

STATE OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

Docket No. OJ-15-2

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, the Maine Legislature, and the Department of the Attorney General.

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

The Maine Legislature reviews and confirms judicial appointments and reappointments, considers and approves appropriations for operation of the Judicial Branch, and adopts and changes legislation controlling the administration and operation of the Judicial Branch.

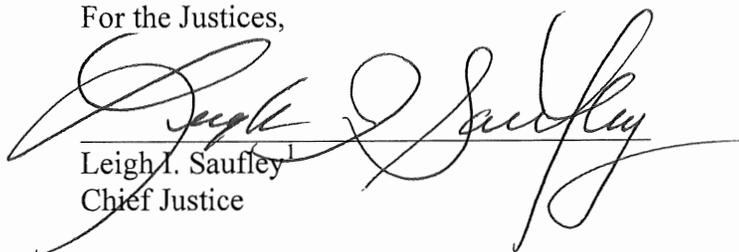
In addition, the legislation at issue in the instant matter may include bills that affect Judicial Branch employees, or bills that were supported or opposed by the Judicial Branch. The legislation may also have an effect on local real estate taxes, and each Justice has an ownership interest in real estate in her or his town or city of residence. For example, the Chief Justice lives in Portland.

Although we have, each of us, concluded that none of these matters creates a conflict of interest that compromises our capacity to fairly and impartially consider and decide any matter in which the Governor or the Maine Legislature is a party or is interested, we enter this disclosure pursuant to M. Code Jud. Conduct I(3)(E)(3).

Each of the six undersigned Justices has concluded that she or he can be fair and impartial in the matter pending before the Court and that the matters addressed herein do not require recusal. If leadership of the Executive or Legislative Branches have any objection to any Justice participating in this matter, they may file any such objection on or before Thursday, July 23, 2015.

Dated: July 20, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

For the Justices,



Leigh I. Saufley<sup>1</sup>  
Chief Justice

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<sup>1</sup> The members of the Court are Chief Justice Saufley, and Justices Alexander, Mead, Gorman, Jabar, and Humphrey.