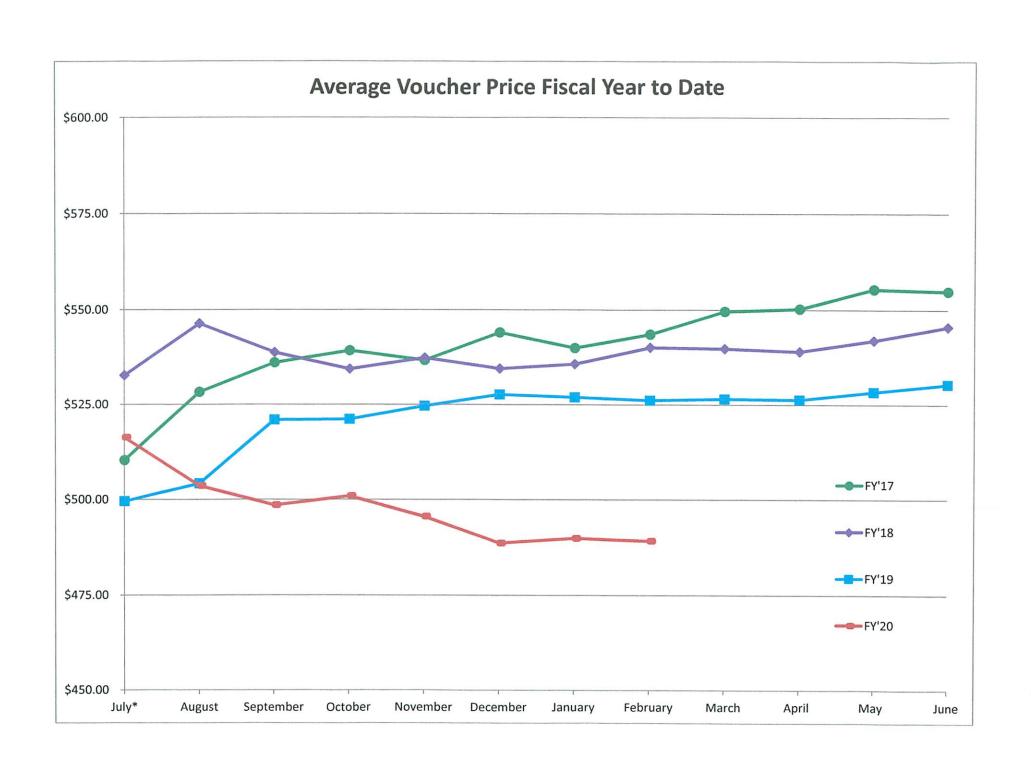
Court	Rostered Attorneys		
Augusta District Court	73		
Bangor District Court	39		
Belfast District Court	38		
Biddeford District Court	114		
Bridgton District Court	71		
Calais District Court	9		
Caribou District Court	15		
Dover-Foxcroft District Court	22		
Ellsworth District Court	28		
Farmington District Court	33		
Fort Kent District Court	9		
Houlton District Court	12		
Lewiston District Court	109		
Lincoln District Court	20		
Machias District Court	13		
Madawaska District Court	10		
Millinocket District Court	12		
Newport District Court	28		
Portland District Court	136		
Presque Isle District Court	13		
Rockland District Court	29		
Rumford District Court	23		
Skowhegan District Court	23		

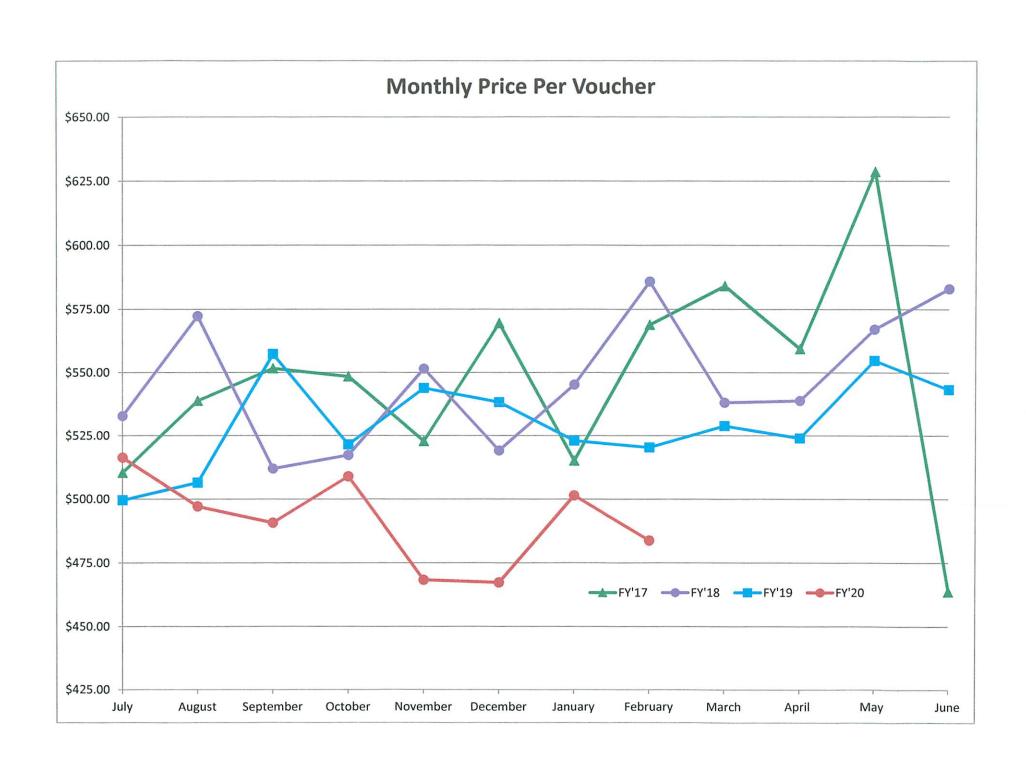
Court	Rostered Attorneys
South Paris District Court	48
Springvale District Court	100
Unified Criminal Docket Alfred	102
Unified Criminal Docket Aroostook	20
Unified Criminal Docket Auburn	90
Unified Criminal Docket Augusta	63
Unified Criminal Docket Bangor	39
Unified Criminal Docket Bath	79
Unified Criminal Docket Belfast	37
Unified Criminal DocketDover Foxcroft	20
Unified Criminal Docket Ellsworth	32
Unified Criminal Docket Farmington	35
Inified Criminal Docket Machias	15
Unified Criminal Docket Portland	133
Unified Criminal Docket Rockland	25
Unified Criminal Docket Skowhegan	22
Unified Criminal Docket South Paris	39
Unified Criminal Docket Wiscassett	45
Waterville District Court	36
West Bath District Court	91
Wiscasset District Court	52
York District Court	86

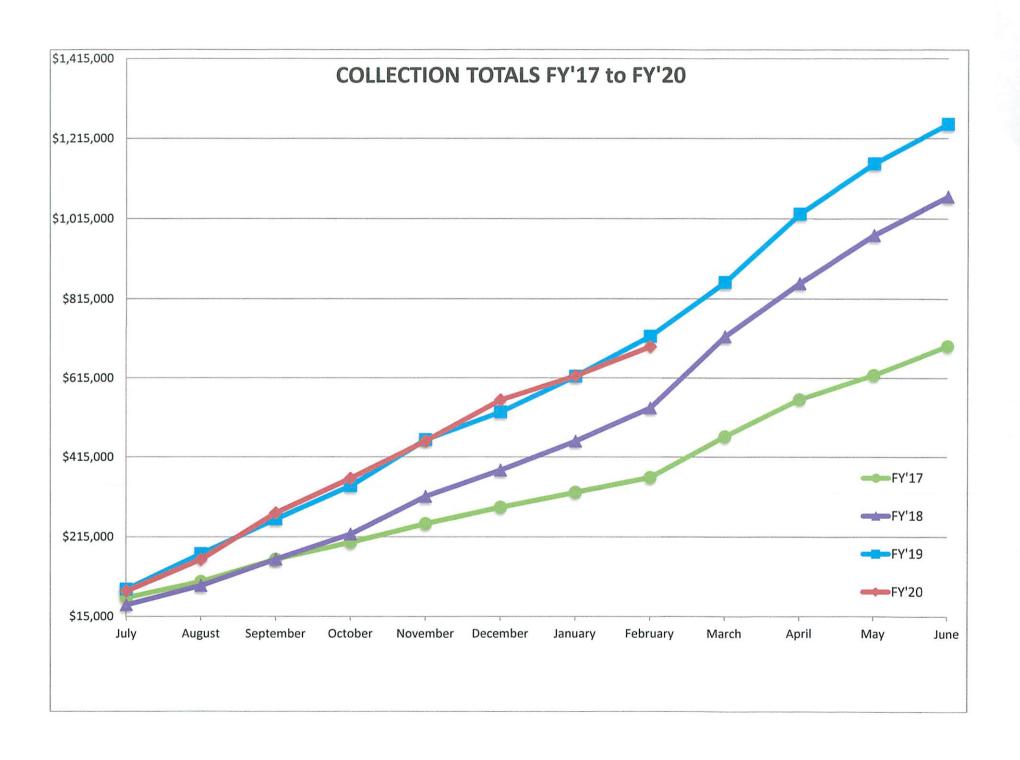












Sub-Committee Activity and Next Steps Discussion

TO: MCILS COMMISSIONERS

FROM: ELLIE MACIAG, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CC: JOHN D. PELLETIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

DATE: MARCH 12, 2020

Since the last meeting, the four sub-committees looking at financial oversight, a Public Defender Office, practice standards, and training have continued to meet. Time is set aside at the next meeting for reports on these activities and discussion of next steps.

(4.) Legislative/Budget Update

TO: MCILS COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JOHN D. PELLETIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CC: ELLIE MACIAG, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE/BUDGET UPDATE

DATE: MARCH 4, 2020

On February 25, 2020, Chair Tardy and I attended a public hearing before both the Appropriations Committee and the Judiciary Committee on the MCILS portion of the Governor's proposed Supplemental Budget. Attached is the written testimony I submitted. My spoken testimony focused on advocating for the two positions that MCILS is seeking, but that were not included in the Governor's budget. Both Chair Tardy and I then responded to questions from committee members.

On March 2, 2020, Chair Tardy and I attended a work session on the MCILS portion of the Supplemental Budget before the Judiciary Committee. We again advocated for the two new positions needed to expand capacity to implement the reforms the Commission is working on and answered questions from the committee.

The process requires the Judiciary Committee to make recommendations to the Appropriations Committee about the budget. They do so by voting on items to be included in a "report back" to Appropriations. Regarding our budget, the vote was divided. A majority of the committee voted to recommend the \$2,000,000 included in the Supplemental Budget, as well as the two positions requested by MCILS. They also voted, however, to recommend funds for 6 additional positions, bringing the total to 8, as recommended in the Sixth Amendment Center report, as well as funds for a statewide Appellate Defender Office, again as laid out in the Sixth Amendment Center report. A minority of the Committee voted to recommend the \$2,000,000 plus the two positions we requested. A copy of the MCILS portion of the Judiciary Committee report back is attached.

On March 10, 2020, Chair Tardy attended a work session for LD 1067, An Act To Promote Fairness and Efficiency in the Delivery of Indigent Legal Services, the concept bill that was carried over from last session as a vehicle to implement recommended changes from the Sixth Amendment Center report. Chair Tardy updated the Judiciary Committee on the Commission's work to date and the status of proposals for the future. The Committee decided to use LD 1067 as a proposal to fund a working group consisting of 12 members from the Commission, the Judiciary, and the Legislature to design and propose a plan for Maine to adopt a public defender system. The Committee voted unanimously that LD 1067 ought to pass. The Committee also unanimously voted for a joint order on a sunset provision for 4 MRS 1804 § 4 which would allow for the standards under subsection 2, paragraph B to become routine technical instead of major substantive for a period of time, most likely until spring or summer of 2021.

Also regarding the budget, I received communication from the Budget Office that they are preparing for the possibility that the Supplemental Budget will not pass as an emergency measure. That would

likely result in the budget not taking effect until after July 1, 2020 – the beginning of the next fiscal year. I was asked to report what problems that might cause for MCILS.

If the budget does not take effect when enacted, MCILS will not receive the \$2,000,000 needed to fill our budget gap until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns. This means we will likely be unable to pay vouchers for much of May and all of June. Attorneys will experience a delay in payment, and we will only be able to pay the backlog of vouchers once the budget takes effect.

Regarding non-budget legislative items, on March 3, 2020, the Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to move the financial screeners from MCILS to the Judicial Branch through an amendment to LD 182. In addition, the Committee unanimously rejected LD 1021, which would have required MCILS to oversee and pay for court appointments in the County run Probate Courts.

TO: HON. CATHERINE E. BREEN, SENATE CHAIR

HON. ANDREW GATTINE, HOUSE CHAIR

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

HON. MICHAEL CARPENTER, SENATE CHAIR

HON. DONNA BAILEY, HOUSE CHAIR

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

FROM: JOHN D. PELLETIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TESTIMONY

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Senator Breen, Representative Gattine, Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey, honorable members of the Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Judiciary, I am John Pelletier, Executive Director of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (Commission). I appear before you today to testify regarding the Governor's Supplemental Budget proposal.

The Commission's supplemental budget request submitted to the Governor's office contained three items: 1) an All Other request for the current fiscal year, FY'20; 2) an All Other request for FY'21; and 3) a request for two new permanent positions effective April 1, 2020. The Governor's supplemental budget includes the requested All Other supplemental funding for FY'20, but it includes neither supplemental funding for FY'21 nor the requested positions. The All Other requests will be addressed below, but first I want to address the Commission's urgent need for additional staff.

PROPOSED NEW POSITIONS

The Commission seeks two new permanent positions, an Attorney position and a Field Examiner II position, effective April 1, 2020, to expand its ability to train attorneys, to ensure the provision of quality representation, and to provide financial oversight.

Recently, the Legislature engaged the Sixth Amendment Center to study and report on indigent legal services in Maine. That report pointed out that the Commission staff currently lacks capacity to provide needed training, evaluation, and supervision of attorneys in the field and to provide financial oversight of attorney billing and Commission financial operations. The Sixth Amendment Center recommended eight additional staff positions within the Commission central office.

Since the Sixth Amendment Center issued its report, the membership of the Commission itself has been re-constituted with an expanded number of seats all filled by newly appointed members. The Commission is working diligently to identify measures needed to improve indigent legal services in the longer term. For the near term, the Commission has identified an immediate need to expand staff capacity to provide needed financial oversight, as well as attorney training and supervision of attorney performance. Hence, the request for prompt authorization of two new positions.

The operations staff of the Commission consists of four people, an Executive Director, a Deputy Executive Director, both attorneys, an accounting technician, and an office associate.¹ This small staff oversees a system in which over 400 private attorneys provide representation to indigent people in approximately 25,000 cases per year.

¹The Commission also employs 9 financial screeners, 6 full time and 3 part time, who assist the court in making indigency determinations and pursue collections from people ordered to reimburse the State for some or all of the cost of their representation.

The Commission seeks to hire an additional attorney to enhance capacity for training and supervision of attorneys. For this hire, the Commission seeks to establish a Public Service Manager I position. Among State positions, the job description for a Public Service Manager best comports with the varied tasks performed by Commission attorneys. Note that the Deputy Executive Director position is currently established as Public Service Manager II.

The Commission also seeks to hire a person with financial and audit skills. To date, the Commission has never had a staff position dedicated to financial oversight. This position would allow the Commission to undertake detailed review of individual attorney billing, where warranted, and to conduct financial analysis with respect to all aspects of the Commission's ongoing operations. For this position, the Commission seeks to establish a Field Examiner II position.

The reconstituted Commission has identified an urgent need for additional capacity in these two areas. Ultimately, additional staff beyond these two positions will be required to implement the kinds of reforms called for by the Sixth Amendment Center, but without prompt authorization of these positions, the Commission's ability to implement needed improvements during the balance of this biennial cycle will be severely limited by the size of its current staff. The Commission respectfully requests that the Legislature fund these positions as requested.

Personal Services Supplemental Request FY'20 \$42,716 FY'21 \$179,256

ALL OTHER BUDGET REQUEST

Although the Commission seeks substantial additional funding for each year of the biennium, understand that the Commission is seeking flat funding. This request does not arise due to increasing costs or any mis-projection of anticipated costs.

For FY'19, the Commission's All Other budget was approximately \$18.3 million.

Essentially, the Commission has received this amount of All Other funding for each year since

FY'16, and each year, this amount has been sufficient to cover the cost of indigent legal services.

In August, 2018, the Commission sought continued funding at the \$18.3 million level in its

biennial budget request. Nevertheless, the Governor's budget proposed All Other funding of

\$15.5 million for each year of the biennium, and the Legislature enacted that amount.

Recent Budget History

In FY'16, the All Other appropriation totaled \$18.3 million. That year, costs came in under budget and approximately \$1 million lapsed back into the General Fund. For FY'17, the Legislature appropriated \$15.5 million in All Other funding. As a result, the Commission exhausted its funding in early May, and attorney vouchers submitted at the end of the year remained unpaid, some for in excess of six weeks, and were pushed into the following year. For FY'18, the Legislature set the All Other budget at \$21.2 million, reflecting our budget request of \$18.3 million, plus \$2.8 million to cover the costs carried over from FY'17. Taken together, the budgets for FY'17 and FY'18 averaged \$18.3 million, and, at the end of FY'18, the Commission again returned approximately \$1 million to the General Fund.

The "All Other" budget for FY'19 equaled the \$18.3 million, but the Legislature created a wrinkle by placing all of the Commission's funding, traditionally separate General Fund accounts for All Other, Personal Services, and Revenue (reimbursements of attorney fees), into a single Other Special Revenue (OSR) account. Costs remained stable, and at the end of FY'19, the Commission had a surplus of approximately \$250,000 in "All Other" funds.

As mentioned above, the Commission budget traditionally had a separate account for revenue collected from reimbursements toward counsel fees and used by the Commission to

cover the costs of indigent legal services generally. These reimbursements arise from three sources: 1) people who are assigned counsel, but ordered to make periodic payments to cover some or all of the cost of their representation (partially indigent); 2) statutorily authorized set-offs against bail owned by defendants; and 3) offsets against State tax refunds from people who were delinquent in court ordered payments and who the Commission reported to Maine Revenue Services. During the first years of Commission operations, reimbursement revenue gradually increased from around \$500,000 to over \$700,000 per year. Due to a relatively recent statutory amendment and the efforts of the Judicial Branch, revenue jumped to \$1.1 million in FY'18 and \$1.2 million in FY'19.

Supplemental Request FY'20

The Governor's Supplemental Budget includes an additional \$2,036,206² in All Other funding. The Commission appreciates the Administration's support in this regard and urges the Legislature to enact this recommendation.

Supplemental Request FY'21

The Governor's Supplemental Budget does not propose any additional All Other funds for FY'21. Again, the Commission is seeking supplemental funding necessary to raise its All Other allotment to \$18.3 million in each year of the biennium, which amounts to flat funding for a 5th and 6th year in a row. An additional \$2.8 million is needed for FY'21 or the Commission will be unable to cover the cost of indigent legal services in May and June 2021. The Commission urges the Legislature to address this shortfall now to remove uncertainty about the

² This amount is less that the difference between the \$15.5 million included in the Biennial Budget and the Commission's All Other need of \$18.3 million. Primarily as a result of the increased collections described above, the Commission ended FY'19 with an unencumbered balance of just under \$770,000.00. Because this balance was in an Other Special Revenue account, the Governor was able to provide allotment by financial order for these funds to be available in FY'20, which reduced the amount of supplemental funding needed for FY'20.

Commission's ability to maintain day to day operations while it undertakes needed reforms to improve the provision of indigent legal services.

All Other Supplemental Request:

FY'20 \$2,036,206 (incl. in Gov.'s proposal) FY'21 \$2,804,980

SENATE

MICHAEL E. CARPENTER, DISTRICT 2, CHAIR SHENNA BELLOWS, DISTRICT 14 LISA M. KEIM, DISTRICT 18

MARGARET J. REINSCH, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST SAM SENFT, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST SUSAN M. PINETTE, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

DONNA BAILEY SACO, CHAIR
CHRISTOPHER W. BABBIDGE, LEWISTON
BARBARA A. CARDONE, BANGOR
LOIS GALGAY RECKITT, SOUTHPORTLAND
RACHEL TALBOT ROSS, FORTLAND
THOM HARNETT, GARDINER
DAVID G. HAGGAN, HAMPDEN
PHILIP CURTIS, MADISON
JOHN DEVEAU, CARIBOU
JEFFREY EVANGELOS, FRIENDSHIP

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

March 4, 2020

TO:

Senator Catherine E. Breen, Senate Chair

Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM:

Senator Michael E. Carpenter, Senate Chair

Representative Donna Bailey, House Chair

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Re: Supplemental Budget recommendations

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Judiciary Committee's recommendations concerning the Supplemental Budget. We reviewed and have made recommendations for the Department of the Attorney General (some unanimous, some divided), the Maine Human Rights Commission (unanimous), the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission (unanimous), the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (divided, plus language in Part CC)) the Judicial Department (divided) and Pine Tree Legal Assistance (unanimous). The work sheet is attached showing the votes on each initiative, as well as Part CC.

The Judiciary Committee supports the additional funding requested by the Judicial Branch: funding for GALs for FY20; funding for psychological examinations for FY20 and FY21; funding for judicial marshals for entry screening for FY20 and FY21.

As you know, the Judiciary Committee is continuing its efforts to address concerns about the provision of indigent legal services in Maine. Because the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services will be presenting its recommendations on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, we have not had the benefit of that discussion in developing this report on the Supplemental Budget. The full committee supports the funding in the Budget plus the funding for the two new positions requested by MCILS, starting in FY20. Knowing time is short, several members of the Judiciary Committee voted to include in this Supplement Budget the funding recommended by the Sixth Amendment Center in its 2019 report to improve training, qualifications requirements and financial oversight by fully expanding the "central office" of MCILS and creating a statewide Appellate Defender Office. The budgets proposed in the 6AC report for each component are attached (Appendix A and Appendix B). The same members supporting the 6AC recommendations also support the additional funds in FY21 to flat-fund the attorney compensation account: \$2,804,980. We will provide you with more information as we continue our work with MCILS to reform the provision of indigent legal services.

We are happy to answer any questions.

Sec. A-18. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

+ Parr CC

INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES, MAINE COMMISSION ON

Reserve for Indigent Legal Services Z258

Initiative: Provides one-time additional funding for indigent legal services.

Ref. #:	One Time	Committee Vote:	12-0	AFA V	ote:	
D, A-62	3		absent 10	-		
10	L REVENUE FUNDS			2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
All Other				\$0	\$2,036,206	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL	L REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL			\$0	\$2,036,206	\$0

Justification:

This initiative provides additional funding for indigent legal services to bring the All Other budget for fiscal year 2019-20 and fiscal year 2020-21 into line with the current spending. For fiscal year 2019-20 and fiscal year 2020-21, the biennial budget provides substantially less funding for indigent legal services than has been appropriated for the last several years. These additional amounts will essentially provide flat funding. Failure to provide these funds will leave the agency unable to cover the costs of indigent legal services in May and June of fiscal year 2019-20 and cause an even greater shortfall in fiscal year 2020-21 (this initiative associates with language).

INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES, MAINE COMMISSION ON

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$2,036,206	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,036,206	\$0

- · 2 positions requested by MCIUS \$\f20:\$\f21:179,25b
- * FY21: \$ 2,804,980 All Other (ally compensation) 8-4 (absent 10)
- For state Appellate Public Defender F121: #2,369,659.22 8-4 (absent so) [Appendix A from 6AC]
- of For Contral Office total of 8 employees Fy21: \$1,424,740.70 8-A (absent so) [Appendix B from GAC]

LR3206(1) - App-Alloc (JUD) Part A Sec. 18

PART CC

Sec. CC -1. PL 2019, c 343, Part PPPP, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. PPPP-1. Transfer from General Fund; indigent legal services. On or immediately after July 1, 2019, the State Controller shall transfer \$16,526,403\$18,562,609 unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, Reserve for Indigent Legal Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds.

PART CC SUMMARY

This Part is to increase the transfer amount for Indigent Legal Services in fiscal year 2019-20 from \$16,526,403 to \$18,562,609.

12-0 absent 20

APPENDIX A MCILS ADMINISTRATION

SALARY

PERSONNEL TITLE

GRAND TOTAL

TOTAL

POSITIONS

BENEFITS

ATTORNEYS	Executive Director	\$101,002.17	\$54,385.78	1	\$155,387.95
	Deputy Director	\$96,906.00	\$54,267.36	1	\$151,173.36
	Training Director	\$72,418.42	\$38,994.53	1	\$111,412.95
	Family Law Resource Attorney	\$72,418.42	\$38,994.53	1	\$111,412.95
	Delinquency Resource Attorney	\$72,418.42	\$38,994.53	1	\$111,412.95
	Adult Trial Resource Attorney	\$72,418.42	\$38,994.53	1	\$111,412.95
	Mental Health Resource Atty	\$72,418.42	\$38,994.53	1	\$111,412.95
	Audit Director	\$70,675.00	\$39,578.00	1	\$110,253.00
	Training staff	\$37,408.00	\$20,948.48	2	\$116,712.96
	Auditing staff	\$37,408.00	\$20,948.48	2	\$116,712.96
Sub-Total					\$1,207,304.98
NON-PERSON	NNEL EXPENSES			CURRENT	PROJECTED
Risk managen	nent insurances			\$1,795.39	\$7,181.56
Mailing/postag	pe/freight			\$4,675.71	\$18,702.84
Cellular phone	es service			\$1,406.69	\$5,626.76
Service center				\$3,095.00	\$12,380.00
Office supplie	s & equipment			\$2,062.61	\$8,250.44
Office equipm	ent rental			\$1,274.45	\$5,097.80
Eyeglasses re				\$300.00	\$1,200.00
OIT/TELCO				\$27,774.75	\$111,099.00
Subscriptions				\$327.75	\$1,311.00
Dues				\$585.00	\$2,340.00
Annual report	prorated			\$9.58	\$38.32
Annual parkin	g permit fee			\$1,140.00	\$4,560.00
Printing/bindir	1g			\$22.00	\$88.00
InforME annua				\$2,640.00	\$10,560.00
Sub-Total					\$188,435.72
CAPITAL EXF	PENDITURES		RATE	NUMBER	TOTAL
Laptop comp	uler		\$1,400.00	10	\$14,000.00
Furniture			\$1,200.00	10	\$12,000.00
			\$300.00	10	\$3,000.00

\$1,424,740.70

APPENDIX B STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER OFFICE

PERSONNEL	TITLE	SALARY	BENEFITS	POSITIONS	TOTAL
ATTORNEYS	Chief Public Defender	\$101,002.17	\$54,385.78	1	\$155,387.95
	Deputy Public Director	\$96,906.00	\$54,267.36	1	\$151,173.36
	Assistant Public Defender	\$72,418.42	\$38,994.53	11	\$1,225,542.45
	Investigator	\$43,068.00	\$24,118.08	1	\$67,186.08
	Social Worker	\$43,068.00	\$24,118.08	1	\$67,186.08
	Paralegal	\$38,500.00	\$21,560.00	3	\$180,180.00
	Office Manager	\$43,068.00	\$24,118.08	1	\$67,186.08
Sub-Total					\$1,913,842.00
NON-PERSON	INEL EXPENSES			COST/STAFF	PROJECTED
Risk Managem	nent Insurances			\$598.46	\$11,370.80
Mailing/Postag	ge/Freight			\$1,558.57	\$29,612.83
Cellular Phone	es			\$468.90	\$8,909.04
Service Cente	r (payroll processing, etc.)			\$1,031.67	\$19,601.67
Office Supplie	s/Eqp.			\$687.54	\$13,063.20
Office Equipm	ent Rental			\$424.82	\$8,071.52
Eyeglasses re				\$100.00	\$1,900.00
OIT/TELCO				\$9,258.25	\$175,906.75
Subscriptions				\$109.25	\$2,075.75
Dues				\$195.00	\$3,705.00
Annual report	prorated			\$3.19	\$60.67
Annual parkin	g permit fee			\$380.00	\$7,220.00
Printing/Bindir	ng			\$7.33	\$7,500.00
InforME Annu	al Fee (webhosting, etc.)			\$880.00	\$16,720.00
Rent				\$5,000.00	\$95,000.00
Sub-Total					\$400,717.22
CAPITAL EXF	PENDITURES		RATE	NUMBER	TOTAL
Laptop comp	uter		\$1,400.00	19	\$26,600.00
Furniture			\$1,200.00	19	\$22,800.00
Cell phones			\$300.00	19	\$5,700.00
Sub-Total					\$55,100.00
GRAND TOT	AL				\$2,369,659.22

(5.) Lawyer of the Day Staffing

TO: MCILS COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JOHN D. PELLETIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CC: ELLIE MACIAG, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LOD STAFFING UPDATE

DATE: MARCH 5, 2020

As directed at the last meeting, the Executive Director contacted the Judicial Branch Trial Chiefs seeking increased staffing for Lawyer of the Day sessions in Cumberland and York Counties. A copy of an email to the Chiefs is attached.

Per the discussion at the last meeting, staff will be looking at available data to determine what other areas may be in need of increased LOD staffing and whether sufficient attorney resources are available in those areas to meet the need.

Maciag, Eleanor

From: Pelletier, John

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2020 9:34 AM

To:Mullen, Robert E; Sparaco, Susan; French, JedCc:jtardy@rudmanwinchell.com; Maciag, Eleanor

Subject: LOD Staffing

Trial Chiefs:

At their last meeting, the Commissioners decided to take steps to increase Lawyer of the Day staffing at various court events. At this time, we are requesting that staffing immediately increase in courts in Cumberland and York Counties. For sessions that normally have two Lawyers of the Day, we are asking that three be scheduled. For sessions that normally have one Lawyer of the Day, which I believe applies to Friday probation revocation initial appearances in Portland and perhaps juvenile initial appearances, we are asking that two Lawyers of the Day be scheduled.

I understand that this will require additional efforts by your clerks, and we appreciate your cooperation, but we are also hopeful that the additional Lawyers of the Day will speed processing of these dockets while also allowing more in depth assessment of each client's case.

With respect to other courts, we expect to do some data analysis to identify areas in need of increased staffing. In other areas as well, we understand that clerks are having difficulty staffing Lawyers of the Day at the current level. We will keep that in mind with respect to any future requests.

Thank you for your cooperation, and feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

John

John D. Pelletier, Esq., Executive Director Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services 154 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

John.pelletier@maine.gov (207) 287-3254

(6.)

OPEGA Update

TO: MCILS COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JOHN D. PELLETIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CC: ELLIE MACIAG, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: OPEGA UPDATE **DATE:** MARCH 5, 2020

On March 5, 2020, Chair Tardy and the Executive Director met with OPEGA staff for a briefing on issues likely to appear in their report to the Government Oversight Committee (GOC). The next steps in the process are as follows. A draft report will be submitted to Commission staff for review and comment on specific wording. Thereafter, a copy of the report that will go to the GOC will be forwarded to the Commission. The report remains confidential at that point, but by statute, the Commission has 15 days to comment on the report. Comments are to be transmitted in a formal comment letter that will also be submitted to the GOC. The anticipated timeline calls for the report that triggers the 15-day comment period will be forwarded on March 25, 2020, with the comment letter due back on April 8, 2020.

(7.)

Compensation for CLE Attendance

TO: MCILS COMMISSIONERS

FROM: ELLIE MACIAG, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CC: JOHN D. PELLETIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: COMPENSATION FOR CLE ATTENDANCE

DATE: MARCH 11, 2020

Chair Tardy received the following request from MACDL President Jamesa Drake about compensating attorneys for attending a MACDL CLE on lawyer of the day best practices:

"MACDL is putting on a 1-hour webinar in April. I was really struck by our conversation with Justin Andrus and his take (or the BBO's take) on what lawyers-of-the-day should be doing in terms of conflict checks, record keeping, etc. I'm thinking that it might be worthwhile to ask Justin to present for about 30 minutes, and then to have a small panel of lawyers talk about LOD best practices (or to just give Justin the entire hour, if that's his preference). The reason I'm writing to you is: would MCILS be willing to compensate attorneys who attend the seminar for 1 hours' time? If so, I can work with John and Ellie to figure out the billing logistics. Because the pool of attorneys who do LOD is relatively small, my best guess is that we'd have fewer than 50 attendees (at \$60/hr, that's \$3,000 worth of billing)."

On a related note, on March 11, Commissioner LeBrasseur and Deputy Director Maciag attended a court meeting in Cumberland County and the topic of attorney attendance at an upcoming Bench/Bar meeting where the lawyer of the day program will be discussed was brought up. The court would like to see more participation from members of the defense bar at these Bench/Bar meetings. One suggestion was mandatory participation by rostered LOD attorneys. Commission staff would like guidance about this suggestion.