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Maine Supreme Court Honors Lawyers Who Have Provided Free Legal Services to Those in Need

“Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program” recognizes lawyers providing 50 or more hours of pro bono assistance in 2018

Portland, Maine
October 10, 2018

Maine’s generous lawyers and law students are being honored in ceremonies around the State this month. Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley today announced that the Maine Supreme Judicial Court is honoring those lawyers and students who have reported contributions in the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program of at least fifty hours of free legal help to Maine individuals in need during the last year.

The ninety-seven Katahdin Counsel lawyers provided the “pro bono” legal assistance to low-income and elderly Mainers, along with non-profit organizations. Recipients are often faced with life-altering challenges related to housing, family relations, bankruptcy, immigration, food insecurity, and similar issues. Katahdin Counsel lawyers produced results that are practical, fair, and cost-efficient.

In all, 10,233 hours of pro bono services were reported through the Program. Those legal services have an estimated market value of \$1,509,900. The reporting period for the program runs from July 1 to June 30.

“Maine lawyers are some of the most generous in the nation in terms of responding to the significant need for free assistance for those in need. We are immensely grateful for their efforts,” said Chief Justice Saufley.

Supreme Court Justice Andrew M. Mead, who oversees the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program, said, “Katahdin Counsel lawyers are champions in providing access to justice to those in need. But we would also like to thank every Maine lawyer who has contributed any amount of time and expertise on a pro bono basis to help their fellow Mainers tackle legal challenges. We encourage all lawyers to continue their generous, public-spirited pro bono legal services contributions. The need for such services in civil cases has never been greater.” Justice Mead noted that the easiest way for lawyers to offer legal assistance to an individual unable to afford a lawyer is to accept a case referral from the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project.

The first of five ceremonies was held yesterday at the Penobscot Judicial Center in Bangor. Other events will be held throughout October at the following times and court locations:

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- **Androscoggin County, October 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Androscoggin County Courthouse, 2 Turner St., Auburn.
- **Kennebec County, October 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Capital Judicial Center, 1 Court St., Augusta.
- **York County, October 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** at the York County Courthouse, 45 Kennebunk Rd., Alfred.
- **Cumberland County, October 24, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Cumberland County Courthouse, 205 Newbury St., Portland.

A list of all Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program attorneys and the towns in which they practice is attached.

More information on the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program may be found on the Maine Judicial Branch website at http://www.courts.maine.gov/citizen_help/attorneys/katahdin/overview.html.

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The Judicial Branch is Maine's state court system. To learn more about the Judicial Branch, visit www.courts.maine.gov.

