



Louisiana State Bar Association
Resolution
NATIONAL PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATION
October 25 – 31, 2009

WHEREAS more than 775,000 Louisiana residents live below the federal poverty level and there are fewer than 90 legal aid attorneys to serve them; and

WHEREAS the LSBA has on numerous occasions stated and reiterated its commitment to ensuring access to justice for all: an initiative from the 1997 Citizens Summit on Justice Reform to secure state funding for LSC programs; the 2004 House of Delegates resolution to support the Access to Justice Program in its efforts to secure funding from the United States Congress and the State of Louisiana for civil legal services to the poor; and the 2008 House of Delegates resolution urging assistance in implementation and operation of programs for self-represented litigants; and

WHEREAS Louisiana attorneys donate thousands of hours of pro bono legal services and make financial contributions to entities which provide civil legal services to help address the tremendous unmet need for legal assistance for the State's poor, especially in light of the current economic situation; and

WHEREAS the LSBA actively promotes pro bono participation in a variety of ways on an ongoing basis and gives special recognition annually for outstanding pro bono contributions made by its members; and

WHEREAS the American Bar Association has designated October 25 – 31, 2009, as the first National Pro Bono Week Celebration to recognize the valuable pro bono contributions made by lawyers throughout the year, and to increase pro bono participation across the country to narrow the justice gap;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association recognizes the week of October 25 – 31, 2009, as the first National Pro Bono Week Celebration, commends Louisiana attorneys for their ongoing pro bono contributions, and reminds all members that, by engaging in pro bono work and providing financial support, they can make a significant difference in the lives of Louisiana's poor who would not otherwise have access to the legal system.

Approved by LSBA Board of Governors ▪ October 2009