

**To:**

Maine Government Oversight Committee  
c/o Director Megan Portela  
Office of Program Evaluation and Government  
Accountability (OPEGA)  
82 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**From:**

Anthony Rinaldi  
[Your Full Mailing Address]  
[Your Email Address]  
[Your Phone Number]

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Subject:** Formal Request for OPEGA Investigation  
into Systemic Judicial and Legal Misconduct in  
*Pierce v. Rinaldi* (Docket No. CV-2021-138,  
Cumberland County Superior Court)

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## I. Executive Summary

I respectfully request that OPEGA open a formal investigation into widespread systemic misconduct in the civil lawsuit *Pierce v. Rinaldi*, CV-2021-138,

adjudicated in the Cumberland County Superior Court. This case represents a documented and well-evidenced collapse of multiple Maine institutions: the judiciary, the legal profession, the civil court process, and even municipal enforcement systems.

I present this request not as a mere litigant dissatisfied with an outcome, but as a citizen who spent more than 5,000 hours researching the law, defending myself as a pro se defendant, and uncovering verifiable, on-the-record evidence of:

- Perjury, discovery abuse, and altered evidence by the plaintiffs
- Ethical violations and litigation misconduct by their attorneys at Bernstein Shur
- Judicial bias, failure to rule on dispositive motions, and suppression of post-trial fraud evidence by multiple justices
- Collusion between city officials and private actors to suppress First Amendment-protected speech
- Systemic failure of every oversight safeguard to address these breakdowns

This was not a routine civil dispute. It is, I believe,

the most egregious abuse of Maine's civil justice system in modern history — and I am prepared to supply a full evidentiary record to support every factual claim in this letter.

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## II. What Happened in *Pierce v. Rinaldi*

In April 2021, I was sued for breach of contract and “illegal eviction” by plaintiffs Drew Pierce and Janice Lariviere, who claimed they had been unlawfully denied the right to purchase a home from me and removed from the property without process.

At trial, they testified that:

- They never bought another home
- They were rendered homeless
- They suffered \$102,000 in losses from missing out on the deal

These claims formed the foundation of the verdict — and were **proven false post-trial.**

I obtained:

- Certified evidence that Drew Pierce purchased another home of equal value
- Real estate listings showing he resold it for a \$350,000 profit
- Texts and emails contradicting key trial testimony and affidavits
- Exhibits showing the plaintiffs **altered the contract and spec sheet** submitted in court
- Acknowledged irregularities by court staff who **withheld this evidence from the docket for two weeks** — until after the judge issued his final ruling

In short, a fraudulent verdict was allowed to stand because the system did not stop — or even acknowledge — the lies.

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### **III. Judicial Misconduct: Three Justices, Multiple Failures**

#### **Justice Daniel Billings**

- Presided over the trial

- Improperly excluded audio recordings and exculpatory evidence without legal basis
- Allowed perjured testimony to proceed unchecked
- Refused to reopen the case after I submitted verified post-trial evidence of fraud
- Denied recusal after making biased and dismissive comments

### **Justice John O'Neil Jr.**

- Oversaw pre-trial and summary judgment
- Denied summary judgment despite plaintiffs failing to respond to Requests for Admission
- Misstated Maine's Rule 56 burden of proof during oral argument
- Ignored all motions raising fraud, altered exhibits, and discovery violations

### **Justice Catherine Connors (Law Court)**

- Assumed jurisdiction over my Emergency Writ of Mandamus, naming Justices Billings and O'Neil as respondents

- Refused to recuse, despite clear conflict of interest
- Dismissed the petition **without ruling on the merits**, providing no legal analysis, hearing, or acknowledgment of the emergency constitutional issues raised

Together, these three judges insulated one another from accountability and created a wall that prevented any fair review of the fraud that occurred at trial.

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## **IV. Attorney Misconduct by Bernstein Shur**

James Monteleone and other attorneys at Bernstein Shur:

- Submitted false affidavits and altered exhibits to the court
- Knowingly failed to correct testimony contradicted by discovery
- Delayed responses for 6+ months to critical discovery requests

- Misled me, a pro se litigant, by claiming I could be liable for their fees without legal basis
- Filed a baseless “Spickler” motion to label me a vexatious litigant and suppress my filings

All of this conduct is documented in emails, filings, and transcripts — and none of it has been sanctioned by the courts or the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar.

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## **V. Collusion with City of Portland Officials to Suppress First Amendment Rights**

Following the trial, I began peacefully protesting Bernstein Shur using a 100-foot banner reading **BernsteinShurSucks.com** in Portland parks.

Despite:

- Being told by Portland police and park rangers that the protest was legal and protected
- Protesting multiple times without incident under First Amendment protections

The firm succeeded in convincing city officials — including Corporate Counsel Michael Goldman and Neighborhood Prosecutor Richard Bianculli — to fabricate a “law” that was used to **illegally seize my protest banner**.

This direct suppression of constitutionally protected speech on behalf of a private law firm represents a shocking abuse of public power.

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## **VI. Legislative Oversight Is Warranted**

At every turn, I attempted to work within the system. I submitted motions, exposed contradictions, and even taught myself how to cite case law and court rules. I filed a Writ of Mandamus, alerted the clerk’s office to irregularities, and filed judicial complaints.

Every check failed.

If OPEGA’s mandate is to evaluate government performance, I cannot imagine a more urgent or well-documented failure. *Pierce v. Rinaldi* is a case study in:

- What happens when powerful law firms are protected by judges

- How courts can ignore pro se litigants who meet or exceed the standards of legal practice
  - How easy it is to obtain a judgment through false testimony when no judge will intervene
  - How First Amendment rights can be trampled when private power reaches into public enforcement
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## **VII. What I Am Requesting**

I respectfully request that OPEGA and the Government Oversight Committee:

1. Open an investigation into the handling of *Pierce v. Rinaldi* (Docket No. CV-2021-138)
2. Review misconduct allegations against Justices Billings, O'Neil, and Connors
3. Review litigation misconduct by Bernstein Shur and James Monteleone
4. Investigate the actions of Portland City Attorney Michael Goldman and Prosecutor Richard Bianculli related to my protest rights
5. Evaluate Maine's existing oversight mechanisms for civil court abuse and fraud

6. Hold a public hearing on the need for reform to protect citizens from legal system abuse
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## **VIII. I Am Prepared to Provide the Following**

- Full trial transcripts, court filings, and audio/video evidence
- Over 200 documents including emails, motions, exhibits, and post-trial submissions
- A list of discovery violations, misstatements, and perjurious testimony cross-referenced to sworn affidavits
- A timeline of events highlighting procedural abuse, court clerk irregularities, and barriers to appeal
- Photos and documentation related to First Amendment protest suppression

## **IX. Closing**

This case is not about a contract. It is about whether truth and integrity matter in Maine's civil courts. The evidence speaks for itself. I am asking OPEGA to do what no other institution has yet done: look closely, and act publicly.

Respectfully,

**Anthony Rinaldi**