A FORMAL MESSAGE TO THE BIDDEFORD DISTRICT COURT AND ALL JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL

A Statement of Record Concerning Disability Accommodations, Financial Barriers, Judicial Accountability, and the Continuing Denial of Meaningful Access to Justice

ADDRESSED TO:

All Judges, Judicial Marshals, Court Clerks, Administrative Personnel, and Judicial Branch Officials Serving the Biddeford District Court and York Judicial Center

FROM:

Ryan G. Michaels
100% Disabled Veteran | Father | Self-Represented Litigant

DATE: November 20, 2026

SUBJECT: The Human Cost of Institutional Failure — A Documented History of Requests for Help, Unresolved Barriers, and the Pursuit of Equal Justice

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This statement is directed to the institution and its personnel collectively. It is intended to document my experiences, preserve my concerns, and demand meaningful accountability for the continuing barriers I have encountered while attempting to exercise my rights under the law.

I want you to understand something, and I want you to understand it clearly.

I am a 100% disabled veteran, unemployed, representing myself, and a father who has not seen his children in more than two years.

For nearly two years, I have been begging this judicial system to listen. I have submitted evidence, filed complaints, requested ADA accommodations, documented financial hardship, and repeatedly explained the devastating consequences of what I have been experiencing.

I have put these concerns in writing. I have followed procedures. I have asked for assistance. I have documented the responses. I have returned again and again because I still believe government officials should be accountable to the same laws they are entrusted to enforce.

And what has all of that accomplished?

I am standing here, once again, attempting to obtain judicial review of government conduct I believe violates the law, only to discover that the judges of this courthouse have denied my requests to waive filing fees.

Three hundred and fifty dollars.

From an unemployed, disabled father already facing approximately $3,500 in monthly court-ordered financial obligations.

What kind of judicial system can receive years of documented pleas for assistance, repeatedly hear about a person's disabilities and financial circumstances, and still make that person pay for the opportunity to seek accountability from his own government?

I am not asking you personally to answer that question. I understand that you did not make these decisions.

But somebody within this institution needs to confront what is happening here.

Because I cannot reconcile the reality of what I have documented with the reality of how this courthouse continues to treat me.

I cannot reconcile the repeated requests for ADA accommodations with the barriers I continue to encounter.

I cannot reconcile being told that the courts exist to provide remedies for unlawful government conduct with being financially prevented from even pursuing those remedies.

And I certainly cannot reconcile the responsibility judges hold to administer justice with the devastating consequences of decisions that appear completely disconnected from the circumstances repeatedly placed before them.

I have spent years trying to demonstrate that government institutions are failing to follow the law. And now I am standing inside the institution entrusted with holding them accountable, struggling to afford the opportunity to have those allegations heard.

That should disturb every person who believes in justice.

Not because I am a veteran. Not because I am disabled. Not even because I am a father desperate to see his children again.

But because **if a citizen can exhaust himself documenting government misconduct, follow the established procedures, repeatedly ask for help, and still be priced out of seeking judicial relief, then what exactly is the promise of equal justice worth?**

I have not given up on the law.

But after everything I have reported, documented, and endured, I have serious questions about whether the people entrusted to administer it comprehend the consequences of their decisions.

The most disturbing part of this entire experience is that I came to this courthouse seeking accountability for government institutions that I believe have failed to follow the law—and I am leaving with yet another reason to question the institution that is supposed to hold them accountable.

I want that understood.

And I want it documented.