

PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE OVERVIEW



2022



Dear Friends & Colleagues,

Since our firm's founding more than 130 years ago, an ethic of public service has been a vital part of Pierce Atwood's culture. Our attorneys and staff continue our tradition with energy and commitment, and we are pleased to share highlights of our recent accomplishments in our 2022 Pro Bono & Community Service Overview.

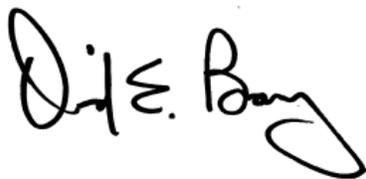
We are keenly aware that many in our communities face challenges and disadvantages. Through a broad and varied range of pro bono and community service efforts, our attorneys and staff work to help those in need.

From our position of privilege, we put our professional skills to work to help those who face obstacles gain access to and navigate the legal system. In 2022, for example, we assisted asylum-seekers navigating a slow and splintered bureaucracy, vulnerable children whose parental rights are contested, and individuals whose ability to expunge old criminal records removed a longstanding barrier to housing and professional employment.

Our attorneys and staff also contribute to our communities in which we live and work through nonprofit and charitable organizations that share our commitment to making a difference – from peer counseling for grieving children, to financial literacy training for middle school students, and raising money to provide nutritious meals to at-risk students and to help Ukrainian refugees.

The time and efforts dedicated to this work are substantial, but the rewards and satisfaction are far greater. We hope you will take a few moments to share in our accomplishments of the past year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Barry".

David E. Barry, Managing Partner



2022 By the Numbers

1867 Pro bono legal services hours

3840 Community service hours

55 Organizations received pro bono legal services

\$2.59 million Value of our pro bono & community service hours in 2022



Ninth Annual Pro Bono & Community Service Awards

Each year, Pierce Atwood recognizes our attorneys and staff who have made outstanding contributions to our communities and to our firm. Our Ninth Annual Pro Bono & Community Service Awards Ceremony, held on March 15, 2023, recognized these efforts in 2022.

Lancaster 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**. The award is named in honor of longtime partner Ralph I. Lancaster, Jr. Throughout his career, Ralph devoted countless hours providing pro bono service to low-income residents of Maine and to many nonprofit and charitable organizations.

This year's recipient is tax attorney **Olga Goldberg**, with 146.5 hours.

Among Olga's accomplishments is her pro bono work on behalf of Peace Ridge Sanctuary, an 800-acre nonprofit animal sanctuary that cares for hundreds of abused and neglected animals. PRS is one of the largest animal shelters in Maine, and one of the few shelters in the state with the capacity to take in and rehabilitate farm animals rescued through Maine's Animal Welfare Program. In Maine,

charitable organizations like PRS are entitled to a property tax exemption. However, the Town of Brooks, in which the facility is located, refused to grant the exemption.

Following a five-day trial, which included a visit to PRS, the Maine Superior Court ruled that the vast majority of PRS's property should have received a property tax exemption going back to 2016.

The large tax refund owed to the facility will make a huge difference in its ability to care for Maine's abused and neglected animals.



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.**

Real estate and environmental attorney **Daniel Bailey** has a longstanding and extensive pro bono commitment to Hale Education, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides a range of educational and recreational opportunities for thousands of children, teens, and adults of diverse backgrounds and economic status on 1,100+ acres of forests, ponds, and meadows in Westwood and Dover, Massachusetts.



Dan's ongoing pro bono work for Hale has included negotiating leases and easements for a ground-mounted solar facility on an old landfill, and defending a dam enforcement proceeding, among other matters. Over the past 18 months, Dan has devoted a considerable amount of time assisting with drafting a conservation restriction that would prohibit commercial or large scale residential development at Hale, and preserve most of the property in its natural condition forever. In recognition of Dan's ongoing work for Hale, Pierce Atwood was named the recipient of the Hale Reservation Community Service Award in 2018.



When she saw a call for volunteers for The Center for Grieving Children, **Halli Marshall**, legal assistant in the Business group, reached out and stepped up. This nonprofit organization provides peer support, outreach, and education to grieving children, teens, families and the community throughout southern Maine, free of charge.

Halli assists with administrative tasks such as writing thank you cards to donors, creative tasks such as crafting medals for the Center's Beach to Beacon team, and step-in-at-the-last-minute tasks such as agreeing to be the replacement photographer with nothing but an iPhone for their 2022 "Swing 'Fore' the Center" golf tournament fundraiser after the scheduled professional had to pull out. Halli has been volunteering with the Center for almost three years, and considers the work among the most meaningful things she has done.

Scribner Firm Impact Award

Named for longtime 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.**

For over a decade, employment attorney **James Erwin** devoted many hours of service to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, Maine's largest educational institution serving over 20,000 students. In a typical year, Jim recorded more than 600 hours of volunteer time dedicated to this work. Jim was appointed to the board by then-Governor Paul LePage in 2012. He served as board chair for four one-year terms beginning in 2017, elected by his fellow trustees.



Among his achievements, Jim led the board's decision to direct the System to pursue unified, system-level accreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education to facilitate system-wide access to courses and sharing of resources; the board's approval of major facilities improvements in Portland, including USM's new Center for the Arts, Student Center, and the first residence halls at the Portland campus; the board's review of the future of the law school which resulted in the new law school building at 300 Fore Street; and the board's adoption of the University of Chicago's standard for free speech. Jim's dedication to the UMaine System exemplifies Pierce Atwood's commitment to community and serves as powerful example to other Pierce Atwood attorneys of harmonizing community commitment and a vibrant legal practice.



Legal assistant **Bev Doucette** applies her business skills to support pro bono and community service efforts within the firm. She provides hours of administrative assistance in pro bono matters to both the attorneys she supports and other administrative staff.

Bev's personal dedication to pro bono and community service are manifested in her longtime membership on the Charitable Giving Committee, her dedication to Pierce Atwood's Day of Community Service, and her personal community service efforts. Among these efforts, Bev provides volunteer transcription services to a large range of nonprofit and community history projects, including DigitalMaine, the Smithsonian Institution, University of Iowa's DIY History Project, and FamilySearch. In these many areas of commitment, Bev embodies the spirit of the Scribner Award.

Pierce Atwood's Racial Justice Initiative

At Pierce Atwood, we recognize that, as a law firm, we are uniquely positioned to answer the rising calls for structural change within our society. While our pro bono efforts have historically included many matters in pursuit of racial justice and equity, the global protests in response to the killing of George Floyd in May 2020 served as an urgent call to concentrate our efforts and talents to do more. To that end, in 2020 Pierce Atwood developed a three-pronged approach to promote racial justice in our communities through targeted pro bono initiatives. Attorneys working within the RJI have, among other efforts, fought for the civil rights of immigration detainees; provided corporate, employment, tax, and planned giving advice to nonprofits working to combat racial inequality; and helped individuals exercise their right to expunge past criminal records.



Eviction Crisis Response

Providing legal support in a residential eviction matter can result in better, less chaotic outcomes for both tenants and landlords, and, crucially, can buy a tenant time to locate new housing rather than landing in an emergency shelter or on the street. The COVID-19 pandemic intensified an existing eviction crisis. In response to this need, Pierce Atwood attorneys in Maine and Massachusetts formed a pro bono eviction response team to assist.

In Maine, Pierce Atwood's pro bono Eviction Defense Team is led by **Ryan Kelley** and includes **Robert Abrahamsen**, **Cameron Goodwin**, **Peter Kenlan**, **Julia MacDonald**, **Michelle Pottle**, and **Joseph Shagoury**. Team members complete Pine Tree Legal Assistance's Eviction Defense Project Training. Pierce Atwood works closely with PTLA to place PTLA-identified matters.

In Massachusetts, real estate attorney **Joel Quick** works with the Eastern Massachusetts Housing Court's "Lawyer of the Day" program. In one matter, Joel successfully negotiated a monetary settlement on behalf of a pro bono client as part of Pierce Atwood's eviction defense work in Massachusetts, carried out with the Massachusetts Volunteer Lawyers Project. The client faced a retaliatory eviction for reporting code violations to the city, followed by threats and harassment while the eviction was proceeding. The client also sought damages for unlawful terms in the rental agreement, an illegal rental arrangement, and an illness related to conditions in the home. It took more than two years to get close enough to trial to drive a settlement home. Our client was happy with the result.



Strengthening the New Mainer Community

New Roots Cooperative Farm is a co-op of Somali Bantu farmers who farm in Lewiston, Maine using traditional practices. New Roots started farming in Lewiston in 2006, and Pierce Atwood helped them form a legal entity in 2016.

In 2022, Pierce Atwood real estate attorney **Dennis Keeler** assisted New Roots to purchase farmland from the Maine Farmland Trust. In addition to the acquisition, the transaction also involved an Agricultural Conservation Easement for the benefit of Maine Farmland Trust that assured continued use for farming, while also allowing limited development for housing the farmers and structures to facilitate farming and the sale and marketing of agricultural products.

This is a deeply significant moment for New Roots. As they put it, “Purchasing our land has enabled us to continue building a sustainable farm, provide food to the community, and improve the food economy in the local area.” We were happy to assist New Roots to bring their longtime dream to fruition and further strengthen our New Mainer community and local food system.

Promoting a Sustainable Food System

Pierce Atwood provides pro bono services through the Conservation Law Foundation’s Legal Food Hub, a free service that connects volunteer attorneys to eligible farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food-related organizations in support of a thriving regional food system in New England.

Since the Food Hub’s inception in 2015, Pierce Atwood has assisted New England farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food-related organizations on more than 20 matters.



Community Service

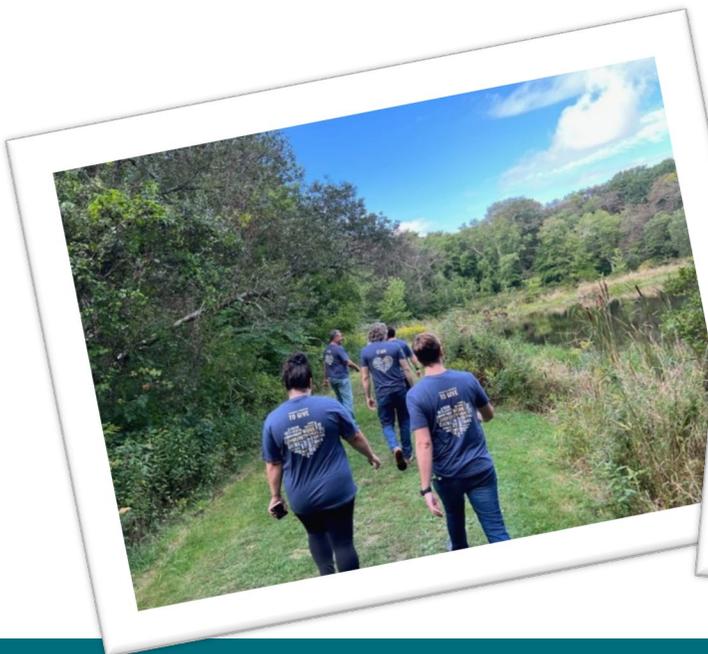
After a two-year COVID-related hiatus, we held our 17th annual **Day of Community Service**, continuing a much-loved Pierce Atwood tradition, when attorneys and staff leave the office together for a day to work on service projects for deserving charitable organizations.

On June 9 our Portland team headed to **Camp Susan Curtis** in Stoneham, Maine. According to its website, its mission is “to provide a transformative camp experience that nurtures self-confidence and a sense of belonging in Maine children facing economic hardship.” The camp serves about 500 youth from all across the state each year.

We helped prepare the facilities for camp opening. Our work included cleaning and preparing cabins for campers, painting/staining the amphitheater and other locations, and cleaning program buildings.

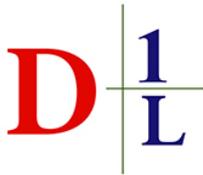
Our Rhode Island attorneys and staff spent the day on September 20 working at **Norman Bird Sanctuary**, a nonprofit wildlife sanctuary and environmental education center in Middletown, Rhode Island.

Outdoors, our main task involved cutting back vines along the stone walls in preparation for the annual Harvest Fair, the sanctuary’s award-winning event that celebrates the harvest season. Indoors, we helped set up the Curiosity Lab, a new educational center with hands-on stations for curious children and adults to explore and create awareness about environmental science on the property. Our work involved assembling furniture, organizing books and artifacts, and labeling items.



Building Our Legal Community

As part of our commitment to building a diverse legal community in Maine, Pierce Atwood collaborated with Bernstein Shur, Verrill, and University of Maine School of Law as founding members of the **D1L Maine Diversity Summer Associate Program**. Following the successful inaugural year in 2020, we have been pleased to welcome new participants for an expanded program in subsequent years: law firms Brann & Isaacson, Preti Flaherty, and Drummond Woodsum, along with corporate partners The Jackson Laboratory, Unum, WEX, IDEXX and LL Bean.



maine diversity summer associate program

The D1L program aims to build a diverse legal community in Maine by attracting a diverse pool of first-year law students (1Ls) from across the country for a 10-week paid summer internship at a participating organization in Portland, Freeport, Westbrook, Lewiston, or Bar Harbor, Maine.

The 1Ls accepted to the program have the opportunity to experience legal practice and life in Maine, participate in professional development programs, and build their social and business networks within the participating organizations and the larger legal community. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to build a stronger, more diverse community of legal professionals in Maine.

Connecting the Community

In October, we hosted the **Alpha Legal Foundation's** "Quarterly Connections" event in our Portland office. The Alpha Legal Foundation, founded by former Pierce Atwood attorney Krystal Williams, is an organization created to build and sustain a pipeline of attorneys of diverse backgrounds to fill top legal leadership and scholarship positions across all sectors in Maine.



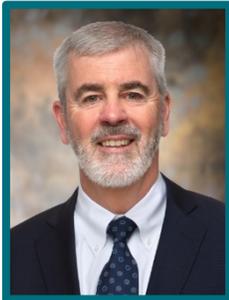
Community Recognitions

Katahdin Counsel 2022

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 pro bono legal services specifically to indigent clients in Maine.



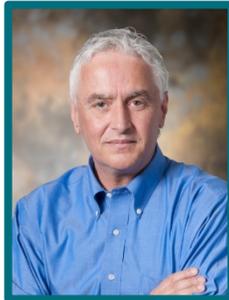
For the reporting year ending June 30, 2022, five Pierce Atwood attorneys qualified to earn distinction as Katahdin Counsel.



John Aromando



Bonnie Ball Wahrer



Tony Derosby



Cameron Goodwin



Kyle Noonan

Volunteer of the Year



The Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce named employment attorney and this year's Scribner Firm Impact Award winner **Jim Erwin** its 2022 Volunteer of the Year, noting that Jim's "civic engagement has positively impacted the work of the Portland Regional Chamber and led to the betterment of our community."

The award was presented at "Imagine Portland," the Chamber's annual awards event and community celebration, on June 16.

For more about Jim's commitment to community service, please see page 5.

Charitable Giving

In March, our Boston office held a happy hour to raise money for the people of **Ukraine**, with donations going to Airbnb.org, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit through which Airbnb is funding temporary housing for up to 100,000 people fleeing Ukraine.

One hundred percent of our donations went to help Ukrainian refugees access free short-term housing throughout Europe.

We asked for minimum donation of \$5 to attend the happy hour – we raised \$1500!



Our Washington, DC office has a long-standing volunteer relationship with the **Anne Beers Elementary School** in Southeast DC. Pierce Atwood shares a school partnership with Faegre, Drinker, Biddle’s DC office through the Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.

On a bimonthly basis, we provide healthy food bags – curated, packed, and delivered by office manager **Natalie Huddleston** – to help sustain students who otherwise might not have enough to eat over the weekend. Additionally, office partner-in-charge **Randy Rich** and his family donated 50 new Washington Nationals baseball caps for the students, as well as a guitar and amplifier.



At a meeting with school officials in October, Kent Withycombe of the Lawyers’ Committee tests out the equipment.

Charitable Giving

For 2022, Pierce Atwood's Charitable Giving Committee continued to sponsor "Jeans Fridays" on behalf of the **Alzheimer's Association**.

Founded in 1980 by a group of family caregivers and individuals who recognized the need for an organization that would unite caregivers, provide support to those facing Alzheimer's, and advance research into the disease, today the association reaches millions of people affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias. It is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research.



During the 2022 holiday season, we also supported neighbors in need through organizations including:

- Casa Myrna
- New England Center for Homeless Veterans
- Through These Doors (f/k/a Family Crisis Services)



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.

Janet Eustis was a Pierce Atwood legal assistant for 15 years whose commitment to her community inspired everyone who knew her, and whose selflessness reflected the best of our firm's tradition of service.

In 2022, 14 staff members contributed volunteer time through the program.

Partner Organizations

PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE PARTNERS

603 Legal Aid

ACLU (Massachusetts and Rhode Island)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Eastern Massachusetts Housing Court Lawyer of the Day

Hospice of Southern Maine

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)

Justice Resource Institute (JRI) & JRI Health Law Institute

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Legal Counsel for the Elderly (DC)

Legal Food Hub, A Project of the Conservation Law Foundation

Legal Services for the Elderly (Maine)

Maine Homeless Legal Project

Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLV)

Neighborhood Legal Services Program of the District of Columbia

Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Political Asylum and Immigration Representation Project (PAIR)

PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS (*partial list*)

Animal Welfare Society

Atlantic Black Box

Brixham Montessori Friends School

Cape Cod Center for the Arts

The Center for Grieving Children

Chaplaincy Institute of Maine

Congregation Beth Elohim

Dempsey Center

Dirigo Outdoor Programs

Drikung Meditation Center, Inc.

Ebstein's Traveling Hearts

A Far Cry Inc.

Fiji Theater Company

The Gamm Theatre

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston

Hale Reservation

International Artists Manifest

JFYNetWorks

Khimti Forum

KIF1A.org

Lasagna Love, Inc.

Maine Boys to Men

Maine Gun Safety Coalition Foundation

Maine Island Trail Association

Mandala Inc.

New Roots Farm Cooperative

Organization for Refugee & Immigrant Success

Peace Ridge Sanctuary

Pine Tree Curling Club

Portland Rugby Football Club

Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels

Root House

Strawbery Banke, Inc.

The Summit Project

Temple Isaiah

Trust for Public Land

Unified Asian Communities

White Heron Theatre Company

Partner Organizations (*Cont'd*)

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

Alzheimer's Association
 American Heart Association
 Aubrielle's Hope
 Avesta Housing
 Barbara Bush Children's Hospital
 Boston Bar Association
 Boston Bar Foundation
 Boy Scouts of America, Pine Tree Council
 Cape Robotics
 Catholic Charities Maine
 Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association
 Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine
 Covenant House
 Dempsey Center
 Discovering Justice
 Find The Cause Breast Cancer Foundation
 Girls on the Run-Maine
 The Governor's Academy
 In Choro Novo
 Junior Achievement of Maine
 Maine Island Trail Association
 Maine Justice Foundation
 Maine Law Foundation
 Maine Medical Center
 Maine Needs
 Maine Philanthropy Center
 Make-A-Wish Maine
 Mercy Hospital
 Muskie Fund for Legal Services
 New England Legal Foundation
 New Hampshire Campaign for Legal Services
 Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute
 Partners for World Health
 Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project (PAIR)
 Portland Conservatory of Music
 Portland Stage
 Rhode Island Community Food Bank
 Susan L. Curtis Foundation
 The Telling Room
 Trustees of Dartmouth College
 United Way of Southern Maine
 University of Maine School of Law
 University of Southern Maine Foundation
 Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
 Women's Foundation of Boston

