



LEGAL FOOD HUB
A project of Conservation Law Foundation



LEGAL FOOD HUB YEAR IN REVIEW

2016

OUR FOCUS

By supporting those who grow, produce, and sell our local food, Conservation Law Foundation is helping to foster a sustainable, resilient, and just food system. And a healthy and thriving local food system means a healthy environment, climate, and economy for all New Englanders.

The Legal Food Hub provides pro bono legal assistance by matching

FARMERS

FOOD
ENTREPRENEURS

& RELATED
ORGANIZATIONS



with qualified attorneys in our network.

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BY THE NUMBERS

Over the last two years,
we leveraged more than \$825,000
in pro bono services.

93

FIRMS
IN OUR
NETWORK

152

CASES
PLACED

1,900

HOURS
DONATED BY
VOLUNTEER
ATTORNEYS



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WE'RE GROWING

The Legal Food Hub is so successful in New England that we are now planning to replicate this model nationwide.

In the coming year, we will continue to expand our reach in **Maine and Massachusetts**, while launching our third legal food hub in **Rhode Island** this fall. We will also develop an additional legal food hub in **Connecticut** in collaboration with **Yale Law School** over the next year.

With New England at the core of our program, we intend to work with **local partners around the country** to establish **a national alliance** of legal food hubs to support small farmers and food businesses. In this way, we will help build **a sustainable food system** across the country from the ground up.



WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY

“

Not only was this a wonderful experience working with Goulston & Storrs but they truly guided us through some very sticky situations... I can't say enough regarding the assistance of Goulston & Storrs! Great Ideas! Great Advice! Explanations when needed! Brainstorming! This is a wonderful program.

Pat Spence
**Urban Farming
Institute**

Matched with:
Matt Woodbury



“

Nate has stunned us with his understanding, thoroughness, and ideas regarding our goals. He is an amazing fit for us. Thank you so much.

Christopher Hahn
3-Level Farm

Matched with:
Nate Huckel-Bauer
at Drummond
& Drummond



“

Jon and Will have been incredibly helpful already... I feel very fortunate to have their time and expertise. Thank you again for setting up this legal assistance. In just two weeks it has already proven to be invaluable.

Jed Rauscher
**SoPo City Craft
Beverage Co.**

Matched with:
Jon Gelchinsky and
Will Hueske
at Pierce Atwood



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OUR WORK



Southeastern Massachusetts Livestock Association

Background: Southeastern Massachusetts Livestock Association (SEMALA) is a nonprofit organization comprised of farmers and local food advocates dedicated to addressing problems facing livestock farmers in southeastern New England. SEMALA was formed after the local slaughterhouse closed in 2007 and its members identified the need for a local animal processing facility. As such, SEMALA seeks to build and operate a new USDA-inspected slaughterhouse and processing facility in Westport, Massachusetts. This facility will primarily service southeastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and eastern Connecticut.

In addition, SEMALA is working with local educational institutions to develop curricula involving the processing of animals and value-added products and to involve students in studying the economic impacts of this facility on their community.

Legal Need: SEMALA contacted the Legal Food Hub seeking to form a new nonprofit entity.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub matched SEMALA with lawyers from Ropes & Gray who helped create a new nonprofit entity so that the association can continue to plan for a new slaughterhouse facility.



OUR WORK



Jubali Juice

Background: Jubali Juice produces organic juices, smoothies, tea infusions, nut milks, and cleanses for health-conscious consumers. Jubali Juice was founded with the goal of making the highest quality products while also respecting the environment and giving back to the community. Jubali Juice uses locally sourced ingredients whenever possible. They also work with schools and hospitals in their commitment to local communities and participate in a carbon-offset program to be more sustainable.

Legal Need: Jubali Juice came to the Legal Food Hub with three distinct legal needs: drafting an exclusivity agreement with a national restaurant chain, revising an investor term sheet, and restructuring a partnership agreement.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub matched Jubali Juice with an attorney at Nixon Peabody in Boston to address its legal needs.



OUR WORK



Halcyon Farm

Background: Halcyon Farm is a small-scale, intensive annual vegetable farm on Cape Cod owned and operated by Lucas Dinwiddie. For the past six years, Lucas has cultivated organic produce for direct-to-consumer sale on only one acre of land located on a busy highway in a residential neighborhood.

Legal Need: A housing development abuts Halcyon Farm. The development association is very supportive of the farm and agreed to lease a 1/5-acre parcel so that Lucas could expand his production. Halcyon Farm reached out to the Legal Food Hub for legal assistance in drafting this lease.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub matched Halcyon Farm with Richard Stang, an attorney in Westport. Throughout the lease process, Lucas was thrilled to work with an attorney who was “extremely personable and helpful with getting this rolling.” In Lucas’s words, the lease process was “a pretty seamless experience” and he “couldn’t be more pleased with our work thus far.”



OUR WORK



Heiwa Tofu

Background: Tucked away in the picturesque seaside town of Belfast, Maine, is a small business with a big idea. While teaching high school physics and chemistry, Jeff Wolowitz noticed a high demand for locally grown tofu. Struck by this need, he launched a journey to produce certified organic tofu and soy milk from New England–grown soybeans. Thus was born Heiwa Tofu. Jeff and his family are committed to eating local, organic, seasonal food, so when it came to his products at Heiwa Tofu, he encouraged the same values. All ingredients are organic and sustainably grown. With a small staff of two part-timers, this modest but growing operation sells mostly to restaurants and retailers.

Legal Need: Heiwa Tofu outgrew its processing facility, so Jeff needed a new space to expand his business. Jeff found a suitable facility and reached out to the Legal Food Hub for legal assistance with purchasing the property and setting up an LLC to hold the real estate. Jeff also needed advice regarding an environmental inspection.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub matched Heiwa Tofu with an attorney at Robinson, Kriger & McCallum. Jeff was thrilled to be connected with a skilled attorney to answer his questions and address Heiwa Tofu’s essential legal matters. Jeff is “very grateful” for the pro bono legal services that helped nurture his small business at a critical juncture.



OUR WORK



Streamside Farm

Background: Five friends cooperatively run the Streamside Farm located in Brooks, Maine, where the young farmers grow fresh, pesticide-free produce on about one acre of leased farmland. The produce has been growing in leaps and bounds – the energetic crew plans to double their acreage for the next growing season.

Legal Need: The farmers decided to form an LLC for their farm operation. They came to the Legal Food Hub for assistance with drafting the certificate of formation and operating agreement.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub matched Streamside Farm with attorney William Logan from Soule, Soule & Logan. Bill has provided critical expertise to help Streamside Farm become an LLC.



OUR WORK



Round The Bend Farm

Background: Round The Bend Farm is a nonprofit working farm in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, devoted to a collective vision of “a community of growers, educators, and ‘agripreneurs,’ who support themselves through food and farming businesses and nurture the public with real food and place-based education.” Geoff Kinder is a co-founder and farmer at Round The Bend Farm; he also sustainably raises heritage breed pigs, cows, and sheep on the farm’s property. Through his active management of grazing, the animals help to maintain optimum soil conditions by rooting the soil and consuming invasive species, thereby contributing to the well-being of the farm and neighboring lands. Geoff sells his pasture-raised, GMO-free pork and grass-fed beef and lamb directly to consumers through an increasingly popular Community Supported Agriculture program.

Legal Need: Geoff contacted the Legal Food Hub for assistance in forming an LLC separate from Round The Bend Farm.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub was able to match Geoff with an attorney at Beveridge and Diamond to assist him with equity formation for his farm business.



OUR WORK



Saintly Cider

Background: Saintly Cider is a hard cider company owned and operated by Caleb Noble in Rowley, Massachusetts. Caleb fell in love with hard cider while attending college in Vermont and after graduation he began brewing his own. Two years and 47 batches later, Caleb perfected his champagne-style hard cider recipe and founded Saintly Cider to bring this delicious drink to the masses.

Legal Need: Caleb contacted the Legal Food Hub for legal assistance with two contracts. First, Caleb needed an attorney to review and negotiate a contract with a nearby brewery, which would allow Saintly Cider to use the brewery's equipment and manpower to produce its cider. Second, Caleb needed an attorney to review and negotiate a contract with a distributor.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub matched Caleb with an attorney at WilmerHale and they are currently working together to make sure Saintly Cider's first large-batch production goes off without a hitch.



OUR WORK



Delice Bakery

Background: Delice is a French bakery known for madeleines as well as pastries, cookies, and special occasion cakes. Blondine Jean Charles is the sole owner of Delice and operates her business out of Commonwealth Kitchen, a community kitchen in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Blondine's baked goods are so delicious that they are sold at local Whole Foods Markets.

Legal Need: Blondine planned to expand her specialty baking business by leasing her own space where she could bake and sell her goods directly to customers. Blondine contacted the Legal Food Hub for advice on entity formation and, specifically, whether she should establish an LLC prior to entering into a commercial lease.

Relationship: The Legal Food Hub matched Blondine with the Harvard Law School Transactional Law Clinic, which assisted her with forming an LLC and advised her on entering into a commercial lease agreement.



THE LEGAL FOOD HUB TEAM



**JENNIFER
RUSHLOW**

**Senior Attorney
Director, Farm & Food**

As a Senior Attorney for CLF Massachusetts and Director of CLF's regionwide Farm & Food program, Jenny directs CLF's food and agriculture advocacy.



**BEN
TETTLEBAUM**

Staff Attorney

Ben coordinates the Legal Food Hub in Maine. Before joining CLF, Ben clerked for the Honorable Duane Benton, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He also worked as a legal intern for the Natural Resources Defense Council in Santa Monica, CA, and Earthjustice, in Denver, CO.



**ANNIE
LEMELIN**

**Healthy Communities
& Environmental
Justice Legal Fellow**

Annie is a legal fellow in the Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice program. She is working with the Legal Food Hub to help it grow.



**SUMANA
CHINTAPALLI**

Legal Fellow/Attorney

Sumana coordinates the Legal Food Hub in Rhode Island. Her background includes food systems work with the Rhode Island Food Policy Council, teaching a graduate Food Policy course, and health services research at the intersection of food systems and public health.

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THE LEGAL FOOD HUB VOLUNTEERS



**SUSAN
TAMONEY**

Outreach Assistant

As CLF's Legal Food Hub Outreach Assistant, Susan talks with farmers and owners of fledgling food businesses to make them aware of the Hub's pro bono legal services. Susan has a professional background in brand marketing at Ogilvy and Mather Advertising in New York City. She graduated from Fairfield University with a B.S. in Economics.



**PAULA
CRAIGHEAD**

Volunteer Attorney

Paula M. Craighead served as an early volunteer attorney assisting the Legal Food Hub Coordinator for Maine. She holds a masters degree from The Fletcher School at Tufts and a J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law where she served as a former president of its Alumni/ae Association. While in law school she wrote the original legislation that created statutory preservation easements.



**ALYSON
CUMMINGS**

Volunteer Attorney

Alyson has had deep, diverse professional experience in the food sector, education, communications, advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration. Before co-owning the Star Fish Grill, an acclaimed 60-seat casual fine dining restaurant showcasing local foods and producers, Alyson practiced law in New York and Maine. Alyson lives with her wife and teenage son in Bowdoinham and loves being in the Maine woods in any season.

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