

Volume 5 Issue 2

A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Summer 2001

#### Your Protection Under the Maine Human Rights Act: Basic Facts You Should Know

By Ivy L. Frignoca

Ivy received her BA degree from the University of Vermont in 1983. She graduated from the University of Maine School of law <u>cum laude</u> in 1993. She was a law clerk to the Hon. Daniel E. Wathen, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine. She is now an associate with the Portland law firm Lambert, Coffin, Rudman and Hochman where she practices in the areas of civil litigation, personal injury and torts. Her e-mail address is <u>frignoca@lcrh.com</u>.

n December of 2000, Pine Tree Legal Assistance Native American Unit Attorney Craig Sanborn filed a complaint in Superior Court on behalf of Diane Clement, a Shead High School student and member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. The case was later turned over to private attorneys Ivy Frignoca and Sam Rudman of the Portland law firm Lambert, Coffin, Rudman and Hochman. That case was reported on in the Winter, 2001 of the Wabanaki Legal (http:www.ptla.org/wabanaki/MWE-8TribalBriefs.htm. The complaint stated that a Town of Perry school bus driver discriminated against Ms. Clement. apdates you on the progress of that case and explains some types of racial discrimination that you may experience as a Native American.

In Ms. Clement's case, the Maine Human Rights Commission ruled that the bus driver had discriminated against her by calling all "Pleasant Point people" to the front of the bus for a "verbal dressing down with reference to their race," following a gum throwing incident involving only two students. The case has been filed in court and is in the "discovery" phase. That is the time when the lawyers for both sides send written questions to the opposing party to be answered under oath, take depositions (testimony under oath) of the parties and witnesses, and conduct any other necessary (Continued on next page)



The following are summaries of some of the cases Pine Tree Native American Unit attorneys have handled over the last six months. You can call attorneys Craig Sanborn or Mike Guare or paralegal Danny Mills at 1-800-879-7463.

Case One: Education

The client was a Passamaquoddy woman living in Bangor who was denied readmission at a local university because she had not reimbursed the school for an overpayment in grant monies. The school refused to allow admission until the overpayment was paid in full. After a short investigation, Craig Sanborn discovered that the original overpayment had been the result of a mutual







#### Native American Legal Briefs

--Tribal Sovereignty and Freedom of Access — --Cross Border Rights--

Maine Supreme Court Rules Indian Tribes Must Turn Over Certain Documents To Paper Companies. First Circuit Refuses to Intervene

On May 1 of this year, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the Maine Freedom of Access law applied to the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe (1) when they interact with other governments or agencies and (2) when the Tribes act as if they were municipalities. The Court also put limits on when the Freedom of Access law applied. The Court said that the law did not apply when the Tribes were dealing with internal tribal matters.

This case started when the State of Maine applied to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for permission to issue all wastewater discharge permits in the State. The Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe then asked the EPA to keep its jurisdiction over water resources within the territories belonging to the Tribes. The EPA later granted the State's application, but it has not yet decided whether to allow the State to regulate water on Tribal Territories.

While the EPA was considering the State's application, three paper companies, Great Northern Paper, Georgia-Pacific, and Champion International, asked the two Tribes to give them some documents. The companies claimed they were allowed to see these documents under Maine's Freedom of Access law.

The Tribes refused to give the documents, claiming that Maine's Freedom of Access law did not apply to them. The Tribes did offer to let the companies have copies of non-confidential records. The companies then went to Superior Court to ask that the Tribes be ordered to turn over the documents. The Superior Court agreed with the companies and ordered the Tribes to turn over the documents. The Tribes refused. The Superior Court found that the Tribes were in contempt of its order. The Tribes appealed the decision to the Maine Supreme Court and the order of

(Continued on next page)



"Maine Human Rights Act" continued from front page)
investigations. When discovery ends, probably in July,
the case will be placed on a trial list.

Ms. Clement's case is brought under a part of the Maine Human Rights Act that states that everyone at an educational institution has the right to participate in all educational, counseling and vocational guidance programs and all apprenticeship and on-the-job- training programs without discrimination because of race. Maine's highest court, its Supreme Court, has never ruled on what racial discrimination in education actually is. There is also little case law on a national level in this area. Therefore, this case may be an important opportunity for courts to speak on the meaning of racial discrimination in schools.

In addition, to prohibiting racial discrimination in education, Maine's Human Rights Act provides many other protections. For example, it prohibits racial discrimination by creditors. Creditor discrimination occurs when a creditor refuses to extend credit to a person solely on the basis of race. In other words, if a bank refuses to lend you money solely because you are Native American and/or live on a reservation, it violates Maine's Human Rights Act.

The Maine Human Rights Act also prohibits discrimination in public accommodations. An owner, proprietor, manager, or employee of a place of public accommodation cannot discriminate against or refuse lodging or services to a person based solely on race. For example, if an innkeeper refuses lodging to a Native American based solely on race, she violates the Act.

The above are a few of the ways Maine's Human Rights Act works to prevent race-based discrimination. The remedies the Act provides vary with each case. The remedies can include, but are not limited to, money to compensate a victim for some types of harm, monetary penalties, and attorney's fees and costs.

Being aware of discrimination is important. According to experts in discrimination against Native Americans, racial discrimination harms Native Americans in fundamental ways. Discrimination eats away at the pride Native Americans have regarding their culture. It also causes Native Americans to turn to alcohol, drugs, and other means to insulate them from the hurt caused by the racism. Sometimes it even causes Native Americans to turn on one another and harm one another since they feel powerless to change the white world around them.

In addition to the Maine Human Rights Act, Maine's Constitution, the United States Constitution, and federal law all prohibit various types of discrimination. If you have questions about federal and state anti-discrimination laws you may call Craig Sanborn of the Native American Unit at Pine Tree Legal at 1-800-879-7463. You may also call Attorneys Samuel Rudman or Ivy Frignoca at 1-800-841-1238 for further information.

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("Legal Briefs" continued from front page) contempt was stayed. A report on the Superior Court's decision appears in the *Wabanaki Legal News*, Volume 5, Issue 1 (http://www.ptla.org/wabanaki/WMe-8TribalBriefs.htm).

In deciding this case, the Maine Supreme Court noted that this was the first time that the Court had been asked to decide whether the Freedom of Access law applied to the two Tribes. The Court also noted that the Maine Indian Lands Claim Settlement, not general federal Indian law, governed the relationship between the State of Maine and the Indian Tribes. The Court, therefore, looked at the language of three acts: the Federal Settlement Act, the Maine Implementing Act, and the Maine Freedom of Access Act.

The Court reviewed the history of the Land Claims Settlement. It found that, as a result of the Settlement, both the Tribes and the State had gains and losses. The Court noted that the Tribes gained:

- \* Approximately \$81.5 million in trust monies and land;
- \* The ability to be treated as a municipality in the State and to be assured that they would get state funds to provide municipal services to their members; and
- \* Formal recognition of their Tribal status by the federal government, which allowed the Tribes to receive federal subsidies.

The Court also found that the State gained:



- An end to the Indian Land claims that threatened land titles in much of the State; and
- \* Recognition that it kept some authority to regulate Indian affairs in Maine

The result of the Settlement, therefore, was that authority over Indian affairs was shared between the State of Maine and the two Indian Tribes. The Court found that, under the Settlement, the State and the Tribes would share authority in much the same way that the State shared authority with municipalities within the State. The Court then noted that many state laws that apply to municipalities also routinely apply to the Tribes. There

are, however, exceptions, which the Court pointed out. For example, the Tribes, unlike municipalities, have exclusive court jurisdiction in some types of cases. They also have the exclusive power to regulate some fishing and wildlife resources inside their territories and to create Tribal school committees.

The Court concluded that, in fact, the Tribes wear many hats. Depending on the circumstances, they will be treated as a sovereign nation, a person or other entity, a business organization, or a municipal government.

The Court looked next at the Freedom of Access law and decided that the Act applied to municipalities and that there was nothing in the Act to say that it did **not** apply to Indian Tribes. The Court then concluded that the Tribes' (continued on page 3)

("Legal Briefs" continued form page 2)

action requesting the EPA to keep jurisdiction was a governmental action. Therefore, the Court found, the Tribes were acting as municipal governments.

The Court did agree with the Tribes that, under the terms of the Settlement Act, the State could not interfere with



internal tribal matters. The Court raised the question, however, whether applying the Freedom of Access law to the Tribes would always interfere with internal tribal matters. The Court then defined internal tribal matters.

The Court stated that "a Tribe's own methods of convening and engaging in government will in most instances be matters 'internal' to the Tribe." In this case, the Court decided that the Tribe's internal discussions, votes, and decision-making about whether the Tribes would petition the EPA and how they would petition are all internal matters. These internal matters are not reachable by the Freedom of Access law. However, once the decisions were made and actions were taken outside of the Tribes, then these actions are no longer internal matters.



The Court ordered the Tribes to turn over documents that related to:

- \* Efforts by the Tribes to obtain "treatment as a
- \* Efforts by the Tribes to have the EPA adopt water quality standards different from those of the State of Maine for any waters located in the State of Maine: and
- Any agreements with federal agencies that relate to the protection or study of water or other natural resources.

However, the Tribes were not required to turn over documents relating to notices or agendas from any Tribal council meetings, or any notes or minutes taken at any Tribal council meetings.

The Tribes have filed a Motion for Reconsideration with the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. The Tribes believe the Court's decision is based on a finding that the Tribes



Free Legal Help with Tax Problems Pine Tree Legal Assistance has been awarded a grant, effective immediately, to help lowincome taxpayers in any controversy with the IRS, including audits. In addition, clinics are being planned to help low-income taxpayers prepare their taxes for the first time and to help with any questions about the Earned Income Credit. For more information, Call Paul Harrison at 1-800-879-7463.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-Pine Tree Legal profit organization that Assistance gives free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal)legal problems

Due to federal budget cuts, Pine Tree has lost some staff. As a result, Pine Tree has had to limit the types of cases that it handles. We have given high priorities to the following kinds of case:

- Eviction from public housing
- Home foreclosures

- Home foreclosures
  Domestic violence
  Problems with Medicare or Medicaid
  Loss, reduction or denial of government benefits (food stamps, TANF, Social Security, etc.)
- X Tax Problems

If you are low-income and need legal help in one of these areas, call the nearest Pine Tree office. If you are a farmworker with employment problems, call the Farmworker Unit at 1-800-879-7463.

Pine Tree also has a Native American Unit in Bangor. The number is 1-800-879-7463. Call the unit if you are a low-income Native American with civil legal problems.

have asked the EPA to be treated like a state. The Tribes argue that, in fact, there is nothing in the record case to support such a finding. In addition, the Tribes have asked the Court to stay its decision so that the Tribes can appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

On June 20, the First Circuit Court of Appeals issued its decision in an appeal from a Federal District Court decision in this case. The District Court's decision was reported on in Volume 5, Issue 1 of the Wabanaki Legal http://www.ptla.org/wabanaki/WME-8TribalBriefs.htm. The First Circuit ruled that the decision by the Maine Supreme Court effectively ended the issues brought up in the District Court case. The Court did imply, however, that, in most respects, the District Court's decision was correct.

The Tribes had brought the case in federal court, asking the judge to prevent the paper companies from going to state court. The District Court decision had focused on the question whether there was federal jurisdiction to hear that case. The judge had concluded, on technical grounds, that the Tribes had not met the "well-pleaded complaint" rule and that their case arose under Maine, not federal, law.

#### Supreme Court of Canada Rejects Akwesasne Mohawks' Claim to Duty-Free Imports

On May 24, 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada reversed a lower court decision that had granted the right of an Akwesasne Mohawk to bring certain goods into Canada duty-free. The lower court had ruled that there were aboriginal and treaty rights that allowed for limited dutyfree imports. The Supreme Court disagreed. It stated (Continued on page 5)



## "Prior Approval" Rules for Prescription Drugs in Medicaid

(The following article appeared in the MAIN Update, Winter, 2001, http://www.mejp.org/Update/5-1/5-1priorapproval.htm)

The Medicaid Program has made some changes in its prescription drug benefit. In an effort to reduce the cost of drugs charged to the Medicaid program, it is

drugs charged to the Medicaid program, it is requiring "prior approval" for certain common prescription drugs when the Department believe an effective, less expensive alternative is available. You should still be able to get drugs that your doctor believes you need if the cheaper alternative does not work.

Because these changes were put into place very quickly, there has been some confusion about what they are, and what they mean for people receiving Medicaid. These changes were put into place in January of this year. This article will give you information about the changes that were made, and what protections are available to be sure that no one is harmed as these new policies are carried out.

Here are the Four Biggest Changes:

1. More prescription drugs must be "prior approved" by DHS before your doctor can prescribe them. This means that, in some cases, your doctor must request permission from the Department of Human Services, and provide information supporting that request, before he or she can prescribe certain drugs for you. This is only required where the Department believes there is another less expensive drug available that may work just as well for you. If the Department approves your doctor's request to give you a different drug than the one that DHS recommends, you will be able to get that drug with no further delay.

Only about 3% of all the drugs provided by the Medicaid Program are now subject to this prior authorization requirement. However, many of the drugs affected by this new policy are very common drugs taken by many Medicaid recipients, so many people have already had experience with this new policy.

## Here are some of the more common conditions affected by the new prior authorization rules:

- Ulcers and Heartburn medications. DHS is requiring prior authorization of more expensive drugs, like Prilosec, but permits use of the less expensive drugs, like Protonix, without any prior approval
- Arthritis medications. Prior approval is required of higher cost brand names (like Celebrex), while less expensive drugs and generics are available without prior approval
- Anti-fungal medications. More expensive anti fungal medication will require prior approval

- Allergy medications. Some more expensive antihistamines that are less likely to make you sleepy (such as Claritin) have to be prior authorized while less expensive antihistamines do
- Blood Pressure medications. If similar drugs are available at different prices, the more expensive drugs will be prior authorized.
- Pain medication Oxycontin, which is sometimes illegally abused on the street, must be prior authorized, EXCEPT for those who are terminally ill or who are diagnosed with Cancer.
- Migraine medication. Many migraine medications will be limited in the total amount that can be prescribed for an individual per month without prior authorization. Here, DHS believes more of the drugs are being prescribed than is generally appropriate.
- Sedatives for sleep. DHS is limiting the availability of medications to help people sleep at night on the ground that they usually should not be needed every night. More frequent use would have to be prior authorized.
- 2. In some cases, you may be asked to take a different strength drug. For example, instead of taking two-20 milligram capsules a day, your prescription would be changed to one-40 milligram capsule. This change will be required in cases where the Department believes that a once-a-day dosage of a drug is just as effective and less expensive. If your doctor believes that changing your dosage would be harmful to you, he or she must request "prior approval" from the Department to allow you to take your drug in multiple daily doses.
- 3. Some additional "over the counter" drugs are now available. Some over-the-counter medications may now be available for help with coughs, allergies and rashes, if these medications provide a "cost-effective" alternative to a prescription drug. For this over-the-counter drug to be covered by Medicaid, your doctor must give you a prescription for it.
- 4. Pharmacies can now only give a 34-day supply at a time of some brand-name drugs. Pharmacies may still give three-month supplies of some other drugs (generics, for example) when the person will continue to need the drug for that period.



## Legislative Update

#### **Native American News**

The Maine Legislature passed a bill this session requiring public schools to teach about the Wabanaki (Continued on page 5)



("Legislative Update" continued from page 4)
confederation, which includes all four of the State's
Tribes.

#### **TANF** News

Two bills have been enacted this session relating to TANF issues. The first deals with sanctions in the ASPIRE Program. The bill puts into place some procedural protections against sanctions for people in the ASPIRE Program. Typically, people in the Program have been sanctioned for missing meetings or not being able to comply with other requirements. Under the new bill, caseworkers must take some extra steps before they can impose a sanction. Now, caseworkers must:

\* review the file to look for possible good cause to explain why the ASPIRE participant did not comply with a requirement:

\* notify the participant in writing and in detail about good cause;

- \*\* give the participant a chance to respond to the caseworker; and
- get supervisory approval before imposing a sanction.

The Maine Equal Justice Partners (MEJP) and the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (MAIN) proposed this bill. MEJP and MAIN were concerned about the large number of parents who were being sanctioned or forced into inappropriate work situations despite serious health problems or other barriers.

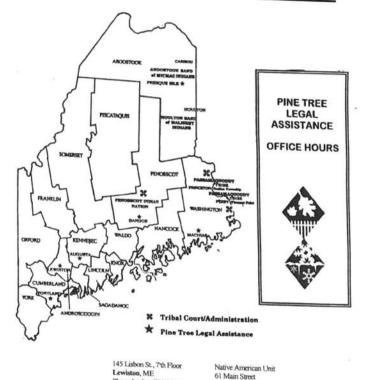
The second bill focuses on child care payments. In the past, parents on TANF have been required to pay up to \$40/week of child care up front before they even get their first paycheck. This can be a difficult, even impossible, barrier for some parents to overcome. Under the new bill, the TANF Program will pay childcare assistance directly to the childcare provider. Parents wishing to get the child care payment themselves, however, can opt out of the system. The new bill, therefore, offers greater flexibility and should remove the child-care barrier to getting a job. This new system will need technical computer work by DHS before it can be used. The bill will not go into effect until the new computer system is running, or March, 2002, whichever is earlier.

#### Minimum Wage

The Legislature enacted an increase in the minimum wage. The wage will increase to \$5.75 on 1/1/02 and to \$6.25 on 1/1/03.

#### **Health Care**

The Legislature has expanded the Medicaid Program to cover more low-income adults. The bill will make almost 16,000 adults with incomes below the poverty level eligible for Medicaid by October 2002. The law helps those who do not fit any Medicaid category and are not otherwise eligible. This includes adults who do not have minor children at home and are not elderly or



OFFICES

39 Green St., Augusta, N Phone Intake: 622-4731 Hours: M-F 8:30-12

61 Main St., Bangor, ME Phone Intake: 942-8241 Hours: M-F 8:00-12:00 &1:00-3:00 1 School St., Machias, ME Phone Intake: 255-8656 Hours: M-W 8:00-12:00

Phone Intake: 784-1558 Hours: M & F 9:00-4:00

88 Federal St., Portland, MF Phone Intake: 774-8211 Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

373 Main St. Presque Isle, ME Phone Intake: 764-4349 Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30 Native American Unit 61 Main Street Bangor, ME Intake: M-F 8:00-3:00 1-800-879-7463

Farmworker Unit 61 Main Street Bangor, ME Intake: M-F 8:00-3:00 1-800-879-7463

Volunteer Lawyers Project 88 Federal Street Portland, ME 774-4348 or 1-800-442-4293

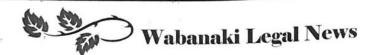


disabled. The Department of Human Services must now get a "waiver" from the federal government to allow this coverage.

The new law also improves the Medicaid rules on assets. Effective January 1, 2002, savings accounts of up to \$8,000 (\$12,000 for larger families) and a second car needed for work or other essential activities, will be exempt from the \$2,000 Medicaid asset limitation. In addition, the law expands from 6 months to one year the length of time that children are covered by Medicaid before DHS rechecks their family income. The new law also renames both Medicaid and cub care as "Mainecare." Finally, the bill gives some additional one-time funds to federally qualified health centers providing care to many uninsured Maine families. The bill will be funded by an increase to the cigarette tax.

("Legal Briefs" continued from page 3)

that in order to prove that an aboriginal right existed, the evidence must show that a modern practice, custom, or tradition has a reasonable degree of continuity with customs that existed before contact with Europeans. The Court found that the evidence in this case did not prove any such customs. For a full discussion of the lower court's ruling, see the *Wabanaki Legal News*, Volume 4, Issue 2, http://www.ptla.org/wabanaki/WME-7TrbalBriefs.htm.



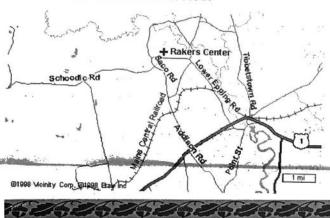


#### What is The Rakers' Center?

The Rakers' Center is where many agencies have offices during the blueberry harvest season to help blueberry rakers with a number of different issues. The center is in Columbia, ME at the Columbia Town Hall.

The following agencies will be there: Head Start, Food Stamps, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, the Health Clinic, Medicaid, Job Service, Social Security, Training and Development Corporation, the Summer Youth Program, and a food pantry.

Check the Rakers' Center notice for specific times. The Rakers' Center is open Monday to Friday, July 26-August 24. The Center's number is 483-6031.



("Case Summaries" continued from front page)
misunderstanding between the parties. Craig was able to
convince the school to enter into a more reasonable
repayment plan that allowed the client to start classes as
the debt was slowly being paid off.

#### Case Two: Family Law

The client had gotten a Protection from Abuse Order against her husband. She contacted Pine Tree in order to defend against Protection from Harassment complaints filed by her husband and his girlfriend. The client also asked Pine Tree to represent her in her Divorce Complaint. With Craig's help, both the husband and his girlfriend's charges were dismissed. The client was also able to get her divorce, get sole custody of her child, and have the Court order that visitation by the ex-husband with their child be supervised.

#### Case Three: Special Education

The client came to Pine Tree because her multihandicapped child had missed a lot of school because the school was unable to maintain appropriate staffing levels (when a teacher was not available the child was not allowed to come to school). After meeting with Craig, the school acknowledged its failure to properly educate the child as directed by law, and offered to provide the child compensatory education in order to make up for the time lost. The parties were able to quickly work out an acceptable scheduling agreement.



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Staff Attorneys:

Mike Guare, Esq

Paralegal Danny Mills
Editor: Cushing Pagon Samp

#### Case Four: Housing

The client lived off-reservation at an inn in Bangor, paying rent weekly. The client lost his job and fell behind on his rent. The owner of the inn locked the client out of his room, locked up all of his belongings and told him that he could not have his things back until he paid his rent. The client came to Pine Tree for help. Mike Guare advised him that, under the law, the owner of a hotel or an inn can do this to a guest who doesn't pay a room charge, but a landlord cannot do this to a tenant who doesn't pay the rent. In this case, Mike felt that the owner was acting more like a landlord than a hotel owner. Among other things, the client received no maid service, did all the laundry (including the sheets and towels), took out his own trash, and cooked in his room. Mike filed a case in court saving that the owner was really a landlord and that it was illegal for the owner to refuse to give our client his possessions. The owner agreed to return our client's property.

#### Case Five: Housing and Handicaps

The client lived at a local housing authority. He had a number of handicaps that made it very hard to keep his apartment clean. He was being evicted because the housing authority said his apartment was too dirty. The client came to Pine Tree for help. Mike advised him that landlords must offer a reasonable accommodation to handicapped tenants. In this case, Mike asked for a hearing with the housing authority and argued that the handicapped tenant should not be evicted before he had a chance to get some help to keep his apartment clean. Mike won at the hearing and the client was able to stay in his apartment.

### 

The articles in this paper are meant to give information, *NOT to give legal advice*. No one should interpret any law without the help of an attorney who has been told all the facts.







## We Want To Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on how this Newsletter can be helpful to you, please let us know.

Please send articles or letters to:

Wabanaki Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Coe Building, 61 Main Street, Room 41, Bangor, ME 04401.

Or you can send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org.

# THATA SO

## INDEX of COMMUNITY RESOURCES

	risis Stabilization	1-800-499-9130
Child Abuse/Neglect		1-800-452-1999
Adult Abuse/Neglect		1-800-624-8404
Domestic Vic	lence:	
	Penobscot	1-800-863-9909
	*	or 9470496
	Aroostook	1-800-439-2323
		or 769-8251
	Washington	1-800-432-7303
		or 255-4785
Infoline Emer	gency Social	
ervices Referra	d:	1-800-204-2803
Mental Health:		1-888-568-1112
Poison Control Center:		1-800-442-6305
Rape Crisis:		1-800-310-0000
Youth Crisis Stabilization:		1-800-499-9130

LEGAL SERVICES (Other than Pine Tree):

### Maine Lawyer Referral and Information Service:

For a \$20.00 fee, you can be referred to a lawyer in your area for a one half-hour consultation or review of your paperwork.

Telephone: 207-622-1460 or 1-800-860-1460

Website: http://www.mainebar.org/referral.html

#### IIII Tel-Law:

Tel-Law has a number of different recorded messages to answer your basic questions about the law. It operates 24 hours a day. There is no fee other than the fact that it is a toll call outside the Augusta calling area.

Telephone: 207-622-1470 Website: http://www.mainebar.org/

Volunteer Lawyers Project:

If you meet the Pine Tree eligibility requirements, the Volunteer Lawyer's Project can give you legal advice or

informational materials for free, or will refer you to a private lawyer who may handle your case without charge. There is a telephone helpline on Wednesday evenings to help you with family law questions.

Telephone: 207-774-4348 or 1-800-442-4293

Website: http://www.vlp.org/

#### Legal Services for the Elderly:

If you are age 60 or over, Legal Services for the Elderly can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

Telephone: 1-800-750-5353 Website: http://www.mainelse.org/

## Penquis Law Project:

This group gives legal representation to low and moderate income residents of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in the following kinds of cases: Protection From Abuse, Divorce and Separation, Child Support Enforcement, Alimony, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, Wills, and Powers of Attorney. The fee depends on several factors, including your annual income and the complexity of your case. Telephone: 207-973-3671

### University of Maine Student Legal Services:

If you are an undergraduate student at the University, you can get free or reduced cost civil legal services.

Telephone: 207-581-1789

#### Chief Advocate, Department of Corrections:

The Advocate refers civil cases of inmates of the State correctional system, including the Maine State Prison and Maine Correctional Center, to attorneys under contract with the Department of Corrections. This office also gives paralegal and advocacy services for Maine State Prison inmates.

Telephone: 207-287-2145

#### Patient Advocate, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services:

The Advocate refers civil cases of patients at state mental institutions or clients of the Bureau of Mental Health and Retardation to attorneys under contract with the Bureau.

Telephone (Bangor Mental Health Institute): 207-941-4180 (Region 3, including Penobscot, Washington, and Aroostock Counties): 207-941-4360

SOCIAL SECURITY

1-800-772-1213

Bangor Area Presque Isle Area

990-4530 764-3771

## DISCRIMINATION:

Housing Discrimination 1-800-827-5005 Human Rights Commission 624-6050

Website: http://www.state.me.us/mhrc/index.html

ME Civil Liberties Union
Website: http://www.mclu.org/

774-5444



#### **DISABILITIES:**

Disability Rights Center
Website: http://www.drcme.org/

1-800-452-1948



#### **CONSUMER RESOURCES:**

#### & Consumer Mediation Service:

The Attorney General's Office gives this service free of charge. If you want to file a consumer complaint against a business call between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.



weekdays. Or write to: Maine Attorney General, Public Protection Division, Consumer Mediation, 6 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

Telephone: 626-8849

Website: http://www.state.me.us/ag/consumer.htm

#### **K** Lemon Law Arbitration:

If you buy a car that has serious defects, the Attorney General's Lemon Law Arbitration Program can help you.

Telephone: 626-8848

Website: http://www.state.me.us/ag/clg7.htm

#### **W** Utility Complaints:

The Consumer Assistance Division of the Maine Public Utilities Commission can help you settle problems with any utility in the State.

Telephone: 1-800-452-4699

Website: http://janus.state.me.us/mpuc/CAD/cad.htm

#### & Low Income Telephone Service Help:

If you qualify for Food Stamps, Medicaid, TANF, SSI or Fuel Assistance, call your local telephone company to see if you qualify for a reduction on your monthly telephone bill.

#### **K Employment/Labor Information:**

Career Centers: (Website: http://www.mainecareercenter.com/)

Bangor 561-4600 Calais 454-7551 or 1-800-543-0303 Houlton 532-5300 or 1-800-691-0033 Machias 255-3428 or 1-800-292-8929 Presque Isle 760-6300 or 1-800-635-0357

State Bureau of Labor (wage or child labor complaints) 624-6410

website: http://janus.state.me.us/labor/

US Dept. of Labor (Wages and Hours Division) 945-0330

Housing:

Maine State Housing Authority 1-800-452-4668 Farmers Home Administration 947-0335

#### Insurance:

Bureau of Insurance 624-8475

Website: http://www.state.me.us/pfr/ins/info.htm

#### **Mobile Homes:**

624-8612 Manufactured Housing Board 623-2204 Manufactured Housing Association or 1-800-698-3335 (mediation for mobile home residents) 1-800-452-4668 Maine State Housing Authority TDD 1-800-452-4603

#### COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (CAPS):

These agencies give information, outreach, job training, educational programs, day care, housing information and referral, fuel/energy assistance, insulation and furnace repair, surplus food, transportation and Emergency Crisis Intervention Program benefits. Not all services are given by all agencies.

#### **Aroostook County Action Program**

771 Main St.

Presque Isle, ME 04769

1-800-432-7881 or 764-3721

**Penquis Community Action Program** 262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401 973-3500

Washington-Hancock **Community Agency** Maine and Maple Streets Milbridge, ME 04658 546-7544



#### TRIBAL GOVERNMENT and AGENCIES

Aroostook Band of Micmac	Indians 764-1972	
Houlton Band of Maliseet I		;
Penobscot Indian Nation	827-7776	,
Passamaquoddy Tribe	796-2301 and 853-2600	1

## PENOBSCOT TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

827-5639 Court Administrator (George Tomer) 827-5639 Clerk of Courts (Clara E. Mitchell) 827-5639 **Tribal Prosecutor** 827-5639 Juvenile Intake 827-5639 Probation Off'r (George Tomer)

Regular Sessions: First Wednesday of the month.

Special Sessions as needed.

#### PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

#### **№Indian Township Division:**

Clerk of Courts (Wanda Doten) 796-5600 or 7929 Juvenile Intake/Prob'n Off'r (John Dana) 796-5600 **Pleasant Point Division:** 

Clerk of Courts/Administrator (Dorothy Barnes) 853-2600 Juvenile Intake/Prob'n Off'r (Edward Nicholas) Regular Sessions: One Friday per month at each division. Special

Sessions as needed.

#### OTHER TRIBAL AGENCIES

♥Indian Township Health Center

Y I Fibal Governors Council	941-0308
Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission	622-4815
HEALTH SERVICES	
Penobscot Indian Health Center	827-6101
Maliseet Health Center	532-2240
Micmac Health Center	764-6968
Pleasant Point Health Center	853-0711

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE 990-0605 Wabanaki Mental Health Association, NPC or 990-4346

#### HELPFUL NATIVE AMERICAN WEB SITES

Wabanaki Confederacy:

http:communities.msn.com/WabanakiConfederacy

Nipmuc Indian Association of Connecticut:

http://www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/

Pine Tree Legal Assistance: http://www.ptla.org

Index of Native American Resources on the Internet:

http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/

Native Links: Native Sense: http://www.johnco.com/nativel/ http://www.nativesense.com/

796-2321

Aboriginal Links:

http://www.bloorstreet.com/300block/aborcan.htm

Dusters Native American:

http://www.specent.com/~duster/volc2.html

