



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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

May 12, 2025

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Senator Anne Carney, Chair
Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair
Joint Committee on Judiciary
5 State House Station, Room 438
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1856: An Act Directing the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Assist Persons Filing Post-judgment Motions to Seal Criminal History Record Information

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is a non-profit organization that has nearly 300 member attorneys who practice criminal defense across the state. Since 1992, MACDL has advocated for its members and the people we are fortunate to represent in courtrooms throughout Maine and at the State House.

MACDL presents this testimony **in support of** LD 1856.

The lifetime effects of a criminal conviction are almost too many to name, even for relatively minor offenses, even for offenses for which our clients were convicted a long time ago. Housing, employment, schooling, public benefits, and more are affected negatively by having any sort of criminal conviction.

The Maine Commission on Public Defense Services is tasked with providing high-quality, effective representation to people who are indigent and accused of committing crimes with a risk of incarceration. Despite the attorneys' best efforts, sometimes, people walk away from their cases with criminal convictions.

We support MCDPS to develop a procedure that would allow attorneys to "close the loop" and pursue sealing convictions for eligible former clients, guiding them through a non-intuitive court process, and allow for the attorneys to be compensated for that work.

Our work as lawyers does not just end when a case closes: we owe our clients duties of care and loyalty for life. With an established procedure for assisting our clients even years after their case has closed, this bill would allow us to fulfill our duties and help up to improve the lives of our clients for years to come.

For these reasons, we urge this Committee to vote **ought to pass** on LD 1856.

Thank you for your consideration, for your attention to this important matter, and for allowing me to present this testimony on this bill to you all today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tina Heather Nadeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tina" being the most prominent.

Tina Heather Nadeau, Esq.
MACDL Executive Director