

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
STANDING ORDER REGARDING
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER JB-24-03
PILOT PROGRAM TO CONDITIONALLY AUTHORIZE
LAW STUDENT EXTERNS TO PROVIDE
PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Effective: September 4, 2026

On December 18, 2024, the Supreme Judicial Court adopted Administrative Order JB-24-03, Pilot Program to Conditionally Authorize Law Student Externs to Provide Public Defense Services. The order provides that it expires on September 5, 2026.

The Court has not determined whether to adopt the program permanently. There are, however, students enrolled in externships for the fall semester of 2026 who will be unable to participate in the externships if the order is allowed to expire.

Because it will take time to determine whether the program will be made permanent, but the Court does not wish to prevent the currently enrolled students from participating in their externships, it is hereby ORDERED that the effective term of the pilot program established by Administrative Order JB-24-03 is extended through January 15, 2027.

The University of Maine School of Law and the organizations hosting student externs should not arrange for student externs for the spring semester of 2027 without first confirming that the pilot program will remain in effect for that semester.

Dated: September 4, 2026

For the Court:

_____/s/_____
Valerie Stanfill
Chief Justice