

argument regarding a case heard by the court.

from as far north as Fort Kent, south as Sanford as far east as Eastport

Linda
an Tim
e Senate
ov-
Beach,
rt of
currently
bins,

ried with
ives in



IGNY



ENTINO

tions for
through
sure-wash-

energy
percent
nal aver-
eds to
ffordable



DINA MENDROS/Journal Tribune

On Tuesday, at the Biddeford District Court House, the first Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program awards ceremony was held, honoring 18 local attorneys who provided 50 or more hours of free legal service in one year. Pictured, congratulating a nominee, are Maine Supreme Court Chief Justice Leigh Saufley, left, and Supreme Court Justice Jon Levy.

Lawyers recognized for service

By DINA MENDROS

Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — On Tuesday, the first Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program award ceremony was held at Biddeford District Court. The program, created by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court last year, recognizes attorneys in Maine who have provided 50 or more hours of pro bono, or free, legal service during the year. Eighteen attorneys were

honored at the ceremony in Biddeford. Three more ceremonies are planned in other areas of the state. Supreme Court Justice Leigh Saufley, who attended the ceremony, said in all, the program will recognize 125 attorneys. That represents millions of dollars in free legal assistance, she said.

“To provide free legal service to people who can’t afford it means everything in a community,” said the

chief justice.

Saufley noted that Maine’s attorneys are very generous. The state is second in the nation in the amount of pro bono time attorneys donate to those who need it.

And pro bono services are much needed in Maine, she said.

Seventeen percent of Maine’s population fit the income requirements to

See Pro Bono

PAGE A3

OOB woman dies in house fire

From Staff and Wire Reports
OLD ORCHARD BEACH

— Maine fire investigators say the body of a 62-year-old woman was found after firefighters extinguished a blaze at 44 Wesley Ave. in Old Orchard Beach.

Steve McCausland from the Maine Department of Public Safety says a team of investigators from the fire marshal’s office was at the scene Tuesday afternoon to determine the cause of the fire. The fire remains under investigation, and fire marshals returned to the scene today.

Sgt. Joel Davis of the fire marshal’s office said the victim was identified as Patricia Noel. McCausland confirmed today that the woman who died was Noel.

State Police have joined the investigation and will be examining the home and working with the medical examiner to determine cause of death, McCausland said.

Investigators say questions remain, and they hope medical examiners will be able to answer some of them today.

See OOB Fire Death

PAGE A2

Some of his accomplish-

Biddeford university, Hahn

dros@journaltribune.com.

Pro Bono

FROM PAGE A1

receive legal service through Pinetree Legal, an organization that provides free legal help, said Saufley. But 50 percent of eligible clients are turned away because of lack of resources.

The purpose of the Katahdin Counsel Recognition program, she said, is to bring public attention to the important role of pro bono legal service in maintaining the civil justice system.

The work these attorneys offer is "life changing," said Supreme Court Justice Jon Levy, who has taken the lead in the program.

Levy noted some of the cases on which the attorneys being recognized have worked include helping a single mother get a protection order against an abusive husband, helping another single mother with the paperwork to start a small business to support herself and her children, and helping an elderly couple prepare a lease so they can earn rental money and afford to live in their home.

By helping their clients resolve some of their problems, the work pro bono lawyers do benefits not just the clients but also the communities in which those clients live, he said.

"Every single one of us benefits from the work done

by these lawyers," said Levy.

Wendy Starkey, with Rose Law in York and North Berwick, was one of those who became a "Katahdin Counsel."

She said she's done pro bono work for several years and mainly advises those who are trying to navigate the legal system themselves.

It's nice to be recognized for her pro bono work, said Starkey, but the recognition "is not the reason to do it." She said she hopes the awards will encourage more attorneys to donate their service to those who need help but can't afford it.

— Staff Writer Dina

Mendros can be contacted at 282-1535, Ext. 324 or dmen-dros@journaltribune.com.

The Spa at River's Edge and Rivers' Edge Hair Design would like to welcome

Monica Tardiff

to our amazing staff of stylists

