

STATE OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
Docket No. OJ-15-1

In the Matter of
Request for Opinion of the Justices

**DISCLOSURE, MAINE CODE OF
JUDICIAL CONDUCT, CANON
3(E)(3)**

Prior to hearing this matter, for transparency and clarity, we enter this Disclosure to acknowledge that the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, the individual justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Judicial Branch have significant institutional relationships with the Governor and the Executive Branch Agencies, the Maine Legislature, and the Department of the Attorney General.

The Governor nominates, appoints, and reappoints Maine judges; he must review and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the Judicial Branch Budget; and he is appropriately involved with initiatives to change law or policy regarding the Judicial Branch.

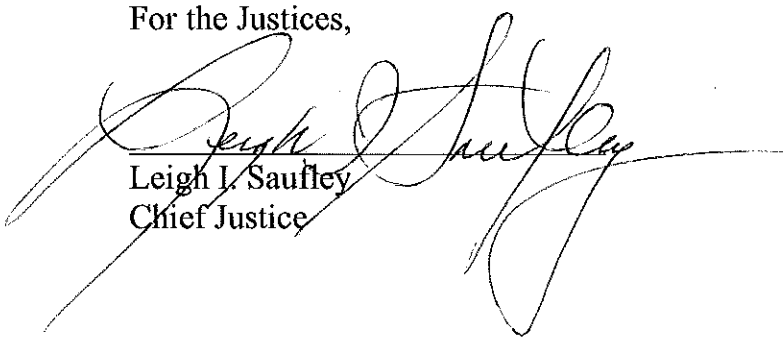
The Maine Legislature must review and confirm judicial appointments and reappointments; consider and approve appropriations for operation of the Judicial Branch; and adopt and change legislation controlling the administration and operation of the Judicial Branch.

The Department of the Attorney General appears regularly in the Maine Courts prosecuting crimes and representing State agencies in civil matters; participates on judicial committees recommending rules and rules changes that govern process in the Maine courts; and, on occasion, represents the Judicial Branch in contract matters or when the Judicial Branch or a judge is made a party to a state or federal judicial proceeding.

All of these actions are in accordance with the constitution and laws of the State of Maine. None of these institutional responsibilities and relationships creates a conflict of interest that compromises our capacity to fairly and impartially consider and decide any matter in which the Governor, the Maine Legislature, or the Attorney General is a party or is interested.

Dated: February 25, 2015

For the Justices,


Leigh I. Saufley
Chief Justice