

JUDICIAL BRANCH eWARRANT WORKING GROUP

Type: Working Group, Limited Period
Established: July 10, 2018
Chair: Justice Daniel Billings
Report Date: December 15, 2018
Reports to: Maine Supreme Judicial Court
Completion Date: July 1, 2019

I. Purpose:

The purpose of the eWarrant Working Group is to recommend one or more methods for designing and effectuating an efficient, fair, and thorough digital, electronic system for the requests for, and judicial action on, arrest and search warrants. The expectation is that the system would be available 24/7.

Any digital eWarrant system must be implemented in a way that assures the careful consideration of warrant applications and accompanying material, consistent with provisions of the Maine and United States Constitutions; provides assurances of accuracy in the electronic transmission of documents; confirms the authority and identity of the applicant; assures identity and judicial authority for the issuance of the warrant; and provides safeguards to prevent any fraudulent use of the system.

If the Working Group concludes that a system cannot be created without additions to currently available resources, the Group will explore the options and anticipated costs to provide the resources for all aspects of government to develop an adequate electronic warrant system.

II. Authority:

The Working Group is created pursuant to the authority of the Chief Justice. *See* 4 M.R.S § 1. The Working Group is authorized to obtain input from all stakeholders so that any recommendations take into account the constitutional rights at stake as well as public safety and institutional requirements for a well-working system.

III. Membership:

The Working Group membership will include representatives from the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of Maine State Government, as well as interested stakeholder organizations, individual attorneys, and others with valuable knowledge and experience to contribute. The specific names will be listed in a separate membership roster, and membership may be changed or expanded as ordered by the Chief Justice.

IV. Meetings:

The Working Group will meet as often as is necessary to fulfill its responsibilities. The Working Group may meet by phone or video. The Chair will schedule the meetings of the Working Group.

V. Consultation and Reporting:

The eWarrant Working Group will consult as necessary with the Trial Court Chiefs and other interested individuals. It will provide its analysis and recommendations in a Report delivered to the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court **no later than December 15, 2018**, unless that date is extended by the Chief Justice.

VI. Duration:

Unless the Chief Justice extends this charter, the eWarrant Working Group will cease to exist on July 1, 2019.

Dated: July 24, 2018

Approved by:

_____/s/_____
Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley
Maine Supreme Judicial Court

**eWarrant Working Group
JUDICIAL BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER
July 10, 2018**

Justice Dan Billings, Superior Court (**Chair**)

Judge Andre Janelle, District Court

Representative Karen Gerrish

Paul Rucha, Assistant Attorney General

Tina Nadeau, MACDL President

Jonathan Liberman, District Attorney

Scott Pelletier, MDEA Representative

John Pelletier, Esq., MCILS Executive Director

Major Chris Grotton, Dept of Public Safety Representative

Chief Marc Hagan, Lisbon, Chiefs of Police Representative

Dennis Perry, Comm. Dir. Washington County, State Sheriffs' Representative

Anne Jordan, Esq., JB Manager of Criminal Process & Specialty Dockets

Ashley Johnson, JB Court Operations Specialist

Michelle Guerrette, JB Senior Technology Business Analyst

Amanda Pesonen, JB Law Clerk

Justice Jeffrey Hjelm, SJC Liaison