



# Administrative Office of the Courts

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## Supreme Judicial Court Recognizes Maine Attorneys and Law Students For 2015 Legal Aid to the Elderly and the Needy

October 14, 2015, Portland, Maine –For Immediate Release. In honor of National Pro Bono Week, October 25-31, 2015, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley today announced that the Maine Supreme Judicial Court will honor Maine lawyers who each have contributed at least 50 hours of legal assistance to low income elderly and needy Maine people in ceremonies across the state in the coming weeks. This year, the Court will recognize 152 lawyers and 3 law students for donating 14,793 hours of legal work to Mainers in need of civil legal assistance. These legal services have an estimated market value of more than \$2,000,000. In thanking these lawyers the Chief Justice said, “There are many Maine people who are faced with critically important civil legal issues involving employment, housing, health, family matters, domestic violence and consumer credit, who simply cannot afford legal services. As members of the bar and officers of the court, lawyers have a special responsibility to help fulfill the promise of justice for all. The Court is grateful to all lawyers who are providing pro bono legal services, and discounted legal services, but the court is particularly appreciative of the Katahdin Counsel lawyers, who have truly led the way in providing pro bono services to their fellow Mainers. Katahdin Counsel lawyers are at the top, in the legal community, for donating their time and talents to others.”

Chief Justice Saufley went on to say, “ National Pro Bono Week is a reminder to all Maine lawyers of their professional responsibility to help improve access to legal services to the poor. The single, easiest way to do that is to accept cases from the Volunteer Lawyers’ Project. I urge all Maine lawyers to set a goal in 2016 to provide 50 hours of pro bono work to others. We can only make justice for all a reality if all lawyers provide pro bono services.”

In all but Cumberland County, the Katahdin Award ceremony will take place with the bar admission ceremony for new lawyers.

A list of the lawyers being honored can be found at:

[http://www.courts.maine.gov/citizen\\_help/attorneys/katahdin/kcrp\\_2015.html](http://www.courts.maine.gov/citizen_help/attorneys/katahdin/kcrp_2015.html)

The press is welcome to attend all events.

### **Katahdin Counsel 2015 Award ceremony schedules:**

**Caribou, Aroostook County Courthouse, October 16, 2015, 8:45 a.m., and on November 3, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.** Hosted by Superior Court Justice Allan Hunter, honoring Aroostook County lawyers.

**Bangor, Penobscot Judicial Center, October 16, 2015, 10:30 a.m.** Hosted by Associate Supreme Judicial Court Justice Andrew Mead, honoring lawyers in Penobscot, Washington, Lincoln, Waldo & Hancock Counties.

**Alfred, York County Superior Court, October 16, 2015, 2:00 p.m.** Hosted by Associate Supreme Judicial Court Justice Thomas E. Humphrey, honoring lawyers in York County.

**Auburn, Androscoggin County Superior Court, October 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.** Hosted by Associate Supreme Judicial Court Justice Ellen Gorman honoring lawyers from Androscoggin and Oxford Counties.

**Augusta, Capital Judicial Center, October 16, 2015, 2:00 p.m.** Hosted by Associate Supreme Judicial Court Justice Jeffrey Hjelm, honoring Kennebec, Knox and Somerset County lawyers.

**Portland, Maine, Cumberland County Courthouse, October 30, 2015, 3:00 p.m.** Hosted by Chief Justice Leigh Saufley and Associate Justice Andrew Mead, honoring Cumberland County lawyers and law students.

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