



# MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

P.O. Box 17642  
Portland, ME 04112-8642  
(207) 523-9869  
mainemacdl@gmail.com

## 2024-2025 OFFICERS

*President*  
Jeremy Pratt

*President-Elect*  
Matthew D. Morgan

*Vice President*  
Sarah E. Branch

*Secretary*  
Luke Rioux

*Treasurer*  
Justin Andrus

## 2024-2025 DIRECTORS

Jesse James Archer  
Randall Bates  
Dylan R. Boyd  
Daniel Dubé  
Andrew Edwards  
Benjamin T. Everett  
Kristine C. Hanly  
James Mason  
Joseph Mekonis  
Jennifer Rohde  
Robert J. Ruffner  
John Steed  
Caitlyn Smith  
Lisa Whittier

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tina Heather Nadeau

March 31, 2025

Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Chair  
Representative Tavis Hasenfus, Chair  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
5 State House Station, Room 436  
Augusta, ME 04333

### **RE: LD 1024: An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-Related Medical Assistance.**

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

MACDL **opposes** LD 1024.

LD 1024 seeks to weaken Maine's Good Samaritan Law by expanding the list of ineligible crimes to include the types of crimes most likely to be committed in the same place as a fatal overdose. It seeks to remove protection from anyone subject to being charged with unlawful trafficking of illegal drugs, unlawful furnishing of illegal drugs, and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person (including an active user of controlled substances with or without a prior felony conviction). There is no legitimate policy reason for excluding these crimes. Instead, the only conceivable reason for removing such crimes that are so closely connected with drug use is to effectively repeal the bill despite its passage in 2021 after considerable debate and consideration by this committee and others.

The current version of the Good Samaritan Law is narrowly tailored to only provide protection to individuals who call for assistance or render aid to someone suffering an overdose. 17-A M.R.S. §1111-B(1)(B). This narrow and specific definition is written to save lives. It goes without saying that someone who may be concerned about being charged with selling (i.e., trafficking) or sharing (i.e., furnishing) drugs is in the best position to call for assistance or render aid to someone suffering from a drug overdose.

Hundreds of Mainers still die from drug overdoses every year. We should be strengthening—not weakening—our ability to save lives.

For these reasons, MACDL opposes LD 1024.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew D. Morgan  
Matthew D. Morgan, Esq.  
MACDL President Elect