



PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE OVERVIEW 2017



Dear Clients and Friends,

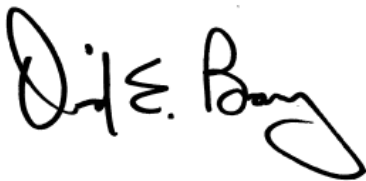
We are pleased to share highlights of Pierce Atwood's pro bono and community service efforts in our annual Pro Bono & Community Service Overview.

Our attorneys and staff continue to honor Pierce Atwood's deeply rooted ethic of public service by making it a priority to give back to those in need through pro bono work and community service.

We recognize the barriers, financial and otherwise, that exist between so many in our communities and access to the legal system. We take pride in the important role our firm plays assisting those in need to overcome those barriers and to gain access to justice. We also embrace our responsibility to support nonprofit and charitable organizations that are doing important work in our communities and beyond.

We invite you to review our 2017 Pro Bono & Community Service Overview and share in our accomplishments over the last year.

Sincerely,



David E. Barry, Managing Partner



2017 By the Numbers

- 3666 | Pro bono legal services hours served
- 63 | Number of organizations served
- 82 | Number of attorneys who provided pro bono legal services
- 27 | Number of attorneys who provided more than 50 hours of pro bono legal services
- 67 | Number of attorneys who provided more than 50 hours of pro bono legal & community service combined

\$4.1 Million

Dollar value of our pro bono & community service hours in 2017



FOURTH ANNUAL PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Among the ways we work to encourage pro bono and community service as part of our firm culture is to recognize those in our firm who have made outstanding contributions to our communities and our firm. Our Fourth Annual Pro Bono & Community Service Awards Ceremony, held on February 8, 2018, recognized the efforts of our attorneys and staff in 2017.

McKusick Community Impact Award

Named after Vincent Lee McKusick, former Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and Pierce Atwood attorney and friend for more than 50 years, the McKusick Community Impact Award recognizes one attorney and one staff member annually who have made significant, positive impacts in their communities through pro bono and/or community service. Award recipients select a charitable organization to receive a monetary donation made on their behalf by Pierce Atwood.



Liam Paskvan, an associate in our Energy Practice Group, has demonstrated his commitment to pro bono legal services for a number of years. In addition to regularly taking on pro bono immigration matters through Maine's Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP), Liam was a driving force in organizing our first-ever Maine Pro Bono Fair in our Portland office.

Liam has been working for nearly three years on an asylum application for an immigrant family. Over the course of this representation, Liam has gone above and beyond for the family, serving as their counsel, advocate and guide through many challenges they have faced as new immigrants to Portland. Liam won a significant victory for our client in the summer of 2017 – see page 6 for more of the story.

Tanya Allen, a legal administrative assistant in our Trusts & Estates Practice Group, volunteers at the Rockingham County House of Corrections speaking in the "Solutions, Transitions and Recovery" (STAR) program for inmates in recovery from drug and alcohol dependency. As a member of Al-Anon – families and friends who are affected by a loved one's drinking or drug use – Tanya shares with the inmates her experience of how this disease affects the family and circle of friends. The group also shares resources for the inmates' families to get involved to help the overall well-being of the family unit.



Tanya is a certified AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service), a program for children ages 7 to 18 who are affected by someone else's drinking or drug use. She also volunteers with Make-A-Wish New Hampshire. Tanya's colleagues describe her enthusiasm for and dedication to community service as inspiring and infectious.

Scribner Firm Impact Award

Named after long-time former partner Fred Scribner, whose legacy endures through the firm's commitment to the community, its employees, and the law, this award is given annually to one attorney and one staff member who work to keep pro bono and community service top of mind throughout the firm.

Jared des Rosiers, partner in our Energy Practice Group, helmed Pierce Atwood's Pro Bono and Community Service program from 2013-2017. Jared's steady leadership and unwavering commitment led the firm to a newly flourishing firmwide level of engagement with pro bono and community service. Our program wouldn't be what it is today without Jared's dedication and leadership.



The members of the 2017 Pierce Atwood Charitable Giving Committee were honored with the 2017 Scribner Award for staff in recognition of their dedication to a year-long fundraising effort in support of survivors of domestic violence.

The thoughtful planning that went into multiple fundraising projects throughout 2017 was a collaborative effort of different personalities and ideas, all complementing each other to make each project special. The Committee came up with numerous new and diverse giving opportunities that made firm attorneys and staff eager to participate – resulting in a larger fundraising total than any other year to date.

For more about the Committee's 2017 work, see page 15.

2017 Charitable Giving Committee

- Laurie Bernard
- Kasey Boucher (attorney)
- Janice Chiaravelotti
- Jadine Crane
- Kelly Dallaire
- Mary DeFontes
- Bev Doucette
- Lori Hawe
- Heather Higgins
- Natalie Huddleston
- Allison Kennie
- Christina Micchelli
- Selena Moore
- Michelle Pottle
- Catherine Scribner
- Cynthia Shove
- Matthew Stein (attorney)
- Joyce Tabenken

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

This award is presented to the attorney who has contributed the highest number of pro bono hours in a year.



Griff Leschefske, an associate in our Trusts & Estates Practice Group, contributed 257 hours of pro bono service in 2017, providing pro bono legal services to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and several other individual and organizational clients. For more details on one of these important matters, turn to page 7.

Pro Bono Successes

Know Your Rights Event

In March, Pierce Atwood attorneys Molly Liddell, Jana Magnuson, Griff Leschefske, and Mike Hernandez joined the **Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)** and **Maine Law’s Refugee and Human Rights Clinic** in a “Know Your Rights” event for members of Portland’s immigrant community.



Molly offered a presentation on the nature and purpose of a Power of Attorney (POA) for individuals vulnerable to immigration detention, with Mike providing consecutive English-to-Spanish interpretation. Following the presentation, Molly, Jana and Griff each provided direct assistance to individual attendees wishing to execute POAs to address access to bank accounts, insurance policies, and other matters in the event of sudden immigration detention. The event organizers shared afterward that attendees expressed gratitude and relief at the opportunity to discuss these issues with a lawyer.

Left to right:

Molly Liddell,
Jana Magnuson,
Griff Leschefske,
Mike Hernandez



Project Citizenship Workshop

In September 2017, Pierce Atwood partnered with the **Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)** and attorneys from TD Bank to offer a Project Citizenship Workshop at our Portland office to help legal permanent residents complete the process of applying for U.S. citizenship.



Pierce Atwood and TD Bank volunteer attorneys were paired with low-income legal permanent residents who meet the legal requirements to become citizens of the United States but required assistance preparing an application for naturalized citizenship. With the support of ILAP attorneys and staff, Pierce Atwood and TD Bank attorneys helped participants prepare applications for naturalized citizenship and related supporting documents for filing with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

During the workshop, four Pierce Atwood attorneys and three attorneys from TD Bank worked together to help five ILAP clients complete applications for naturalized citizenship.

Assisting Asylum Seeker with Benefits Claim



Over the summer, Pierce Atwood attorney Liam Paskvan successfully represented an asylum seeker who had been denied disability-related benefits under the MaineCare program before the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Liam, with important input from Jack Comart, an immigrant advocate at Maine Equal Justice Partners, successfully appealed DHHS's prior denials of the client's requests for disability.

Given the client's uncertain and tenuous financial situation as a disabled asylum seeker and widowed parent, the decision provides important support for the client and her family in a time of extreme need. Collaborating with firm attorney Katie Minervino, Liam also successfully obtained extension of the family's employment authorization documents to allow the client's children to continue their US employment and for the client to work, as she is able.

Securing Our Client's Home

Trusts & Estates attorneys Barbara Wheaton and Griff Leschefske secured an amazing result for a pro bono client in a highly adversarial estate litigation involving assets in both Maine and the District of Columbia.

Our client lived in his longtime home in Washington, DC, which was legally owned by the decedent relative, a Maine resident. Family infighting and concerns of testamentary capacity placed our client's interest in the home at risk. This represented a significant threat to his welfare.

To protect the client's home meant overcoming layers of legal, procedural, and practical disadvantages, especially in view of the legal posture of the dispute, geographic distance, and the unique disabilities of the client. Pierce Atwood counsel leveraged the firm's legal and geographic resources, and applied expert subject matter knowledge and judgment to develop a legal strategy. After a hard-fought and emotional day of mediation, Pierce Atwood secured for the client not only his home, but also a substantial cash distribution from the estate.

The matter came to us through the Washington, DC-based Legal Counsel for the Elderly, which reached out to our DC office Partner-in-Charge Randy Rich.



Top to bottom:
Barbara Wheaton,
Griff Leschefske,
Randy Rich

"WOW. What an amazing result. Barbara, Griff, excellent work!!!!"

Randy, when I first emailed you about this case it was basically a cold call. You responded almost instantly and clearly found the right lawyers for the job. What a tremendous response from Pierce Atwood. LCE and [the client] are both so very fortunate to have connected with you."

*– Joanne Savage, attorney,
Legal Counsel for the Elderly*

Building for the Future

Pierce Atwood attorney and former Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court Dan Wathen is a Board member of the Augusta Food Bank, which has provided supplemental groceries to families in Augusta and Manchester for the past 35 years. The food bank serves more than 3,300 people a year, or 15% of the population. Facing eviction from the leased parish hall that served as its distribution center, last fall the organization set off on a quest to build a new, permanent and efficient home, with pro bono assistance from a team of Pierce Atwood attorneys. The Food Bank broke ground and began construction in June.



Dan noted that, "It has been a short but intense struggle and the assistance of a pro bono team from PA made it all possible. Rarely, I suspect, has a small nonprofit had such a strong legal team. Matt Manahan pitched in on environmental matters and we secured all the necessary DEP permits and a grant for remediation in record time. Judy Woodbury guided us through land acquisition, easements, title insurance and construction lending. Mike Hernandez and Emily Cooke provided the corporate backup and documentation, and Rob Ravenelle pitched in with tax advice for donors. In addition to all of that, Pierce Atwood made a contribution to the capital campaign. Now *that* is what I call Total Client Service."

Dan also served as co-chair of the fundraising committee, with a goal of raising \$675,000. In nine months they exceeded their goal, raising \$735,000.



Left to right:
Dan Wathen,
Matt Manahan,
Judy Woodbury

Left to right:
Mike Hernandez,
Emily Cooke,
Rob Ravenelle



Civil Rights Act of 1871

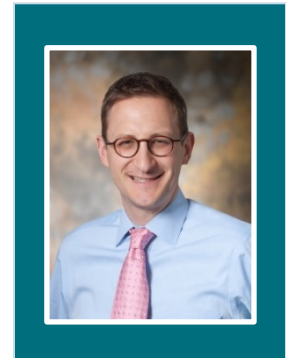
The federal Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, allows individuals to sue the government for civil rights violations. Often referred to as “Section 1983,” it applies when someone acting “under color of” state-level or local law has deprived a person of rights created by the U.S. Constitution or federal statutes. While it can apply in many scenarios, it is often invoked when someone claims to be the victim of excessive police force.

In 2017, Pierce Atwood lawyers successfully handled two Section 1983 cases.

Maine

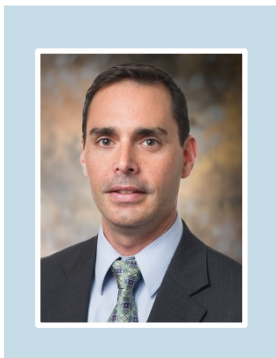
As part of a nascent effort to find pro bono counsel for unrepresented plaintiffs in Section 1983 civil rights actions, the District of Maine appointed Pierce Atwood partner Nolan Reichl to serve as counsel for a prison inmate who had attempted to represent himself in his case seeking damages for assault by a prison guard.

When Nolan took on the case, discovery had been closed for several months (the client had taken none) and the case was weeks away from trial. Nolan convinced the court to reopen discovery, which effort led to a favorable settlement for our client.



Rhode Island

Pierce Atwood partner Mike Daly won a jury verdict for a pro bono client in a police brutality case brought against two Pawtucket, Rhode Island police officers. The case was tried in Rhode Island federal court in April 2017, with the decision hinging on the credibility of the officers involved. The matter came to Pierce Atwood through the federal court’s civil pro bono program; it is the first program case to proceed to trial since the program began in July 2014.



Our client claimed that two Pawtucket police officers used excessive force while arresting him in February 2012. The officers claimed they used a reasonable amount of force because our client was resisting arrest and they feared he had a gun. The case posed a number of challenges: it was our client’s word against the officers’; our client pleaded guilty to resisting arrest; and, our client admitted that prior to his arrest, he had pulled a gun on another party, but did so in self-defense. Mike summed up that “we went into trial knowing that we couldn’t hide or sugarcoat anything.” To convince the jury to accept our client’s description of the incident, Mike had to get them to focus on the logic and details of the varying stories.

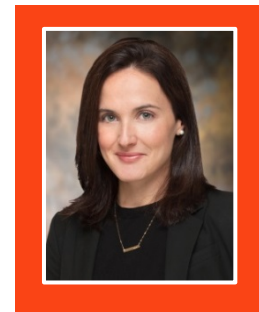
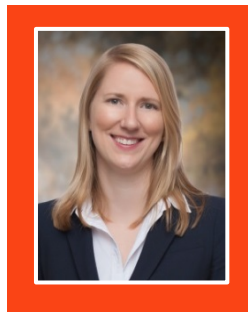
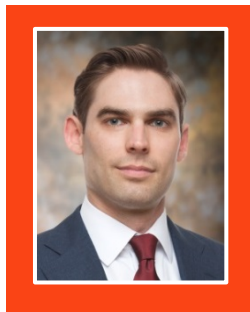
In the end, based on discrepancies in the officers’ testimony and a reenactment that demonstrated the arrest could not have occurred the way the officers testified, the jury returned a verdict in our client’s favor.

Standing Up for At-Risk Children

A number of Pierce Atwood attorneys devote time to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program. CASA/GAL volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system. Two of the cases handled in 2017:



- Meg LePage, Kyle Noonan and Lily Rao completed a successful representation of the CASA GAL in a child protective custody case, where they first protected the GAL from an unduly intrusive subpoena, and then negotiated a custody arrangement designed to protect the child in the event of a relapse by either parent with respect to the substance use issues that originally gave rise to the case.
- Sara Murphy represented a CASA GAL at a hearing in a child protective proceeding to determine the permanent placement of an at-risk child in DHHS custody according to the “best interests” of the child. This case presented novel and challenging legal and factual issues under Maine’s Safe Haven law. After briefing the legal issues and a difficult and emotional evidentiary hearing, Judge Keith Powers of the Maine District Court ruled in the GAL’s favor, ordering permanent placement of the child in a loving home.



Left to right: Meg LePage, Kyle Noonan, Lily Rao, Sara Murphy

Community Recognition

The **Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program** was launched in 2012 by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court to recognize those Maine lawyers who have dedicated 50 or more hours in a reporting period to providing qualifying pro bono legal services.

In the period ending December 31, 2017, 19 Pierce Atwood attorneys qualified to earn distinction as Katahdin Counsel.



Community Service

As a firm, we hold an annual **Day of Community Service** in each of our offices. Since 2004, attorneys and staff leave the office together for a day to work on service projects for deserving charitable organizations. Our 2017 projects included the following:

Washington, DC

On April 19, attorneys and staff from our Washington, DC office visited Kuehner House, a retirement home operated by SOME - So Others Might Eat. We played Bingo and exercised with the residents, and provided prizes, cake, and ice cream for their monthly birthday party.



We followed our visit to Kuehner House with a fundraising bowling event at Lucky Strike to benefit our 2017 charity, My Sister's Place, a women's and children's shelter.



Through our **Janet D. Eustis Memorial Staff Volunteer Time-Off Program**, launched in 2014, staff members are given one paid day off each year to volunteer for a nonprofit organization of their choice.

In 2017, eight staff members participated in the program, volunteering 30+ hours of their time in their communities.

Portland

On June 14, attorneys and staff from the Portland office volunteered with Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine, working at multiple locations on various cleaning, organizational, painting, and outdoor work tasks.



"Having such a large group of committed volunteers at each club made such a difference. From coordinating to leading each crew, we say thank you. I was able to bop around to each club and I was blown away by all the help."

– Sydney Williams, volunteer coordinator, Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine

Providence

On July 13, attorneys and staff from the Providence office volunteered with The Rhode Island Community Food Bank at their Cranston location. Our volunteers helped to inspect, sort and pack food for distribution. Every month, the Food Bank's statewide network of food pantries and meal sites serves 57,000 people.



Portsmouth

The Portsmouth office participated in the United Way's Day of Caring on September 13, and assisted the Strafford County Nutrition Program with their first-ever Annual Appeal to generate funding for the Meals on Wheels program in Strafford County. We assisted with a 10,000-piece mailer for the program along with a group from the Pease Air National Guard and current Meals on Wheels volunteers.



Community Service in DC Public Schools

Pierce Atwood is pleased to provide ongoing support to Anne Beers Elementary School in Washington, DC, through the DC Public School Partnership Program of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. This program partners 50 area law firms and businesses with individual DC public schools throughout the city, in the process bringing tutoring, mentoring, and other academic enrichment services to thousands of children. Pierce Atwood and Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP both support Anne Beers.

Staff members Natalie Huddleston and Jenekia Shade attended the Anne Beers Elementary School Back to School Barbeque on August 19. Along with firm attorneys, Natalie and Jenekia are instrumental to our relationship with the school and devote significant time to Anne Beers throughout the year.



On May 16, a team of fourth graders from Anne Beers, jointly trained by Pierce Atwood and Drinker Biddle, participated in the annual DC Public Schools GeoPlunge Tournament at the National Building Museum. GeoPlunge is a geography game that has become the largest DC Public Schools tournament. The students had a great time and won a few games against more experienced teams.

On December 15, students in grades 1-5 participated in a schoolwide spelling bee, with the top two winners going forward to compete in a local tournament with the hopes of qualifying for the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Firm attorneys and staff helped to judge the spelling bee, cheered on the participants, and provided badges for all 38 participants.



Charitable Giving

In 2016 the Pierce Atwood family lost one of our colleagues to the tragedy of domestic violence. Our Charitable Giving Committee chose to focus our 2017 fundraising on safe havens that support women and children in at-risk situations.

Each office identified a safe haven within its local community to be the beneficiary of the funds raised. We raised a total of \$10,000 to be split equally among the following organizations:

- Casa Myrna (Boston)
- Family Crisis Services (Augusta & Portland)
- HAVEN (Portsmouth)
- My Sister's Place (Washington, DC)
- Sojourner House (Providence)

Our firmwide fundraising efforts in support of these organizations included:

- Monthly "Jeans Fridays"
- Lobster roll lunch
- Pallet painting party
- Ice cream sales
- Bowling fundraiser
- Holiday baskets raffle



During the holiday season, we supported kids and families through organizations including:

- Family Crisis Center
- Frosty's Friends
- New England Center for Homeless Veterans

Partner Organizations

PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE PARTNERS

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Legal Food Hub, A Project of Conservation Law Foundation
Free Legal Answers Maine (American Bar Association)	Maine Homeless Legal Project
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)	Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLV)
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)	New Hampshire Bar Association
Justice Resource Institute (JRI) & JRI Health Law Institute	New Hampshire Legal Aid
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)	New Hampshire Legal Assistance
	Political Asylum and Immigration Representation Project (PAIR)

PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE RECIPIENTS

2020 Women on Boards	Harvard Club of Maine
3S Artspace	Journey Song
American Immigration Lawyers Association	Land Sake Farm
Animal Legal Defense Fund	Maine Labor Relations Board
Animal Welfare Society	Maine Women's Lobby & Maine Women's Policy Center
Augusta Food Bank	Mercy Hospital
AVESTA Housing Development Corporation	Midcoast Conservancy
Brixham Montessori Friends School	Natural Stress Relief, Inc.
Campaign for Legal Services	New England Arab American Organization
Cancer Community Center	North Shore Rovers
Chaplaincy Institute of Maine	Nutmeg Senior Rides, Inc.
Davis Family Foundation	Pericles Foundation
DC Bar Lawyer Assistance Program	Pine Tree Legal Assistance
Dirigo Outdoor Programs	Plummer Home
Elsie & William Viles Foundation	Presumpscot Regional Land Trust
Falmouth Memorial Library Association	Recover Fall River
Family Crisis Services	Senior Ride Connection
A Far Cry Inc.	State Street Church
Fred Sandback Archive	Strawbery Banke, Inc.
Friends of the Bourne Rail Trail, Inc.	The Summit Project
The Gamm Theatre	Supreme Court Historical Society
Grassroots International	The Trust for Public Land
Greater Portland Landmarks	University of Maine
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston	University of New England
Hale Reservation	Way Finders, Inc.

Partner Organizations

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

American Heart Association	Foundation of the Energy Law Journal	North Yarmouth Academy
Augusta Food Bank	Freeport Community Services	NYC Feral Cat Initiative
Baystate Financial Charitable Foundation	Freeport Middle School	Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern ME	Friends of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)	Pan Mass Challenge
Boston Bar Association	Frosty's Friends	Pine Tree Legal Assistance
Boston MedFlight	Good Shepherd Food Bank	Poland Fire Rescue B.A.
Boy Scouts of America, Daniel Webster Council	HAVEN	Political Asylum Immigration Representation (PAIR)
Boy Scouts of America, Pine Tree Council	Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)	Portsmouth Public Media, Inc.
Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maine	The Jimmy Fund	Preble Street Resource Center
Build the Banner of Love, Inc.	Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)	Rhode Island Community Food Bank
Campaign for Justice	LARK Society for Chamber Music	Roger Williams University
Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation	LearningPlunge	Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland
Casa Myrna	Lift360	Saint Joseph's College
Catholic Lawyers Guild of New Hampshire	Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta	Sandcastle Clinical & Educational Services
Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association	Maine Community Foundation	Sisters of Mercy
Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine	Maine Girls Academy	Sojourner House
City Kids	Maine Historical Society	SOME - So Others Might Eat
The Cromwell Center For Disabilities Awareness	Maine Justice Foundation	Strafford County Nutrition Program / Meals on Wheels
Day One	Maine Medical Center	Travis Roy Foundation
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation	Mary's Walk / Maine Cancer Foundation	United Way
East Boston Savings Bank Charitable Foundation	Mercy Healthcare Foundation	University of New Hampshire Foundation
Family Crisis Services	Muskie Fund for Legal Services	Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Farnsworth Art Museum	My Sisters Place	Women's Bar Association
Foundation for a Strong Maine Economy	New England Center for Homeless Veterans	Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast
	New England Legal Foundation	
	New Hampshire Bar Foundation	
	New Hampshire Campaign for Legal Services	