# Recap of Events – Biddeford District Court (October 30, 2025)

**Case:** *Michaels v. Guerrero (Protection from Abuse)*
**Location:** Biddeford District Court, 5:15 Elm Street – Courtroom 1
**Author:** Ryan Michaels
**Status:** 100% Disabled Veteran, Unrepresented Litigant

---

## Background

On **October 30, 2025**, I appeared at the Biddeford District Court for my scheduled **Protection from Abuse (PFA)** hearing in *Michaels v. Guerrero* at **8:30 a.m.** I arrived on time, checked in, and sat in **Courtroom 1** as instructed. The courtroom was full, and I waited patiently for several hours while other cases were heard before mine.

I am a **100% disabled veteran** and appeared **without an attorney.** My service-connected disabilities can make high-stress environments more difficult, but I remained patient, respectful, and cooperative throughout the morning as I waited for my hearing to begin.

---

## The Incident

At **around 11:15 a.m.**, the judge stepped out for a brief recess. During that time, a **judicial marshal/bailiff** addressed the courtroom and asked everyone **without an attorney** to raise their hand. I raised mine.

When he called on me, I identified my case as *Michaels v. Guerrero* and mentioned that the opposing attorney was **Amy Fairfield.** The bailiff appeared to misunderstand my response. In good faith, I then **suggested that he should clarify his question**, since I had answered based on how I understood it as a self-represented litigant with no attorney.

It was this simple suggestion—that he clarify his question—that appeared to **trigger him into overreacting and becoming aggressive.** His tone immediately shifted from professional to hostile. Without any legitimate reason, he ordered me to **“get out.”**

I was confused and calmly asked him **why** I was being told to leave. He ignored my question and repeated, **“Get out.”** I again asked **why**, and once more he refused to explain, only repeating the order.

At that point, I told him that I am a **100% disabled veteran** and that I needed to stay because I was there for a scheduled hearing. In direct response to that statement, he said loudly, **“I don’t care.”**

That response was alarming and deeply disrespectful, showing a clear disregard for my **disability status** and for the court’s **obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** to provide reasonable accommodation and de-escalation.

He continued to repeat his order to get out and then **walked toward me**, saying I had **“one of two choices.”**

I gathered my paperwork from the seat next to me, stood up, and told him that his behavior was going to **land him in a cell.** I then began walking toward the back of the courtroom to remove myself from the confrontation.

As I was walking away, he called out, **“Have a good day.”** I turned and asked, **“Have a good day? What do you mean by that?”** He said he **“misspoke,”** but still told me to leave the courtroom.

Moments later, a **second marshal** entered from behind me. Without warning or verbal exchange, he immediately **stepped in front of me and pushed me backward with both hands on my chest**, forcing me to exit the courtroom.

At all times, I maintained control of myself and acted appropriately given the situation. I did not make threats or behave in a way that justified physical contact.

---

## After Leaving the Courtroom

Once outside, I immediately **called 911** to report the incident. I then went to the **front clerk’s office** and informed the clerk of what had happened. I explained that I had contacted law enforcement and asked how to obtain the courtroom video footage. The clerk provided the email **jessica.tarr@courts.maine.gov** and advised me to request the footage and a **fee waiver** due to my circumstances.

A **Biddeford police officer** responded shortly afterward. The officer was professional and confirmed that I had **not been ejected** from the court. He told me that I could **leave for lunch and return at 1:00 p.m.** to continue waiting for my hearing.

This clarification made it clear that I **had not refused a lawful order**—I had simply questioned an **unclear and unjustified one.**

Afterward, I spoke with **Sergeant Tom Richardson**, the supervising bailiff at the Biddeford District Court, who will be receiving my formal complaint about this incident.

---

## Continued Events at 1:00 p.m.

When the court reconvened around **1:00 p.m.**, I returned to **Courtroom 1** as instructed. The **same bailiff** who had previously ordered me out of the courtroom and told me he "didn't care" that I was a 100% disabled veteran was the one reopening the door and calling everyone back in.

I walked past him without incident, sat in the front row, and waited silently for proceedings to resume—exactly as I had done that morning.

As people filed in, the bailiff began walking past where we were seated and into the well of the courtroom, where another **plaintiff and attorney** were already present. While passing them, the bailiff made a **joking remark about catching someone on their phone.**

This was notable because throughout the morning he had been **speaking harshly to multiple people**, raising his voice, ordering individuals to sit down, remove hats, or otherwise asserting authority in an aggressive tone. His sudden shift to a joking, casual manner appeared inconsistent with his earlier behavior.

During this exchange, the **plaintiff** in the courtroom responded light-heartedly to the bailiff's phone comment, implying that such a rule might be hypocritical. The bailiff then said, **"I'm an officer—I live in the gray area."**

The plaintiff laughed and replied, **"Well, I just don't want anyone to call 911 on you."** The bailiff and those nearby **laughed about it together—directly in front of me**, the very person who had been forced to call 911 because of his conduct earlier that day.

---

## Why This Matters

This incident represents a **serious breakdown of professionalism, due process, and disability accommodation** within the Maine Judicial Branch.

- I was a **scheduled party** in an active court case and had the right to remain in the courtroom until my matter was heard.

- The bailiff's order to **"get out"** was **unjustified and arbitrary**, given that I had only made a polite suggestion after he misunderstood my response.

- His statement, **"I don't care,"** when I identified myself as a **100% disabled veteran**, displayed a **complete disregard for ADA obligations** and for the respect owed to the

public.

- The second marshal's **use of physical force**—pushing me with both hands on the chest—was **excessive and unnecessary**, particularly since I was already walking away and not posing any risk or disruption.

- His later decision to **joke about the incident** in open court further demonstrated a **lack of professionalism, accountability, and respect** for his role and for the dignity of those he serves.

This was not a misunderstanding. It was an **abuse of authority** that undermines the integrity of the courtroom and the public's trust in judicial fairness.

The **courtroom video footage** from **October 30, 2025** will confirm the sequence of events and demonstrate that I acted appropriately throughout. Preserving and reviewing that footage is essential to ensuring **accountability, transparency, and ADA compliance** within the Maine court system.

---

## Next Steps

1. Filed a **Freedom of Access Act (FOAA)** request for all courtroom video footage from **Courtroom 1** for **October 30, 2025**, requesting a **fee waiver** due to disability and financial hardship.

2. Reported the incident to **911** immediately after it occurred.

3. Preparing this **formal complaint** for **Sergeant Tom Richardson**, as the supervising bailiff, regarding the conduct of the marshals involved.

4. Preparing a **formal ADA complaint** for submission to the **Maine Judicial Branch ADA Coordinator** and, if necessary, the **Maine Human Rights Commission**, citing discrimination and failure to accommodate.

---

## Conclusion

I came to court in good faith, ready to participate in my scheduled hearing. I remained composed and acted appropriately throughout the morning. The aggressive behavior and physical contact I experienced were entirely unwarranted and occurred only because I respectfully suggested that a court officer clarify his question.

The bailiff's dismissive statement of **"I don't care"** in direct response to me identifying myself as a disabled veteran represents not only a lapse in professionalism but also a potential **violation of federal disability law.**

His later decision to make jokes in open court about the same incident—knowing I was present—only deepens the concern about bias, ego, and lack of accountability among those entrusted with maintaining courtroom order.

No individual—especially a disabled veteran seeking justice—should ever be treated this way in a Maine courtroom. This incident highlights the urgent need for **training, oversight, and accountability** within the Judicial Marshal system to ensure that every person, regardless of status or disability, is treated with dignity and fairness.

**Ryan Michaels**
rtgmich@gmail.com
207 216 7955
100% Disabled Veteran / Self-Represented Litigant