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Maine Supreme Judicial Court Responds to Hurricane Tragedies

For immediate release, September 11, 2017, Portland Maine. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court today encouraged Maine lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to Hurricane Harvey victims, in response to the Texas Supreme Court permitting lawyers in good standing who are licensed in other states to provide free legal services to hurricane victims in need.

http://www.courts.maine.gov/news_reference/news/current/hurricane-assistance-katahdin-counsel.pdf

The Texas emergency order can be found at: <http://www.txcourts.gov/media/1438805/179099.pdf>

The Maine Supreme Court announced that pro bono (free) legal services provided to hurricane victims in other states would qualify for recognition under Maine's Katahdin Counsel Program, which recognizes lawyers who provide 50 or more hours of pro bono legal services each year.

In announcing the extension of the Katahdin Program, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley said, "In the wake of the destruction caused by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, many people will need assistance with legal issues related to housing, medical care, employment, and other survival related issues. They may experience relocation challenges, as they try to return to their homes or settle in new communities. As we have learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, the legal needs will continue for the weeks and months ahead. The extension of the Katahdin program is intended to recognize the generosity of Maine lawyers who so often step up in times of need."

If the Florida Supreme Court issues an order similar to the Texas Supreme Court, then Maine lawyers will also be able to assist in the Florida recovery as well.