

THE CUMMINS LAW FIRM, P.C.

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March 30, 2022

Governor Janet Mills
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

I hereby tender my resignation as a Commissioner of The Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services.

Having devoted a major segment of my six decade professional career to resolving problems facing our justice system, my decision to resign is inconsistent with that history. Yet it is mandated. I face an irreconcilable conflict.

Based on the current record (including the numerous reports critiquing MCILS and the testimony presented at the 12/9/21 MCILS Forum), one might readily conclude that neither the Executive nor Legislative branches of Maine's government are committed to compliance with fundamental concepts of due process. Indeed, it has been argued that Maine is unique in an apparent willful rejection of constitutional compliance with the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments.

The 2019 Report of the Sixth Amendment Center offered Maine the chance to effect true reform but that has not happened. There are a host of reasons for this misfeasance but it seems to boil down to a "I just don't give a damn" attitude.

It has been argued that Maine does not give a damn that a poor person who is accused of a crime may not be adequately represented or have the full benefits of due process.

It has been argued that Maine does not give a damn that the lawyers who seek to zealously represent an indigent accused are not respected or adequately compensated for their efforts or for their personal and professional sacrifices.

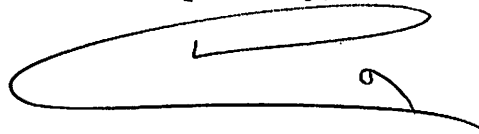
It has been argued that Maine simply does not give a damn that the criminal justice system in Maine is in crisis.

The ACLU has initiated a lawsuit in an effort to turn the tide of that injustice and to force Maine to comply with the Constitution. This is something many have attempted to do without success.

As a defendant in that lawsuit who is without the ability to bring it to a correct and proper resolution consistent with the mandates of the Constitution, I face a conflict that can only be resolved by leaving the Commission and by standing by my oath and by the side of the volunteer lawyers who unselfishly seek due process for the indigent accused.

Thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve the State of Maine.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Cummins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert P. Cummins

RPC/s

cc: All MCILS Commissioners – via email
Justin Andrus, Executive Director – via email