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Biddeford, I'll see you in court!



By [Chris Churchill](#)

Staff Writer

Cape Elizabeth attorney David Lourie is taking on City Hall – Biddeford’s City Hall. He has four lawsuits against the city in the works, three in association with the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU).

"I've got as much of a caseload with Biddeford as I normally have in total," said the bearded lawyer, 54, sitting in his messy home office. "I have a hard time saying no when people have their rights violated." First, he's representing Dorothy Lafortune in a federal suit against the city's attempt to keep her public-access program – "The Maine Forum" – off the air. In an unrelated case with a similar subject matter, he's representing Richard Rhames in a federal suit claiming the ongoing shutdown of public access is illegal.

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And he's representing Grayson Street resident John Packard against city charges that he illegally repaired cars at his residence. The MCLU is not involved in that case, but is involved in a spin-off case in which Lourie is charging that the city's rules governing charter changes are illegal under state law.

"I could probably spend the rest of my life keeping [Biddeford] from acting illegally if I were willing to do it," claimed Lourie, closing his eyes as he speaks. "I'm starting to feel like I'm the alternative city attorney for Biddeford."

The MCLU, with 1,800 members, was founded in 1968 and is devoted to advancing and protecting the civil liberties and civil rights of Maine residents, according to its website.

Lourie's work on behalf of the MCLU has earned him

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