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LAWYERS PROVIDE FREE CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES
TO HALF A MILLION ALABAMIANS TO FILL 'JUSTICE GAP'

- **Pro Bono Week, Oct. 24-30 spotlights Alabama lawyers' efforts to assist vulnerable members of the community and the need for increased legislative funding and more lawyers to volunteer**

(City/County), Ala., October 19, 2010 – (City/County) proclaims October 24-30, 2010

to be Pro Bono Week and urges all (City/County) residents to recognize the contributions of our legal community helping those most in need. This is part of the National Pro Bono Week Celebration.

Fighting your way through the legal system for Alabama's poor and disadvantaged can be an impossible and demoralizing task. The right to counsel in civil cases is necessary to make equal justice a reality. But for half a million poor Alabamians last year, the only reality was a pressing legal problem that went unresolved.

The situation is particularly acute now as the recession has caused many financial problems to morph into legal problems and increasing numbers of the poor and disadvantaged are turning to legal aid programs because they have nowhere else to go.

During the week of October 24-30, 2010, lawyers from throughout Alabama will join with their counterparts in a national observance and celebration of Pro Bono (providing free legal services to the poor and underserved). Lawyers in each of the state's 42 judicial circuits will participate in events like: conducting free legal clinics offering advice and counsel in area such as elder and family law; discussing with community and civic groups the critical need for the Legislature to provide a continuous stream of funding for legal services, and

recruiting additional lawyers to volunteer to provide pro bono service. For a listing of all statewide events, go to: http://www.alabar.org/ProBonoWeek/event_list.com.

The 16,000-member Alabama State Bar is dedicated to improving the administration of justice and increasing public understanding and respect for the law.

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