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## The Collapse of Justice: How Pierce v. Rinaldi Became the Worst Abuse of Maine's Legal System

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For Submission to: Maine Government Oversight Committee (OPEGA), Maine Legislature, and Judicial Oversight Bodies

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### 1. Executive Summary

Pierce v. Rinaldi (CV-2021-138, CUM-22-423, CUM-23-165, SJC-23-4) is the most egregious abuse of the civil legal system in Maine history. For four years, the case advanced through perjury, altered documents, suppressed discovery, biased judges, and complete institutional failure. Despite overwhelming evidence, no court stopped the fraud. Every oversight body ignored the alarm.

Plaintiffs lied under oath. Judges refused to hold hearings. Motions exposing fraud were denied without findings. A Writ of Mandamus was buried by a conflicted Supreme Court justice. The result? A judgment built on fiction, rubber-stamped by silence.

This report documents that abuse, names the officials responsible, and demands action from OPEGA and the Legislature.

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### 2. Timeline of Abuse

June 2021 – Complaint filed using false affidavit

July 2021 – Justice O'Neil grants ex parte attachment with no findings

March 2022 – Defendant files Rule 60(b) and motion to amend; both denied without hearing

Sept 2022 – Discovery hearing; court refuses to compel key appraisal

March 2023 – Trial held; altered documents admitted; Rule 52(a) request ignored

April 2023 – Judgment issued with no findings

May 2023 – Post-trial evidence shows plaintiffs profited from comparable home

March 2024 – Hearing before Justice Billings reveals bias, recusal motion ignored

June 2024 – Writ of Mandamus filed; Connors assumes jurisdiction

August 2024 – Connors issues perfunctory denial

2025 – Legislative and oversight appeals ignored

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### 3. Master Exhibit Index (Organized by Abuse Category)

#### Fraud & Perjury by Plaintiffs

- False affidavit (June 2021)
- Trial testimony contradicted by property records (March 2023)
- Real estate records confirming plaintiffs' profit from similar property

#### Suppressed or Mishandled Evidence

- Discovery transcript showing appraisal withheld

- Altered appraisal introduced at trial
- Clerk email confirming filing delays

#### Judicial Misconduct

- Denials of motions without hearings (March 2022)
- No Rule 52(a) findings after bench trial
- Justice Billings shows bias in March 2024 hearing

#### Attorney Misconduct

- James Monteleone introduces evidence not disclosed in discovery
- Misrepresents key facts in briefing

#### Oversight Failure

- Justice Connors blocks Writ targeting fellow judges
- Known conflicts ignored
- OPEGA request and dozens of legislative emails never acknowledged

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### 4. Full Abuse Narrative

The case began with a lie: a sworn affidavit stating the plaintiffs had no alternative home. That lie went unchallenged. The court granted an ex parte attachment. No hearing. No cross-examination. No scrutiny.

In 2022, motions were filed exposing the fraud—complete with evidence. Justice O’Neil denied them without a hearing or findings. In 2023, the trial proceeded using altered documents. Plaintiffs lied again. Their lawyer introduced a forged appraisal. The court admitted it.

Post-trial, the fraud was undeniable. But Justice Billings refused to recuse or review it. Instead, he protected the judgment. Then the Maine Supreme Judicial Court assigned the Writ of Mandamus to Justice Catherine Connors—a justice with clear conflicts—who issued a blanket denial.

Oversight agencies never responded. The courts circled the wagons. And the truth was buried beneath silence and complicity.

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### 5. Judicial Complaints

#### Justice John O’Neil Jr.

- Denied all fraud-related motions without hearings
- Refused to issue Rule 52(a) findings
- Allowed case to proceed based on false evidence

#### Justice Daniel Billings

- Ignored recusal request
- Displayed bias during hearing
- Quote: “You didn’t like the result. That doesn’t mean the court got it wrong.”

#### Justice Catherine Connors

- Assumed jurisdiction over Writ naming fellow judges
- Failed to recuse despite prior representation ties
- Denied Writ without reviewing allegations

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### 6. Appendix A – Exhibits

Exhibit A-1: Real estate records contradicting trial testimony

Exhibit A-2: Plaintiff’s original affidavit (June 2021)

Exhibit A-3: Transcript of perjured trial testimony

Exhibit B-1: Discovery hearing transcript (Sept 2022)

Exhibit B-2: Altered appraisal document introduced at trial

Exhibit C-1: Rule 60(b) motion with evidence of fraud

Exhibit C-2: March 21, 2024 transcript showing judicial bias

Exhibit D-1: Assignment record—Writ given to Connors

Exhibit D-2: Connors' ruling with no findings  
Exhibit D-3: Press Herald article on Connors' conflict history  
Exhibit D-4: Clerk email confirming delayed filing  
Exhibit D-5: Legislative and OPEGA outreach archive

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#### 7. Appendix B – Motions, Transcripts, Communications

- Rule 60(b) Motion – Fraud exposure
- Motion to Amend – Scheduling request for fraud evidence
- Motion for New Trial – Based on perjury and discovery suppression
- Motion for Findings (Rule 52(a)) – Never addressed
- Discovery Hearing Transcript (Sept 2022)
- Post-Trial Hearing Transcript (March 2024)
- Clerk Email – Confirms critical filing was delayed
- Legislative Outreach Emails – Dozens sent, none answered