



October 17, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE TO HOLD PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATION
Area Attorneys to be Honored for Pro Bono Commitment

The Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee will recognize National Pro Bono Week and celebrate attorneys who have provided pro bono legal services within the circuit at their Celebrate Pro Bono Reception on Monday, October 20 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Caterpillar Visitors Center in Peoria. The event is open to attorneys, court staff, and to the press. Special guest speaker Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride will deliver keynote remarks, and other speakers include Tenth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Stephen A. Kouri, Tazewell County Presiding Circuit Judge Paul P. Gilfillan, Peoria County Bar Association Pro Bono Committee Chair Maureen Mulville and Denise Conklin, Managing Attorney of the Peoria Prairie State Legal Services office.

The Celebrate Pro Bono Reception will recognize the 108 area attorneys who have provided pro bono legal services in the last year through Prairie State Legal Services. In particular, the following attorneys will be recognized for their outstanding pro bono contributions:

Tazewell County Pro Bono Award: Kirk W. Bode
Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee Award: Jeremy H. Heiple
Equal Justice Lifetime Achievement Award: John R. Pusey
Peoria County Pro Bono Plan:
 Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award: Ann R. Pieper
 Young Lawyer Volunteer of The Year Award: Courtney Dean
 Law Firm of The Year Award: Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, P.C.

The Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee has also launched a new Pro Bono Pledge, which recognizes the responsibility of all members of the legal profession – from corporate lawyers to law firm lawyers to solo practitioners to legal staff – to increase access to our legal system. Thus far, 37 law firms, corporations, attorneys and mediators have signed on to the Pledge. See a full list of signatories on PILI's website at www.pili.org/pro-bono/judicial-circuit-committees/10th-judicial-circuit-pro-bono-pledge. All signatories to the Pledge will be recognized at the Celebrate Pro Bono Reception on the 28th.

About the Committee: The Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee is a joint effort of the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI), Prairie State Legal Services, and local representatives of the bench and bar to enhance equal access to justice by encouraging and promoting pro bono work in the Tenth Judicial Circuit. The Committee was launched on October 1, 2013 and is chaired by the Honorable Lisa Wilson of the Circuit Court of Peoria County. Learn more about the Committee at www.pili.org/10th-circuit.

About PILI: PILI's mission is to cultivate a lifelong commitment to public interest law and pro bono service within the Illinois legal community to expand the availability of legal services for people, families and communities in need. PILI envisions a legal community with a deeply rooted culture of service, where law students, lawyers and legal professionals at all stages of their careers engage in public interest law or pro bono work, and remain committed to addressing the unmet legal needs of the poor and underrepresented.

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To learn more about PILI, visit our website at www.pili.org, or contact PILI Executive Director Michael Bergmann at mbergmann@pili.org or 312-832-5129.