

# 2018 PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE OVERVIEW





We are pleased to share highlights of Pierce Atwood's 2018 pro bono and community service efforts in our annual Pro Bono & Community Service Overview.

Since our inception in 1891, Pierce Atwood has made it a priority to give back to those in need. Our attorneys and staff continue to honor this deeply rooted ethic of public service through pro bono work and community service activities.

We are keenly aware of the financial and social barriers that exist between so many in our communities and access to the legal system, and we recognize that we have a responsibility to assist those in need by unlocking those barriers. We are proud of the important role our firm plays helping those who need assistance and support to gain access to justice, and we enthusiastically embrace our responsibility to support nonprofit and charitable organizations that are doing important work in our communities and beyond.

We hope you will take a few moments to review our 2018 Pro Bono & Community Service Overview and to share in our accomplishments over the last year.

Sincerely,

18. 13.

David E. Barry, Managing Partner



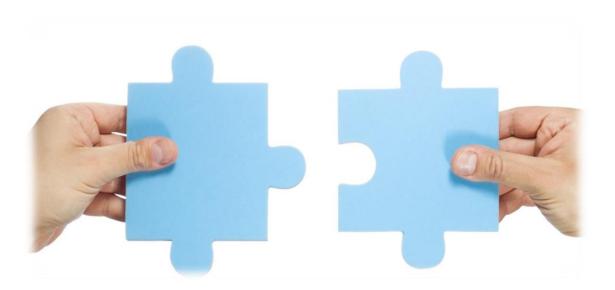


## **2018 By the Numbers**

3754	1	Pro bono legal services hours served
55	T	Organizations served
92	T	Attorneys who provided pro bono legal services
58	I.	Attorneys who provided more than 50 hours of pro bono legal & community service combined

## \$3.86 Million

Dollar value of our pro bono & community service hours in 2018





#### Fifth 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 Fifth Annual Pro Bono & Community Service Awards Ceremony, held on February 7, 2019, recognized the efforts of our attorneys and staff in 2018.

#### **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.

In 2018, Tax group partner **Sarah Beard** devoted 183.9 hours to pro bono work with the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP), continuing her work with this long-time Pierce Atwood pro bono legal service partner.

Sarah's ILAP work in 2018 involved representing a husband and wife in the asylum process – the wife in the affirmative process and the husband in the defensive process. Sarah is an amazing advocate for both, in two very different procedural processes, and has dedicated herself fully to representing these clients – and our firm – exceptionally well. Sarah also supports this couple in friendship, attending their wedding and visiting to meet their baby.

In addition, over the past several years working with ILAP, Sarah successfully represented client "S.U." in an affirmative asylum application. Over the course of the representation, each also gained a lifelong friend: Sarah welcomed S.U. into her home and made a huge impact on her ability to remain in the U.S. and also acclimate to life here.



Sarah



#### 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.

When Pierce Atwood employment partner Meg LePage, in her role as board member of the Cancer Community Center, offered to find an M&A lawyer for the CCC's planned merger with the Patrick Dempsey Center, Business group partner **Michael Anderson** volunteered to take on this pro bono project. "He approached the job with supreme professionalism," Meg noted. Throughout the 18-month span of the transaction, Meg often heard from the CCC executive director and other trustees about what good, practical advice Mike gave. (See page 11 for more details.)

In all, Mike devoted more than 165 pro bono hours on the transaction, in addition to coordinating the involvement of a team of Pierce Atwood lawyers with the relevant expertise. Meg noted that "Mike was a great ambassador for Pierce Atwood, and along the way helped two organizations come together for the benefit of the people of Maine who are touched by cancer."

"Mike Anderson epitomizes the finest in professionalism – brilliant, responsive, personable, and thoroughly attentive to our agency's needs."

-- Nicole Avery, Executive Director, Cancer Community Center



#### McKusick Community Impact Award (Cont'd)

For **Chrissy Micchelli**, raising awareness for cancer research and fundraising has become a big part of her life when she is not answering calls on the Help Desk at Pierce Atwood.

Chrissy has been participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life for nine years. Over this time, her level of involvement has increased from participant to Event Leadership Team to Event Co-Leader. Recently, Chrissy was nominated to be a part of a new Volunteer Leadership Team as an Event Mentor. In addition to planning and participating in the Relay, Chrissy helps organize events throughout the year, including an Afternoon Tea for Survivors and creating and sending holiday cards to survivors.

For the past three years, Chrissy has also participated in the ACS Pulling for Hope Plane Pull at Boston Logan Airport, in which teams compete to pull a 150passenger jet plane 24 feet in the fastest time. For the most recent event, she served on the Volunteer Leadership Board as the Fundraising Chair. Chrissy is focused on spreading awareness and supporting research in hope that one day cancer will be gone for good.





#### **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.

Litigation group partner **Catherine Connors** is a model for all who consider pro bono service to be an integral component of a meaningful legal practice.

Cathy's pro bono and community service work on behalf of various organizations has made an impact on the local and national level. She serves as Vice President of the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunkport, and has done pro bono work for the Animal Legal Defense Fund on animal cruelty and protection cases. On behalf of organizations such as the ACLU, Cathy has prepared "friend of the court" briefs on First Amendment, Fourth Amendment and other Constitutional issues, enabling interested entities to have a say in cases in which they are not direct parties, but the outcomes of which may affect their interests in profound ways.

Cathy has been a true and unfailing leader on behalf of GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders), working to secure rights in an area where rich and novel legal and Constitutional questions continue to arise. Through her work with GLAD, Cathy has been a party to some of the most defining legal developments of our times, and her work has made a true difference to many individuals, couples and families.





#### Scribner Firm Impact Award (Cont'd)

For many years, **Bron Nelson** has been combining her love of cycling with support for numerous health-related charities and serving as a community service role model to all of us at Pierce Atwood.

Bron has participated in numerous fundraising cycling events including the MS 150/Great Maine Getaway (National Multiple Sclerosis Society), the Dempsey Challenge (the Dempsey Center), and the Tour de Cure (American Diabetes Association). Bron's efforts have made an impact not only for those organizations, but on her friends and colleagues who support her and witness her accomplishments. Bron always makes her efforts personal, keeping the focus on the organization, and often riding with pictures and names of her contributors' loved ones whose lives have been affected by the causes that she is supporting. Over the past 15 years, Bron and her supporters have raised more than \$42,500 together.

Bron is a real role model because she uses her talents, efforts and passions in support of her community and addressing the problems that affect us all.





### **Pro Bono Successes**

#### **Know Your Rights Event**

For the second year in a row, Pierce Atwood attorneys joined the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) and Maine Law's Immigrant and Human Rights Clinic at a "Know Your Rights" event for members of Portland's immigrant community who are vulnerable to deportation. Our attorneys provided pro bono legal services on a limited representation basis to any attendee wishing to execute documentation to enable a trusted friend or family member to manage the person's affairs in the event of sudden immigration detention.



Trusts & Estates practice group leader **Molly Liddell** once again organized the requisite troops and resources. Trusts & Estates attorney **Griff Leschefske** provided T&E expertise, Business attorney **Mike Hernandez** provided legal services and English-to-Spanish interpretation, and Business attorney and Pro Bono partner **Emily Cooke** provided legal services and Spanish language support. In addition, Pierce Atwood provided the copying and binding services to enable participants to bring home many pages of ILAP and immigration information in a concise format. The feedback we received from the organizers was that the awareness that people like Griff, Mike, and Emily (and their families) are willing to show up to an event like this sends a powerful signal of support and goodwill.



Molly

Griff

Emily

#### **Community Service Award**

Pierce Atwood was named the recipient of the 2018 Hale Reservation Community Service Award, in recognition of our ongoing pro bono real estate and land use work for Hale, which owns 1,200 acres of land in Westwood and Dover, Massachusetts. Hale Reservation has a great many volunteers, board members, and supporters, so receiving this recognition is a true honor.



PIERCE ATWOOD

Led by Real Estate and Land Use group partner **Dan Bailey**, we have negotiated leases and easements for a 1.2 MW ground-mounted solar facility on an old landfill, and have also helped with defending a dam enforcement proceeding.

Hale Reservation began in 1918 as a result of Robert Sever Hale's desire "to provide education which will develop intelligent, capable and responsible citizens" and to use the land "so long as it is charitable and benevolent in nature."

Today, Hale Reservation provides a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities for thousands of children, teens, and adults of diverse backgrounds and economic status, in an environment that helps develop self-confidence, inspire a passion for learning, and encourage an appreciation for the natural environment.

The awards ceremony took place on March 8, 2018 at Hale Reservation. Dan Bailey (center) accepted the award on behalf of Pierce Atwood.



#### **Protecting Trademark Assets**

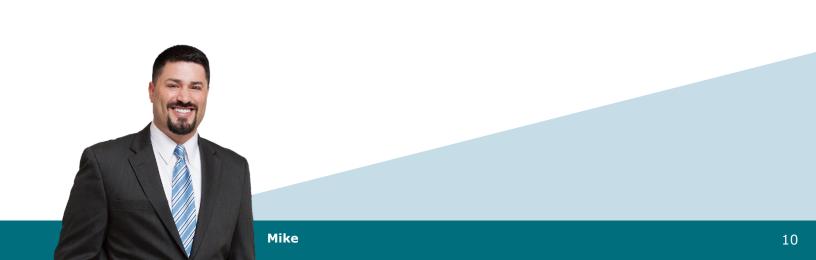
The Summit Project is a Maine non-profit that organizes events that serve as "living memorials" to commemorate fallen military personnel. When they reached out to our firm for help to secure rights in its trademarks, Business and Intellectual Property group attorney **Mike Hernandez** stepped up to take on the project.

Mike conducted a thorough analysis on the availability and protectability of the organization's various trademarks, gave excellent guidance on proper trademark usage, and successfully registered five trademarks on the U.S. federal and Maine state trademark registries.



PIERCE ATWOOD

The organization's founder, David Cote, was extremely appreciative of Mike's efforts, writing in a personal letter, **"You and your legal team have done a masterful job helping our organization to keep our heroes' memory alive."** 





#### **Cancer Community Center Merger**

In an 18-month commitment involving nearly 300 hours of donated time, a Pierce Atwood team successfully closed the merger between our client, the Cancer Community Center (CCC), and the Dempsey Center, both well-respected nonprofits delivering free support services to cancer patients. Led by Business group partner **Mike Anderson** – who was recognized for his pro bono leadership with the McKusick Community Impact Award (see page 4), the team included Business attorney **Kasey Boucher**, Employment partner **Meg LePage**, Employment attorney **David Coolidge**, Intellectual Property partner **Jon Gelchinsky**, Trusts & Estates (T&E) partner **Barbara Wheaton**, T&E attorney **Griff Leschefske**, and Tax partners **Kris Eimicke** and **Rob Ravenelle**.

At the closing celebration, the outgoing Executive Director of CCC, Nicole Avery, praised Mike and his team, saying that she was going to miss being able to pick up the phone and hear Mike's reassuring voice.





#### **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 June 30, 2018, eight Pierce Atwood attorneys qualified to earn distinction as Katahdin Counsel.

John Aromando Sarah Beard

**Christina Berkow Tony Derosby** 

Ryan Kelley Sara Murphy **Kyle Noonan** Lily Rao





John

Christina

Tony

Ryan

Sara



## **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. 2018 marked our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Community Service. Our projects this year included the following:

#### Washington, DC

On June 13, 2018, attorneys and staff from Pierce Atwood's DC Office volunteered at the **DC Central Kitchen**, which prepares healthy meals from otherwise wasted food. The meals are then delivered to more than 80 partner agencies in the Washington metropolitan area, including homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics, and after-school programs.

The Central Kitchen also provides culinary job training to unemployed adults, serves healthy school lunches to a number of DC schools, delivers fresh fruit and healthy snacks to corner stores in the District's "food deserts," and works with college students to fight food waste and hunger nationally.

Our team helped prepare the day's meals, sorted and labeled canned goods and staples, and cleaned up afterwards.





#### Portland

On June 13, attorneys and staff from our Portland office spent the annual Day of Community Service helping **Portland Trails** with removing invasive species, small bridge building, raking, pruning, and more.

Portland Trails is a nonprofit urban land trust that, with a dedicated group of staff, members and volunteers, maintains hiking, walking, and biking trails in Greater Portland.





#### Portsmouth

Attorneys and staff from the Portsmouth office participated in the United Way of the Greater Seacoast's "Day of Caring" on September 13. We assisted the **Strafford County Nutrition Program** with assembling a 10,000 piece mailing for their second Annual Appeal to generate funding for the Meals on Wheels program. The UWGS Director of Corporate Engagement summed up the Day of Caring: "700 volunteers hailing from 36 companies tackled 54 projects at 45 local nonprofit organizations across 19 Seacoast communities."





#### Janet D. Eustis Memorial Volunteer Time-Off Program

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

In 2018, staff members participating in the program volunteered a total of 80 hours of time in their communities.

Organizations included:

- Al-Anon
- American Red Cross
- Maine Cancer Foundation
- New England Mountain Bike Association
- New Hampshire Make-A-Wish
- Portland Trails
- Preble Street Soup Kitchen
- Regional School Unit #1 (RSU 1)
- Sandcastle Clinical & Educational Services
- Scarborough Land Trust
- South Portland High School Project Graduation
- Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Women's Lunch Place



## **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.

Two teams from Anne Beers participated in the district-wide GeoPlunge tournament on May 30, 2018. GeoPlunge is a US geography game, and this is the largest tournament in the District school system. Pierce Atwood was one of the sponsors of this year's tournament. Our attorneys and staff participated in team training sessions to help prepare the students.

On June 11, we joined Drinker Biddle in co-hosting an end of school year party for the 2018 Anne Beers GeoPlunge team. We served pizza and prepared goodie bags with books, games, and treats for each student.

In December, we assisted with the Anne Beers spelling bee. Energy group partner **Merrill Kramer** served as Pronouncer and office administrator **Natalie Huddleston** served as Cheerleader and Organizer, while Drinker Biddle provided two judges. The 1st place winner of the spelling bee was Emme, a 2nd grade student.



"Once again, and another year, you provided tremendous support to our Spelling Bee. We appreciate how all of you came together to encourage our spellers to be successful. This type of experience will be remembered by our students for the rest of their lives. We look forward to partnering with you for our 2019 Spelling Bee."

-- Valyncia Hawkins, Spelling Bee Coach



## **Charitable Giving**

Pierce Atwood's Charitable Giving Committee chose to focus our 2018 fundraising efforts on behalf of Make-A-Wish.

Through the efforts organized by the Charitable Giving Committee, Pierce Atwood attorneys and staff raised \$10,000 for Make-A-Wish, which is enough to fulfill one full wish for a child with a critical illness. The Massachusetts and Rhode Island Chapter of Make-A-Wish was chosen as the recipient of our fundraising efforts.

The check will be presented to a representative from Make-A-Wish during a firmwide lunch in April 2019.

Our fundraising efforts in support of Make-A-Wish included:

- Monthly "Jeans Fridays"
- Ice cream sales
- Bowling fundraiser
- Holiday basket raffle
- 50/50 raffle
- Calendar 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)				
Free Legal Answers Maine (American Bar Association)				
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)				
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)				
Justice Resource Institute (JRI) & JRI Health Law Institute				
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)				

Legal Food Hub, A Project of Conservation Law Foundation Maine Homeless Legal Project Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLP) New Hampshire Bar Association New Hampshire Legal Advice & Referral Center New Hampshire Legal Assistance Political Asylum and Immigration Representation Project (PAIR)

#### **PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE RECIPIENTS**

3S Artspace	Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection
American Immigration Lawyers Association	Learning Skills Academy
Animal Welfare Society	Maine Boys to Men
Augusta Food Bank	Maine Women's Lobby & Maine Women's Policy Center
<b>AVESTA Housing Development Corporation</b>	
Brixham Montessori Friends School	Natural Stress Relief, Inc.
Cancer Community Center	North Shore Rovers
Chaplaincy Institute of Maine	Peace Ridge Sanctuary
Dirigo Outdoor Programs	Pericles Foundation
Falmouth Memorial Library Association	Plummer Home
A Far Cry Inc.	Plummer Youth Promise
Foundation for a Strong Maine Economy	Polaris
Friends of the Bourne Rail Trail, Inc.	Recover Fall River
The Gamm Theatre	<b>Rockingham Nutrition &amp; Meals on Wheels</b>
Grassroots International	Spina Bifida Association
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston	Strawbery Banke, Inc.
Hale Reservation	The Summit Project
Harvard Club of Maine	Teach for All
Hoskins International Sports	The Trust for Public Land
JAG Productions	University of New Hampshire Center for Family Enterprise
Journey Song	Way Finders, Inc.



## Partner Organizations (Cont'd)

#### **CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIPS**

**American Heart Association** 

Augusta Food Bank

**Baystate Financial Charitable** Foundation

**Boston Bar Association** 

**Boston Harbor Now** 

Boy Scouts of America, Pine Tree Council

**Cancer Community Center** 

Cape Elizabeth High School

Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association

Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine

**Connecticut Appleseed** 

**Creative Portland** 

The Cromwell Center For Disabilities Awareness

**Cumberland County Soil &** Water Conservation District

**Day One** 

East Boston Savings Bank Charitable Foundation

Foundation for a Strong Maine Economy

Foundation of the Energy Law Journal

**Freeport Community Services** 

**Frosty's Friends** 

**Genesis Center – Rhode Island** 

**Good Shepherd Food Bank** 

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

**Hale Reservation** 

**Housing Families Inc. Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project** (ILAP) **International Institute of New** England **JAG Productions Junior Achievement of Maine Kennebec Valley YMCA** Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) **Kingston Chamber Music Festival** LearningPlunge **Literacy Volunteers of Greater** Augusta Maine Boys to Men Maine Irish Heritage Center Maine Island Trail Association Maine Justice Foundation Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Mary's Walk / Maine Cancer Foundation **Mercy Healthcare Foundation Muskie Fund for Legal Services** NephCure Kidney International **New England Center for Homeless** Veterans **New England Legal Foundation New Hampshire Campaign for** Legal Services North Yarmouth Academy **Olympia Snowe Women's** 

Leadership Institute

**One Longfellow Square Inc.** 

**Poland Fire Rescue B.A.** 

Political Asylum Immigration Representation (PAIR)

**Portland Stage** 

Portland String Quartet Society (formerly LARK Society for Chamber Music)

Rhode Island Community Food Bank

**Roger Williams University** 

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

Sandcastle Clinical & Educational Services

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston

Southern Maine Children's Water Festival

Strafford County Nutrition Program / Meals on Wheels

Through These Doors (formerly Family Crisis Services)

**Trinity Repertory Company** 

**United Way** 

University of New Hampshire Foundation

University of Southern Maine Foundation

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast

YMCA of Southern Maine