

**Blue Knights® International - News & Information for Members**

**Last updated: 10-Jan-2019**

**Message from the President  
Fellow Blue Knights,**

**Today concluded the criminal matter in State of Maine v. Bessie Small. As many of you know, the investigation, manner of prosecution, and extensive delays in resolving this matter have been personally frustrating to the membership, as well as costly to the organization. Late last week the prosecutor for the State of Maine, Steve Burlock, and Ms. Small's attorney participated in a judicial settlement conference with one of the Justices for Penobscot County, where the criminal matter is pending. At that judicial settlement conference the Justice presiding, and the parties, discussed the possible parameters of sentencing should Ms. Small be convicted at trial by a jury. There was no resolution as a result of the judicial settlement conference, and it was set for the call of the docket today. Therefore, Ms. Small was forced to make a plea or be subject to trial which was specially set for January 28 through February 1, 2019.**

**This afternoon, Ms. Small pled No Contest to the charges of a Class B Felony for theft over \$10,000.00. She was sentenced by Justice Ann Murray to 6 years, with 1 year confinement to the Department of Corrections commencing on February 11, 2019; 3 years probation which includes drug and alcohol testing without notice, search without articulable suspicion, mental health and alcohol assessment and counseling as required by the assessment, prohibition of intoxicants of any kind, including marijuana; and a standing order for restitution in the amount of \$127,000.00. The restitution**

***amount is the balance after receiving the \$60,000 insurance claim of the total amount prosecutable from the statute of limitations. Should she fail any drug or alcohol test, or violate the law during this six year period she is subject to incarceration for the entire sentence.***

***Justice Murray is also the Justice presiding over the civil case against Bessie Small and her family members. As much as I would like to express my feelings openly about the outcome of the criminal matter, I have been advised by our counsel that I should not. Therefore, I will only state that I am greatly disappointed with the way the investigation of this matter was handled locally and the manner in which the prosecution was conducted.***

***I ask that the membership refrain from posting negative comments on social media regarding this matter due to pending litigation against Bessie Small and her family. Should you have any questions please contact your International Representative.***

***Ride with pride,***

***DJ Alvarez  
Int'l President***