

STATE OF MAINE

v.

AARON WALSH

Submitted on Briefs March 22, 2006
Decided May 12, 2006

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and CLIFFORD, ALEXANDER, CALKINS, LEVY, and
SILVER, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Aaron Walsh appeals following the entry of a judgment of the District Court (Bangor, *Gunther, J.*), accepting his conditional pleas of guilty to one count of operating under the influence (Class D), 29-A M.R.S. § 2411(1-A)(A) (2005), and one count of operating without a license (Class E), 29-A M.R.S. § 1251(1)(B) (2005). Contrary to Walsh's contentions, the District Court (*Murray, J.*) did not err when it denied his motion to suppress all evidence obtained following a traffic stop for an alleged unlit license plate because the officer, based on his observations, had a reasonable, articulable suspicion that Walsh's vehicle did not

have a light that illuminated the rear registration plate such that the characters were visible from at least fifty feet, in violation of 29-A M.R.S. § 1909 (2005). *See State v. Hill*, 606 A.2d 793, 795 (Me. 1992) (finding officer's license and registration check constitutionally acceptable where investigatory stop was justified at its inception by reasonable suspicion of violation).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Attorney for the State:

R. Christopher Almy, DA
Penobscot County Courthouse
97 Hammond Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Attorney for the defendant:

Michael Harman, Esq.
4 Hill Street
Millinocket, ME 04462