



WHEREAS, far too many Coloradans are unable to fulfill their basic needs of housing, food, healthcare, safety, education, and more due, in part, to a lack of legal representation; and

WHEREAS, when people's needs go unmet, their lives and their futures are jeopardized, and the lives and well-being of their friends and neighbors, the broader community, and our state as a whole suffer; and

WHEREAS, 880,000 people statewide are eligible for legal aid, but there are fewer than 50 lawyers employed at Colorado Legal Services, the state legal aid organization, which means that there is only one legal aid lawyer for every 18,723 poor Coloradans; and

WHEREAS, others, through pro bono work, have the capacity to lessen that ratio and contribute their skills, time, expertise, and resources to children, individuals, families, communities, and organizations who need legal support; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct developed Rule 6.1, which says that every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay and that each should aspire to render at least fifty hours of pro bono legal services per year; and

WHEREAS, many firms, solo practitioners, and in-house counsel groups have voluntarily committed to having each of their lawyers complete 50 hours per year of pro bono legal services, primarily for indigent persons and/or organizations that serve indigent persons, through the Colorado Supreme Court pro bono legal services recognition program; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, for every client Colorado Legal Services serves, at least one income-eligible client is turned away;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim October 20-26, 2013,

PRO BONO WEEK

in the State of Colorado.



*GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this twentieth day of
October, 2013*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Hickenlooper".

*John W. Hickenlooper
Governor*