

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT



DISTRICT OF MAINE

NEWSLETTER

May 26, 2021

Resumption of In-Person Proceedings

In keeping with General Order 2021-04 entered by Chief Judge Jon D. Levy on March 12, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine has resumed the scheduling of in-person proceedings. Jury empanelment and trials in civil cases will resume in July, and jury empanelment and trials in criminal cases will resume in August. Attorneys and members of the public should consult the COVID-19 related protocols and information published on the Court's website before appearing at an in-person proceeding. Questions should be directed to the Clerk of Court Christa K. Berry at christa_berry@med.uscourts.gov.

U.S. District Court Judge George Z. Singal – University of Maine Alumni Recipient

The Court would like to congratulate the Honorable George Z. Singal, who was awarded the 2021 Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Maine Alumni Association. Click [here](#) for more information about Judge Singal and the Alumni Award.

Notice of Reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge John C. Nivison

The Court welcomes comments from members of the bar and the public as to whether U.S. Magistrate Judge John C. Nivison should be recommended by the Merit Selection Panel for reappointment by the Court. The Court has appointed the following persons to serve on the Merit Selection Panel:

Hon. Warren M. Silver of Dedham (Chair)
Professor Dmitry Bam of Portland
Jeffrey S. Barkin, M.D. of Portland (Public Member)
David R. Beneman, Esq. of Portland
Donald E. Clark, Esq. of Portland
Ambassador Maulian Dana of Indian Island (Public Member)
Kaylee J. Folster, Esq. of Bangor
Carol J. Garvan, Esq. of Augusta
Jon A. Haddow, Esq. of Bangor

Jodi L. Nofsinger, Esq. of Lewiston
Katherine I. Rand, Esq. of Portland

Any comments concerning the reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge John C. Nivison should be directed to:

Christa K. Berry, Clerk of Court
U.S. District Court
District of Maine
156 Federal Street
Portland, ME 04101
Christa_Berry@med.uscourts.gov
Comments due by June 7, 2021.

U.S. Magistrate Judge John H. Rich III to Retire on April 1, 2022

U.S. Magistrate Judge John H. Rich III will retire on April 1, 2022. He was sworn into office on April 2, 2008, after nearly 25 years in private practice in Portland. He is the Vice-Chair of the Maine Justice Action Group (JAG) and co-chair of JAG's standing Pro Bono Committee. He assists Judge Nancy Torresen with the Court's SWiTCH re-entry program and is the judicial liaison to the Court's standing Local Rules Advisory Committee. Judge Rich serves on the U.S. Judicial Conference standing committee on magistrate judges and was a working group member for the 2020 federal judiciary Strategic Plan. He is the Articles Editor of the *Federal Courts Law Review*, the law journal of U.S. magistrate judges; an elected member of the American Law Institute; a graduate of Bowdoin College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law; and served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Edward T. Gignoux.

In accordance with statutory and Judicial Conference requirements, the Court is accepting applications for the Magistrate Judge position located in Portland, Maine. The deadline to submit applications is June 30, 2021. A merit selection panel composed of attorneys and other community members will be appointed to review all applications and make confidential recommendations to the District Judges, identifying the five persons the Panel considers to be the best qualified. The selection is ultimately made by the District Judges. For more information, visit the Court's [website](#).

District Court Local Rules Advisory Committee

The Court wishes to express its gratitude for the contributions of the outgoing members of the U.S. District Court Local Rules Advisory Committee: Melissa A. Hewey, Esq., Bernard J. Kubetz, Esq. and David G. Webbert, Esq. All three practitioners served the Court with distinction and helped the Court fulfill its mission of administering justice. They brought a wealth of experience to the task of improving the Court's Local Rules.

The Court welcomes three new practitioners to the Local Rules Advisory Committee: Joshua A. Randlett, Esq.; Valerie Z. Wicks, Esq.; and Katherine S. Kayatta, Esq.

District Court Criminal Law Committee

The Court also wishes to express its gratitude to the Hon. Sarah A. Churchill for her service on the District Court's Criminal Law Committee. Judge Churchill was recently appointed to the State of Maine District Court. To fill the vacancy left by her appointment, the Court has appointed Stacey D. Neumann, Esq. of Murray, Plumb & Murray to the Criminal Law Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

POWER Act Meeting

Congress enacted the Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 ("POWER Act") with the goal of having every U.S. District Court host an event to encourage lawyers to provide *pro bono* assistance to victims of domestic violence. On **September 17, 2021**, the Hon. Lance E. Walker, U.S. District Judge, will host a POWER Act meeting in Bangor, Maine. The meeting is cosponsored by:

United States District Court, District of Maine
United States Attorney's Office, District of Maine
Penobscot Nation Tribal Court
Wabanaki Women's Coalition
Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
New Lawyers Section of the Maine Bar Association

District Judicial Conference

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court's biannual District Judicial Conference has been rescheduled to **October 31 - November 1, 2022**.