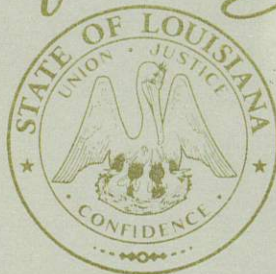


# Office of the Governor



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 and evictions; 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 an indispensable resource necessary to address critical survival needs such as employment, housing, healthcare, education, and family safety; and

**WHEREAS,** during October 23-28, 2023, the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Program, in collaboration with libraries, pro bono projects, community organizations, and more, 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 23 - 28, 2023 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 23rd day of October A. D., 2023.



John Bel Edwards  
Governor