

Office of the Governor



JOHN BEL EDWARDS

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** four out of five Louisianans living in poverty lack access to legal assistance, with the majority of civil problems being domestic violence, divorce, child custody, evictions and financial abuse of the elderly; and
- WHEREAS,** legal services agencies, pro bono programs, the Louisiana State Bar Association, and local bar associations throughout Louisiana enlist the services of volunteer attorneys to provide valuable legal services to those in need; and
- WHEREAS,** civil legal aid is often an indispensable tool necessary to address critical survival needs such as employment, housing, healthcare, education and family safety, and can mean the difference between shelter and homelessness, economic stability and bankruptcy, positive work and unemployment; and
- WHEREAS,** during the week of October 24-29, 2022, the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Program, in collaboration with libraries, local pro bono projects, businesses, government agencies, and community organizations, celebrate "Pro Bono Week"; and
- WHEREAS,** during "Pro Bono Week," Louisiana attorneys demonstrate their commitment to the rule of law and to ensuring Louisianans have access to legal assistance by volunteering for activities, such as the ninth annual "Lawyers in Libraries" program, to highlight the work of Louisiana's pro bono community and the difference it makes to our state, system of justice and our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 24 - 29, 2022 as

PRO BONO WEEK
in the State of Louisiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 24th day of October A. D., 2022.



A handwritten signature of John Bel Edwards in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

John Bel Edwards
Governor