

Office locations in Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, Bangor, Machias and Presque Isle
www.ptla.org; www.vlp.org; www.helpmelaw.org; www.kidslegal.org

ABOUT PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a statewide nonprofit provider of free legal services to low-income Maine residents with civil legal problems. In operation since 1967, it is Maine's oldest and largest legal aid provider. Most services are limited to individuals and families with household incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines after appropriate deductions. In addition to the general work of the program, Pine Tree operates specialized units serving low-income children (KIDS LEGAL), victims of foreclosure, migrant farm workers, and Native Americans. In southern Maine, the Family Law Unit coordinates advocacy in that important area of law. Pine Tree also operates the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project, coordinating *pro bono* legal services statewide.

WHAT WE WORKED ON

The principal work of the program is done in response to individual requests for legal help from low-income individuals around Maine. Staff also respond to requests for free case consultations from legal and social service providers in areas of special expertise, and serve as trainers in a wide variety of settings. Pine Tree is an active participant in collaborations related to the State justice system and to the needs of low-income Maine residents. The program's popular websites also provide easy access to legal education and self-help materials.

The following areas of law were particularly important to Pine Tree clients in 2008:

Bankruptcy
Debt Collection
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Education
Evictions
Family Law
Foreclosure
Health Care Benefits
Housing Discrimination
IRS Disputes/Federal Tax
Landlord/Tenant Matters
Job Disputes/Lost Wages
Unsafe Housing
Welfare & Government Benefits

WHAT WE DID

From a network of six office locations around the State, Pine Tree handled 12,424 new requests for legal help from individuals and families living in more than 400 cities, towns and communities throughout Maine. Pine Tree staff and volunteers were able to complete service in 12,071 cases; a total of 1,976 cases remained open on December 31, 2008, some involving years of legal service.

Because of funding and staffing limitations, many clients receive limited assistance. Full representation is provided where the legal issue is more complex or where the client household may not be able to advocate effectively for themselves. Of the 1,731 cases completed by staff in 2008 after full representation, the Pine Tree client prevailed 94% of the time.

Pine Tree's program websites are among the most popular legal assistance sites in the country. In 2008, more than 1 million page views of the program's client education materials were recorded, the highest level of any federally-funded legal aid provider in the United States.

Over 2,000 individuals also benefited from staff training or community education events held around the State in 2008.

PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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Pine Tree Legal Assistance Financial Information

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008, from Pine Tree's audited financial statement:

Unrestricted earned revenue and contributed support

Grants	\$4,005,613
State Appropriation	299,082
Interest Income	32,648
Contributions	360,025
Other Revenue	147,612
Total Revenue	4,477,475
Donated services	1,469,493
Total Revenue and Donated Service	\$6,314,473

Expenses

LSC & non-LSC services

General legal services	\$2,291,017
Specialized legal services	1,087,258
Private attorney involvement	1,890,069

Administrative/supporting services

Provider Network*	74,103
Fundraising	21,179
Management and general	723,159
Total Expenses	\$6,086,785

Change in net assets	\$227,688
Total net assets	\$1,955,178

*The Provider Network is a shared information technology system which Pine Tree operates and administers for the benefit of several legal aid providers in Maine.

Pine Tree fills an absolutely vital role in Maine by promoting the principal of fair play and equality before the law. Thousands of deserving Maine residents are given access to our system of justice through the efforts of Pine Tree staff, and the organization uses its limited resources effectively and efficiently. I believe that Pine Tree has earned the support of Maine citizens and businesses around the State.

*William Ryan, Chairman of the Board
TD Banknorth, Inc. [2007]*

Pine Tree is an approved local charity by the Better Business Bureau, www.bosbbb.org