
NEW ORLEANS
BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 19, 2009

PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING PRO BONO WEEK

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Bar Association represents the interests of New Orleans lawyers and judges dedicated to preservation of the dignity and viability of the Rule of Law in New Orleans;

WHEREAS, access to justice is a fundamental and essential right in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Louisiana residents continue to lack access to legal assistance that is often critical to their safety and independence, forcing them to resolve complex legal problems on their own, including domestic violence, divorce, child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosures and the physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Bar Association, the Pro Bono Project, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and the Legal Aid Bureau have enlisted the services of volunteer lawyers to provide valuable legal services to those in need; and

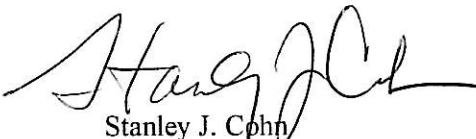
WHEREAS, while members of New Orleans' legal community donate thousands of hours in free legal services and make generous financial contributions to legal aid organization in our area, a huge unmet need for legal assistance remains for disadvantaged New Orleanians; and

WHEREAS, Rule 6.1 of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct calls on every lawyer to aspire to provide at least fifty (50) hours of pro bono legal services to those unable to pay, and reaffirms the professionals goals of every lawyer to provide pro bono legal services to persons of limited means;

WHEREAS, the National Pro Bono Celebration is a coordinated effort to showcase the great difference that pro bono lawyers make to the nation; and

WHEREAS, during October 25th – 31st, 2009 the New Orleans Bar Association in collaboration with local pro bono projects, legal service agencies, the Louisiana State Bar Association, community and government agencies and businesses will celebrate "Pr Bono Week" to highlight the work of the pro bono community and the difference it makes to our state, our system of justice, our communities and, most of all, the clients served;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Orleans Bar Association does hereby proclaim October 25th – 31st, 2009 to be PRO BONO WEEK, and urges all lawyers to recognize the contributions of our legal community to help those in need.



Stanley J. Cohn
President
New Orleans Bar Association