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STATE OF MAINE
CLERK OF THE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

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March 30, 2017

Via email

To: All counsel and individuals who filed briefs

**Re: In the Matter of Request for Opinion of the Justices
Supreme Judicial Court Docket Number OJ-17-1**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the request of the Chief Justice, I write to obtain your input before the Court establishes the plan for oral argument in the above captioned matter.

The argument will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, April 13, in the historic courtroom at the Capital Judicial Center in Augusta.

One hour has been set aside for the argument. The hour will be bifurcated: 15 minutes for each "side" on the existence of a solemn occasion and an important question of law, and 15 minutes for each "side" on the substance of the questions.

The Court will hear argument only from attorneys who are licensed to practice law in the State of Maine, or are admitted pro hac vice in this matter, and who have submitted a timely brief. Priority will be given to the representative for the Maine Senate and others representing key government institutions.

Because time for argument is limited, the Court asks counsel to confer and propose, by April 6, 2017, an agreed upon arrangement, with an eye toward

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avoiding breaking up the argument in an unproductive manner. The proposal need not be in any particular format or contain any formalities; a joint email to me at lawcourt.clerk@courts.maine.gov is fine.

After considering your proposal, the Court will establish the arrangement for argument. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Matthew Pollack