



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the promise of equal justice under law is the most fundamental tenet of our justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, many Minnesotans continue to lack access to legal assistance that is often critical to their independence and safety, thereby compelling them to resolve, on their own, complex legal issues involving basic rights to child custody, housing, health, employment and financial security; and

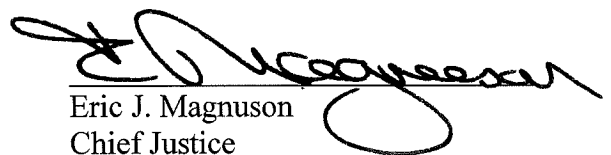
**WHEREAS**, while members of Minnesota's legal community donate thousands of hours of pro bono legal services and make generous financial contributions to public interest legal organizations, there continues to exist an unmet need for legal assistance for thousands of disadvantaged Minnesotans; and

**WHEREAS**, Rule 6.1 of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Responsibility underscores that lawyers have a special professional obligation to ensure that our justice system is accessible to all; and

**WHEREAS**, Pro Bono Week, sponsored by the Minnesota State Bar Association in conjunction with the American Bar Association, is designed to educate the public about the service pro bono lawyers provide to improve the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens in our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, The Minnesota Judicial Branch hereby recognizes and commends all pro bono volunteers for their contributions to those in our state who are most in need, and urge all members of the Bar to engage in this worthy civic cause.

Dated this 5th day of Oct., 2009.

  
Eric J. Magnuson  
Chief Justice  
Minnesota Supreme Court