



## CURRENT LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

### FIRM NEWS

**Faegre & Benson LLP Announces New Partners**

**Best Lawyers in America Includes 57 from Faegre & Benson**

**Faegre & Benson's Labor and Employment Practice Adds Associate**

### MORE ARTICLES



### OFFICE LOCATIONS

- MINNESOTA
- COLORADO
- IOWA
- LONDON
- FRANKFURT
- SHANGHAI

## Brian O'Neill Receives Benson Award for Pro Bono Service

March 19, 2004

Brian O'Neill, a partner in the Regulatory Litigation group in Minneapolis, was recently named recipient of the 2003 John C. Benson Pro Bono Award. The Benson Award, established in 1994 to honor the late John C. Benson, is presented annually to the attorney who best exemplifies a commitment to professional excellence in the delivery of pro bono legal service.

O'Neill was recognized for his extraordinary 25-year record of pro bono service in public interest environmental litigation; his leadership in establishing Faegre & Benson's nationally recognized pro bono practice in this area; and his mentoring of scores of young lawyers interested in public service.

Since joining the firm in 1977 O'Neill has represented over 60 public interest clients, including the Wilderness Society; Defenders of Wildlife; the Environmental Defense Fund; the Sierra Club; the National Audubon Society; the Grand Canyon Trust; and the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. O'Neill has participated in pro bono cases involving a wide array of challenging issues, such as clean water; park and wilderness area land management; snowmobile and motor boat use in wilderness areas; nuclear waste disposal; forest and timberland management; and wildlife protection.

Among O'Neill's notable cases is Defenders of Wildlife v. Hodel, which resulted in the successful reintroduction of gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park. Other victories extended protection to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Superior National Forest, and Voyageurs National Park in Northern Minnesota.

In recognition of his significant public service contributions, O'Neill has previously received numerous awards from a host of environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club; the Izaak Walton League; the Defenders of Wildlife; the Friends of Boundary Waters; and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. In 1995, he was honored as Trial Lawyer of the Year by Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

O'Neill has selected the Defenders of Wildlife, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of native wild animals and plants in their natural communities, as the recipient of a \$3,000 charitable contribution made by Faegre & Benson in honor of his award.

### ENTER FRIENDLY URL



**Brian B. O'Neill**  
Biography  
bonell@faegre.com

### RELATED ARTICLES

**Faegre & Benson Saves Colorado Artist \$1M in Trade Dress and Unfair Competition Verdict**

**Faegre & Benson Bolsters Community Commitment with Opera Colorado Partnership**

**American Lawyer Ranks Faegre & Benson #1 in Midlevel Associate Satisfaction in Colorado**

**Nonprofits and Donors Begin Bracing for Sweeping Federal Reform Legislation**

**DIY, Faegre Style: Partnering With Habitat for Humanity**

[More Articles](#)

### OTHER LINKS

[Forward this article to a colleague](#)

[More information on Pro Bono and Community Service](#)

### PAGE ONE STORIES

**National Debate Over Immigration Heating Up: The Ball is Now in the Senate's Court**

**Virtual Data Rooms: Changing the Face (and Place) of Due Diligence**

**Global Agreements: Thinking of Exporting? It Pays to Think About International Contracts First**

[More Articles](#)

### BIOGRAPHIES

[Find by Last Name](#)

[View All Advanced Search](#)

### RECRUITING

[Recruiting Program Information](#)

[Lawyer/Summer Associate Opportunities](#)

[Salaried Paraprofessionals, Patent Agents, Paralegals, and Case Assistant Opportunities](#)

[Administrative and Support Staff Opportunities](#)

**VISIT OUR U.K. SITE: [FAEGRE.CO.UK](#)**

**VISIT OUR GERMAN SITE: [FAEGRE.DE](#)**