

ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR 2023

PRO BONO



ANDREW L. MARSHALL

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Sometimes you pick your battles and sometimes the battles pick you. The latter is somewhat the case regarding pro bono work that has consumed approximately 1,000 hours of effort by Andrew L. Marshall, a litigator and shareholder at Bassford Remele, P.A.

For many years, Marshall and his wife, Tamra, have enjoyed escaping the Twin Cities on occasional weekends and relaxing in the rural solitude of their home in Trade Lake, Wisconsin.

Residents of the town of less than 1,000 people, located about 90 minutes northeast of Minneapolis, became alarmed in 2019 when they were notified that plans were underway to construct a swine farm that could house more than 26,000 pigs. A local farmer, who also served as chairman of the town board at the time, had agreed to sell an investment group nearly 37 acres to create the state's largest livestock farm, also known as a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO).

Residents were concerned the proposed CAFO would cause significant environmental damage and lower property values around the area. They wanted to prevent the project from mov-

ing forward through legal means but had limited resources and couldn't find a lawyer to take up their battle.

Marshall learned of the proposed CAFO and the effort to stop it almost by chance, and immediately was committed to helping his neighbors. Building a strong legal case to support their cause was right in his wheelhouse, of course. What was new to him was meeting with state and county lawmakers and appearing in front of elected officials to make their case.

Through the efforts of Marshall and many others, initial applications to develop the CAFO have been denied and some major financial backers have stepped out. The fight isn't over until the proposed site is no longer for sale, Marshall said, but things are trending in the right direction for opponents of the project.

It has made Marshall something of a local hero and brought him closer to his part-time community.

"I've been so impressed by this grassroots movement. It's been amazing to see how many people have contributed in different ways," he said. "Before this happened, I barely knew anyone in town. Now, it seems like I know everybody"