Gmail Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

FOAA request for court security footage

9 messages

Cardone, Barbara <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov> Mon, Nov 3, 2025 at 12:55 PM
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Cc: "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>

Mr. Michaels -

I am writing in response to your emails to Jessica Tarr last week requesting the production of video tapes under Maine's FOAA statute.

As I explained to you in prior emails, the Judicial Branch is not subject to FOAA, so we will not be providing any video in response to your request, nor will we be providing any basis for the denial of the request under FOAA.

Ms. Tarr has send you the administrative order (JB-15-01) from the Maine Supreme Judicial Court that explains the procedure and circumstances under which the Judicial Branch is able to release security video footage. For your convenience, I am attaching a copy of the order to this email.

I understand that the footage you are seeking has been preserved. I leave it to you to comply with the terms of the administrative order in taking any further action.

BARBARA A. CARDONE | Director of Legal Affairs and Public Relations

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jb-15-01.pdf
84K

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 10:49 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: "Cardone, Barbara" <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov>
Cc: "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>, Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov, Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov, Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov, Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov, Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov, Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov, john.eder@legislature.maine.gov, Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov, Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov, "Greiner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Greiner@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>,

holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>, Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>, Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>, Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, "Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov" <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "robinson@themainewire.com" <robinson@themainewire.com>, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, Attorney General <attorney.general@maine.gov>, Matt Tarasevich <mtarasevich@bernsteinshur.com>, Tina Harding <Tina.Harding@msad60.org>, Kristen Cates <kristen.cates@msad60.org>, "Levey, Khristin" <khristin.levey@maine.gov>

Subject: Request Under Administrative Order JB-15-01 – Courtroom 1 Footage (Biddeford, Oct 30, 2025)

Ms. Cardone,

Thank you for your email dated November 3, 2025, regarding my request for the security footage from Courtroom 1 at the Biddeford District Court on October 30, 2025.

Gmail - FOAA request for court …

I understand that you are reiterating the Judicial Branch's position that Maine's FOAA statute does not apply to the Judicial Branch and that you therefore "will not be providing any video in response to [my] request, nor… any basis for the denial of the request under FOAA." For purposes of this message, I will set aside FOAA and focus instead on the authority and procedures set out in Administrative Order JB-15-01, which you have directed me to follow.

As you noted, JB-15-01 governs the creation, use, and potential release of court security video footage. The order also recognizes that there are **specific circumstances** under which footage **may be released**, including where:

- There are **public safety concerns**;
- There are allegations of **misconduct by Judicial Branch personnel**;
- There are **disability discrimination / ADA-related complaints** or issues of access; and
- The recording is needed in connection with a **complaint, review, or investigation**.

My situation falls squarely within these categories:

- On October 30, 2025, during my Protection from Abuse hearing in Courtroom 1 (Michaels v. Guerrero), I reported that a judicial marshal placed his hands on my chest and pushed me backward out of the courtroom, after another marshal became verbally aggressive. I immediately called 911 to report the incident.

  Gmail - FOAA Request + Fee Waiv…

- I am a 100% disabled veteran and was appearing as a self-represented litigant; I am pursuing a **formal complaint** regarding marshal conduct and the court's ADA compliance.
- The incident raises obvious **public safety**, **employee misconduct**, and **disability rights** concerns, and the footage is critical evidence for any meaningful review.

Given the above, I am now making a **formal request for release of the preserved Courtroom 1 footage under Administrative Order JB-15-01 itself**, independent of FOAA. Specifically:

1. **Please confirm whether JB-15-01 provides a mechanism for release of security footage in circumstances involving alleged marshal misconduct, public safety concerns, and disability discrimination complaints, as described above.**

2. **Please treat this as a formal request under JB-15-01 for release of the preserved Courtroom 1 video (and relevant adjacent areas) from October 30, 2025, for the time period covering my appearance and removal from the courtroom.** If a particular form, petition, or motion is required to invoke this process, please clearly identify:
    - The specific step(s) I must take,
    - The office or official to whom the request must be directed, and
    - Any applicable deadlines.

3. Because this request directly concerns my ability as a disabled litigant to document and challenge the conduct of court security personnel, I also ask that you treat this communication as a **Title II ADA accommodation request** under 28 C.F.R. Part 35. If the Judicial Branch intends to deny release of the footage as an ADA accommodation on the basis of "undue burden" or "fundamental alteration," please provide a written determination that satisfies **28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3)**, including:
    - The **name and title** of the official who made the determination, and
    - The **specific reasons** supporting that conclusion.

4. In prior correspondence regarding other matters, I have repeatedly asked who within the Judicial Branch holds responsibility for ADA compliance and grievance review, but I have not received a clear, usable referral. For clarity going forward, please identify the **Judicial Branch ADA coordinator or equivalent official** to whom ADA grievances related to court access and marshal conduct should be directed.

You indicated that "the footage [I am] seeking has been preserved" and that it is up to me to "comply with the terms of the administrative order in taking any further action."

To do so in good faith, I need a clear explanation of how JB-15-01 applies in this situation and what specific steps the Judicial Branch requires of a self-represented, disabled litigant seeking review of marshal use of force in a public courtroom.

I appreciate your prompt response and look forward to a clear explanation of the process and applicable standards under JB-15-01 and the ADA.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
100% Disabled Veteran / Self-Represented Litigant
Berwick, ME
rtgmich@gmail.com
[Quoted text hidden]

Cardone, Barbara <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov> Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 11:05 AM
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Although I can't give you legal advice, I can suggest that a subpoena to the State Court Administrator might be the vehicle you need to get the video.

BARBARA A. CARDONE | Director of Legal Affairs and Public Relations

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:49 AM

To: Cardone, Barbara <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov>
Cc: [Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>; Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov <Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov>; Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov <Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov>; Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov <Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov>; Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov <Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov>; Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov <Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov>; Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov <Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov>; Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov <Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov>; john.eder@legislature.maine.gov <john.eder@legislature.maine.gov>; Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov <Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov>; Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov <Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov>; Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov <Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov>; Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov <Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov>; Greiner, Jennifer <Jennifer.Greiner@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov <holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov>; Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov <Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov>; Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>; Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>; Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>; Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>; Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>; Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>; CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>; Rafferty, Joe <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>; Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>; opega@legislature.maine.gov <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>; robinson@themainewire.com <robinson@themainewire.com>; Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent) <governor@maine.gov>; Attorney General <attorney.general@maine.gov>; Matt Tarasevich <mtarasevich@bernsteinshur.com>; Tina Harding <Tina.Harding@msad60.org>; Kristen Cates <kristen.cates@msad60.org>; Levey, Khristin <khristin.levey@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: FOAA request for court security footage

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 11:19 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: "Cardone, Barbara" <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov>
Cc: "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>, Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov, Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov, Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov, Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov, Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov, Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov, john.eder@legislature.maine.gov, Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov, Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov, "Greiner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Greiner@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>, Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>, Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>, Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, "Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov" <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "robinson@themainewire.com" <robinson@themainewire.com>, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, Attorney General <attorney.general@maine.gov>, Matt Tarasevich

<mtarasevich@bernsteinshur.com>, Tina Harding <Tina.Harding@msad60.org>, Kristen Cates <kristen.cates@msad60.org>, "Levey, Khristin" <khristin.levey@maine.gov>

Subject: Follow-Up: Request for Court Security Video – JB-15-01, ADA, and Misconduct Review

Ms. Cardone,

Thank you for your latest email. I appreciate your suggestion that I pursue a subpoena directed to the State Court Administrator as a potential method for obtaining the preserved Courtroom 1 footage from October 30, 2025.

However, I remain confused as to why a subpoena would be required at all, given the plain language of Administrative Order JB-15-01 and the circumstances surrounding this incident.

To clarify:

1. JB-15-01 explicitly allows release of court security footage in situations involving public safety concerns, allegations of misconduct by Judicial Branch personnel, ADA/disability discrimination complaints, or incidents requiring review or investigation. My request falls under all of these categories. To date, I have not received any explanation as to why JB-15-01's exceptions are not being applied.

2. A subpoena is not an ADA-compliant process. I am a 100% disabled veteran reporting a use of force by a marshal while attempting to access my scheduled hearing. Under 28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3), the Judicial Branch must provide a written undue-burden or fundamental-alteration explanation if an ADA accommodation request is denied. Directing me to initiate a subpoena process does not satisfy that requirement, nor does it constitute an ADA grievance procedure.

3. I still need the name and title of the official who made the decision to deny my initial request, as required under JB-15-01 and standard administrative practice. To date, no decision-maker has been identified.

4. If a subpoena is truly the only mechanism the Judicial Branch is willing to acknowledge, I request a written explanation of why none of the release provisions in JB-15-01—which are expressly designed for situations involving marshal misconduct, disability access issues, and safety concerns—are being applied in this case.

To move forward constructively, please clarify:

- Whether the Judicial Branch is formally denying my JB-15-01 request;
- Whether this denial is being issued as an ADA accommodation denial;
- The name and title of the official who made that determination; and
- The specific legal or policy basis supporting a requirement that a disabled litigant subpoena the Judicial Branch to obtain evidence of alleged misconduct by Judicial Branch personnel.

This information will allow me to pursue the proper channels, including ADA review, administrative appeal, or judicial remedies as appropriate.

Thank you again for your time. I look forward to receiving the clarifications above.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 9:01 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: "Cardone, Barbara" <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov>
Cc: "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>, Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov, Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov, Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov, Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov, Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov, Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov, john.eder@legislature.maine.gov, Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov, Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov, "Greiner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Greiner@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>,

holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>, Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>, Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>, Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, "Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov" <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "robinson@themainewire.com" <robinson@themainewire.com>, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, Attorney General <attorney.general@maine.gov>, Matt Tarasevich <mtarasevich@bernsteinshur.com>, Tina Harding <Tina.Harding@msad60.org>, Kristen Cates <kristen.cates@msad60.org>, "Levey, Khristin" <khristin.levey@maine.gov>

Subject: Request for Clarification – JB-15-01, ADA, and Required Process

Ms. Cardone,

Thank you for your previous responses. I want to ensure that I fully understand the Judicial Branch's position so that I can follow the correct procedure.

At this point, I still have not received the information necessary to comply with Administrative Order JB-15-01 or the ADA. Specifically, I need to know:

1. Is the Judicial Branch formally denying my request under JB-15-01 for release of the preserved Courtroom 1 footage?
   If so, please confirm that this is a final denial.

2. Is the denial being issued as an ADA accommodation determination?
   If yes, please provide the written determination required by 28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3), including the name and title of the official who made it and the reasons for the decision.

3. If the Judicial Branch is taking the position that JB-15-01 does not apply here, please identify the specific section of the order that excludes requests involving:
   – allegations of marshal misconduct,
   – public safety concerns, or
   – disability access issues.

4. If a subpoena is the only mechanism the Judicial Branch will recognize, please confirm this in writing so I can pursue that route.

Because I am attempting to follow the correct administrative steps in good faith, a clear, written response to the four items above is necessary. This will allow me to proceed with ADA review, administrative remedies, or other appropriate processes.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your clarification.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
100% Disabled Veteran / Self-Represented Litigant

[Quoted text hidden]

Cardone, Barbara <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 10:05 AM
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Cc: "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>

Mr. Michaels -

Nothing in JB-15-01 mentions the ADA. Also, since you have never disclosed to us the nature of your disability, we cannot evaluate any request under the ADA.

As you are aware, I cannot give you legal advice. I have suggested to you that a subpoena may be one way of complying with the procedure set forth in the administrative order, but I am not advising you as to whether it is the only way, or even the best way, for you to go about obtaining the footage. If you need specific legal advice on this issue, you will need to consult an independent attorney.

Until such time as the procedure set forth in the administrative order is complied with, the denial of your request for the security footage remains in place.

BARBARA A. CARDONE | Director of Legal Affairs and Public Relations

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 9:01 AM
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 10:52 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: "Cardone, Barbara" <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov>, "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>, Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov, Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov, Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov, Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov, Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov, Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov, john.eder@legislature.maine.gov, Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov, Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov, "Greiner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Greiner@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov" <holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>, Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>, Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>, Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, "Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov" <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "robinson@themainewire.com" <robinson@themainewire.com>, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>, Attorney General <attorney.general@maine.gov>, Matt Tarasevich <mtarasevich@bernsteinshur.com>, Tina Harding <Tina.Harding@msad60.org>, Kristen Cates <kristen.cates@msad60.org>, "Levey, Khristin" <khristin.levey@maine.gov>, Kit Thomson Crossman <intake@mhrc.maine.gov>
Cc: "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>

Subject: Request for Clarification – ADA Determination, JB-15-01 Procedure, and Identity of Decision-Maker

Ms. Cardone,

Thank you for your response. I want to ensure I accurately understand the Judicial Branch's position and that I am following the correct administrative process as required by law.

Your message raises several important procedural issues that I need clarified in order to proceed appropriately.

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1. ADA Request Acknowledgment

You stated that the Judicial Branch cannot evaluate my ADA request because I did not "disclose the nature" of my disability. For clarity, I previously disclosed that I am a **100% disabled veteran**, and my disability directly affects my ability to safely access and participate in court proceedings.

Under **Title II of the ADA** and **28 C.F.R. § 35.130, § 35.164, and § 35.106**, public entities may not require detailed medical documentation where a disability has already been disclosed or is obvious. A public entity also may not decline to process an ADA accommodation request based on a desire for additional medical information unless the disability is both non-apparent and unrelated to the requested accommodation.

Because I made a Title II ADA request, any denial of access to the accommodation I requested—including access to security footage relevant to marshal use of force during my attempt to access my hearing—constitutes a **denial of an ADA accommodation request** under **federal law**, regardless of how the public entity characterizes it.

You stated in your latest response that my request for the footage "remains denied." As a result, this denial is legally an **ADA denial**, and the Judicial Branch is required to issue a **written ADA determination** that includes:

- the name and title of the official who made the determination, and
- the specific reasons for the denial,

as required by **28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3)**.

To date, I have not received this mandatory determination.

Accordingly, please provide the formal ADA denial required under Title II, or identify the Judicial Branch's ADA Coordinator so that I may direct the request to the proper official.

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2. JB-15-01 Procedure Clarification

You stated that "until such time as the procedure set forth in the administrative order is complied with, the denial remains in place."

To comply in good faith, I need to know:

A. Which specific component(s) of JB-15-01 you believe have not been satisfied.
B. The exact procedural step(s) that must be taken.
C. The name, title, and office of the person or entity to whom the required request must be directed.

I am not seeking legal advice; I am requesting procedural information necessary to comply with the administrative order.

---

3. Identity of the Decision-Maker

For purposes of administrative due process, ADA review, and potential appeal, please identify:

A. The individual who made the decision to deny the request for footage; and
B. The authority under which they issued that denial.

This information is necessary for any further review or administrative remedy.

---

4. Subpoena Suggestion

You indicated that a subpoena "may" be one avenue for obtaining the footage. Before pursuing that route, I need confirmation of the Judicial Branch's official position:

A. Is the Judicial Branch asserting that a subpoena is the required or exclusive method for obtaining the footage?
B. If not, what non-litigation-based procedure—if any—exists under JB-15-01 for a self-represented litigant to request footage related to allegations of marshal misconduct, public safety concerns, and ADA access issues?

This clarification is necessary to ensure I follow the correct administrative process.

5. Summary of Required Clarifications

For ease of reference, I am requesting clear written answers to the following:

1. Please provide the formal ADA determination required under 28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3), or identify the ADA Coordinator responsible for issuing it.
2. Which specific step(s) of JB-15-01 remain unmet, and what steps are required?
3. Who made the decision to deny the request for footage, and under what authority?
4. Is a subpoena required, optional, or simply one potential avenue under JB-15-01?

These questions are procedural, not legal, and are necessary for me to follow the correct administrative path.

---

6. ADA Compliance Statement (For the Record)

For clarity, and to ensure the administrative record is accurate:

My request for release of the preserved Courtroom 1 footage constitutes a Title II ADA accommodation request as a matter of federal law.

Your statement that the request "remains denied" therefore constitutes a **denial of an ADA accommodation**, triggering the written determination requirements under:

- **28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3)** (written undue-burden/fundamental-alteration explanation),
- **28 C.F.R. § 35.107** (designation of ADA Coordinator), and
- **28 C.F.R. § 35.106** (notice requirements).

I am requesting the required written determination so that I may pursue any applicable review, grievance, or appeal procedures.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your clarification so that I can proceed through the appropriate channels.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
100% Disabled Veteran / Self-Represented Litigant
Berwick, ME
[Quoted text hidden]

Cardone, Barbara <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 10:55 AM
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Mr. Michaels -

I refer you back to my previous emails. I am not going to comment further.

BARBARA A. CARDONE | Director of Legal Affairs and Public Relations

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Cardone, Barbara <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov>; [Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>; Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov <Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov>; Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov <Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov>; Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov <Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov>; Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov <Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov>; Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov <Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov>; Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov <Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov>; Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov <Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov>; john.eder@legislature.maine.gov <john.eder@legislature.maine.gov>; Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov <Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov>; Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov <Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov>; Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov <Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov>; Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov <Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov>; Greiner, Jennifer <Jennifer.Greiner@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov <holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov>; Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov <Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov>; Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>; Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>; Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>; Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>; Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>; Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>; Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>; jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>; CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>; Rafferty, Joe <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>; Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>; opega@legislature.maine.gov <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>; robinson@themainewire.com <robinson@themainewire.com>; Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent) <governor@maine.gov>; Attorney General <attorney.general@maine.gov>; Matt Tarasevich <mtarasevich@bernsteinshur.com>; Tina Harding <Tina.Harding@msad60.org>; Kristen Cates <kristen.cates@msad60.org>; Levey, Khristin <khristin.levey@maine.gov>; Kit Thomson Crossman <intake@mhrc.maine.gov>
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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 11:11 AM
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: "Cardone, Barbara" <barbara.cardone@courts.maine.gov>, "[Executive Branch]Kielty, Brenda" <brenda.kielty@maine.gov>, Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov, Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov, Jill.Duson@legislature.maine.gov, Bradlee.Farrin@legislature.maine.gov, Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov, Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov, john.eder@legislature.maine.gov, Adam.Lee@legislature.maine.gov, Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov, Ann.Matlack@legislature.maine.gov, Chad.Perkins@legislature.maine.gov, "Greiner, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Greiner@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov" <holly.eaton@legislature.maine.gov>, Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov, Linda Corliss <lcorliss@berwickmaine.gov>, Arthur Capello - Berwick Town Manager <townmanager@berwickmaine.gov>, Brendan Reil <breil@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Timothy Towne <chief@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Denise Dunn <ddunn@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Edison Odess <eodess@berwickmainepolice.gov>, Jeff Brooks <jbrooks@berwickmaine.gov>, Lisa Chase <lchase@berwickmaine.gov>, Cyrus Morgan <cmorgan@berwickmaine.gov>, Val Andrick <vandrick@berwickmaine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov" <kmslattery@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jdgosselin@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jamcgettigan@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov" <jrkern@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov" <CAHOLMES@yorkcountymaine.gov>, "Rafferty, Joe" <Joe.Rafferty@legislature.maine.gov>, "Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov" <Thomas.Lavigne@legislature.maine.gov>,

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Subject: Final Clarification for the Administrative Record – ADA Request, Denial, and Refusal to Provide Required Information

Ms. Cardone,

Thank you for your response.

For purposes of accuracy in the administrative record, I want to document the following based on your statement: *"I refer you back to my previous emails. I am not going to comment further."*

---

1. The Judicial Branch Has Issued a Final Denial

You previously stated that my request for the preserved Courtroom 1 footage "remains denied."
Your latest statement that you "will not comment further" confirms that this denial is **final** and that no additional explanation or procedural guidance will be provided.

---

2. My Request Was a Title II ADA Accommodation Request

I previously disclosed that I am a **100% disabled veteran** and explicitly stated that my request was made under **Title II of the ADA** because the footage is necessary to:

- evaluate marshal use of force
- document disability-related access barriers
- pursue ADA-related review processes

Under **28 C.F.R. Part 35**, this disclosure is legally sufficient to trigger ADA protections.

---

3. The Judicial Branch Has Refused to Issue the Required Written ADA Determination

Because I made a Title II ADA request, the Judicial Branch was required to provide:

- the written ADA determination,
- the reasons for any denial, and
- the name and title of the official issuing it,

as mandated by **28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3)**.

You have now explicitly declined to provide this required determination.

---

4. The Judicial Branch Has Refused to Identify Its ADA Coordinator

Under **28 C.F.R. § 35.107**, public entities must:

- identify an ADA Coordinator,
- provide public contact information, and
- provide a grievance procedure.

I requested this information multiple times so I could follow the proper ADA process.

You have now explicitly refused to provide it.

---

5. The Judicial Branch Has Prevented Compliance With JB-15-01

You stated that my request is denied “until such time as the procedure set forth in the administrative order is complied with.”
I repeatedly asked:

- what specific step(s) remain unmet,
- what procedure applies, and
- to whom the request must be directed.

You have now stated you will not provide any further explanation.

This prevents any possibility of compliance with the administrative order and forecloses access to the process it establishes.

---

6. The Judicial Branch Has Refused to Identify the Decision-Maker

For due process and administrative review purposes, a denial must identify the official who issued it.

I requested this several times.

You have now refused to identify the decision-maker.

---

7. The Judicial Branch Has Refused to Provide Any Mechanism for Review

Because you have declined to:

- provide the ADA determination,
- identify the ADA Coordinator,
- identify the decision-maker,
- identify the applicable procedure,
- or state whether a subpoena is required or optional,

you have effectively closed off all internal avenues of review and prevented access to any meaningful administrative remedy.

---

8. Summary for the Record

To ensure the record is clear:

- I submitted a Title II ADA accommodation request.
- The Judicial Branch denied the request.
- The Judicial Branch refused to issue the required ADA determination.
- The Judicial Branch refused to identify its ADA Coordinator.
- The Judicial Branch refused to identify the decision-maker.
- The Judicial Branch refused to explain how to comply with JB-15-01.

- The Judicial Branch refused to state whether a subpoena is required.
- The Judicial Branch has stated it will not provide further comment.

These facts will be submitted through the appropriate ADA grievance channels and to the relevant federal and state oversight bodies.

Thank you for confirming your position in writing.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
100% Disabled Veteran / Self-Represented Litigant
Berwick, ME
[Quoted text hidden]