

Pro Bono Week Proclamation

Whereas, a National Pro Bono celebration is observed annually to recognize those who participate in providing high quality legal services to those living on the social margins and to recruit more pro bono volunteers, and

Whereas, the promise of equal justice under law is the most fundamental tenet of our justice system, and

Whereas, the bench and bar face a crisis of unmet need for legal representation for citizens with civil legal problems in many areas, including family law issues such as dissolution of marriage, child support, and domestic violence; housing issues such as foreclosure and eviction; and consumer issues, and

Whereas, although in 2013 some 30,751 lawyers in Illinois provided *pro bono* legal services by providing more than 2,098,472 hours of free legal services and 16,266 Illinois lawyers also donated over \$14 million dollars to help fund additional legal services, there is still an unmet need for legal assistance, and

Whereas, the Access to Justice Commission and the Illinois State Bar Association with its Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services and others support the celebration of Pro Bono Week to educate the public about the good legal professionals are doing to improve the lives of the vulnerable citizens of our community and to encourage more individuals in the legal community to get involved in pro bono support of the legal system, and


Whereas, this organization supports the goal of educating the public about the extensive work the state's legal professionals are doing and to encourage more support both by volunteering and by donating financially to support pro bono work and the legal aid community,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned, in their representative capacities, do hereby commend the legal professionals of the local bar associations and of the state for their work in providing legal services in our society and do hereby recognize and proclaim October 19 through October 25, 2014, as

PRO BONO WEEK

and further urge all residents to recognize the contributions of our legal community to help those most in need.

Dated this 14th day of Oct, 2014


Chief Judge


3rd Circuit Pro Bono Chair



Madison County Bar Association President