

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In a democratic society, access to justice is a fundamental and essential right. However, tens of thousands of Arkansans lack the means to gain access to legal assistance that is often critical to their safety and independence, and they are often forced to resolve complex legal problems on their own, including domestic violence issues, divorce, child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosures, and physical and financial abuse matters; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership, the Center for Arkansas Legal Services, Legal Aid of Arkansas, and local bar associations throughout Arkansas work to recruit volunteer attorneys to provide valuable legal services, free of charge, to those in need; and

WHEREAS: While members of Arkansas's legal community donate thousands of hours in free legal services and make generous financial contributions to legal-aid organizations in our State, a huge unmet need for legal assistance remains for disadvantaged citizens; and

WHEREAS: Rule 6.1 of the Arkansas Rules for Professional Conduct calls on every lawyer to aspire to provide at least fifty (50) hours of pro-bono legal services to persons of limited means; and

WHEREAS: The National Pro Bono Celebration is a coordinated effort to showcase the great difference that pro-bono lawyers make for individuals across the Nation; and

WHEREAS: From October 20 through 26, the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership, the Center for Arkansas Legal Services, Legal Aid of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas School of Law, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law, local bar associations, businesses, government agencies, and community organizations will be celebrating "Pro Bono Week";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 25 through October 31, 2015, as

PRO BONO WEEK

in the State of Arkansas, and I urge my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the pro-bono community's contributions and the difference they make to our State, our system of justice, our communities, and most of all, to the clients served.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2015.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State