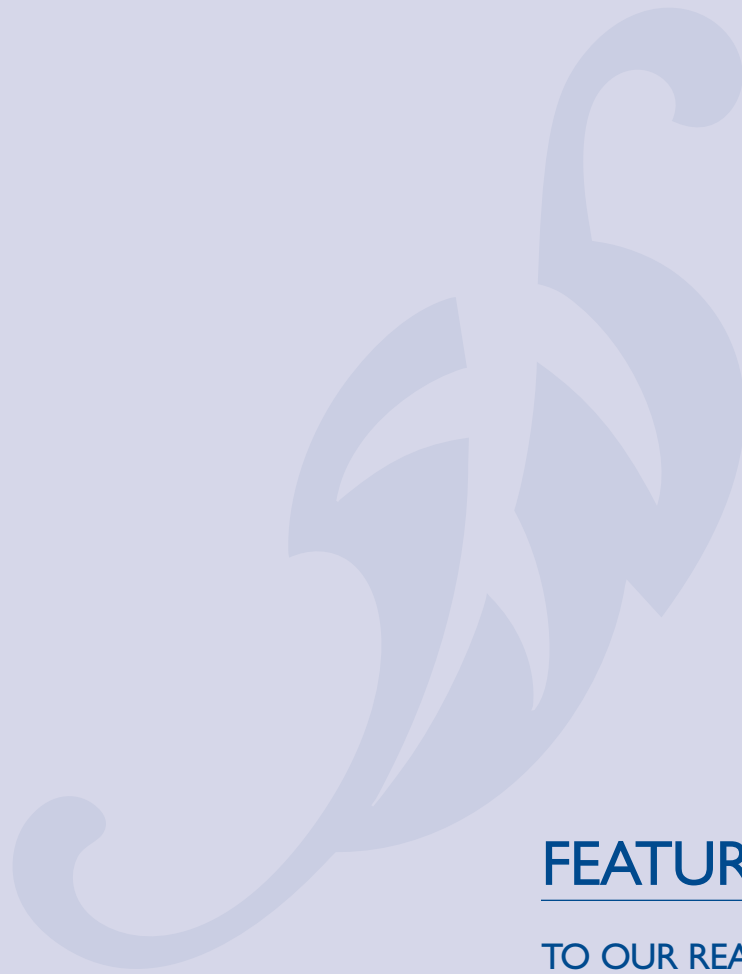




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SYMPOSIUM

Improving Maine's Justice System: A Significant Effort in Progress

Largely unnoticed by the general public, Maine's legal community—involving judges, lawyers, litigants, court staff, and countless volunteers—has been hard at work to achieve greater efficiencies in the courts' operations, greater quality in the outcomes of the courts, and improved access to justice for all of Maine's citizens.

In this symposium, key leaders in the ongoing effort to improve Maine's justice system describe a number of recent significant reforms. Beginning with an introduction by former Attorney General Andrew Ketterer, the symposium includes commentary by Frank M. Coffin, Senior United States Judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals; Jon D. Levy, Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court; Nancy Mills, Chief Justice of the Maine Superior Court; John David Kennedy, Maine District Court Judge with Wendy F. Rau, Family Division Director of the Maine District Court; and Calien Lewis, Executive Director of the Maine Bar Foundation.

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ARTICLES

Term Limits, the Standing Committees, and Institutional Response

Through citizen initiative in 1993, Maine passed a term limits bill that prevents legislators with eight years of consecutive service from seeking reelection. Many now question whether limits on service have hampered legislative efficiency through the loss of experienced leadership and institutional memory. In this article, Moen and Palmer examine the impact of term limits on the legislature's standing committees.

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A Sampler of the New Historical Atlas of Maine: Religion in Maine

This article offers an example of work-in-progress on a significant project to develop an historical atlas of Maine. Religious participation is a fundamental aspect of civic engagement in the United States. We feature here a glimpse of Maine's religious heritage. Proudly, we also present MPR's first full-color pullout.

Burton Hatlen, Joshua M. Smith,
Peter Lodge and Michael Hermann 48

Gun Control: State Versus Federal Regulation of Firearms

This article addresses the complex question of whether gun control should be regulated by the federal or state government, or by some combination of both. In a thorough look at the history of federal and Maine state gun control—and at the various ways the issue of gun violence can be framed—Harwood concludes that neither level of government has a clear mandate to regulate exclusively.

William S. Harwood 58

History + Resources = A Sense of Place

Unlike many states, Maine has an unusually strong "sense of place," or cultural regionalism. Griswold explores where this unusually strong sense comes from, and how it can be further nourished through literature.

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