

PROCLAMATION

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, foreclosures, and physical and financial abuse matters; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, the Arkansas Bar Association, 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

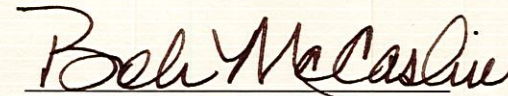
WHEREAS: Rule 6.1 of the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct calls on every lawyer to aspire to provide at least fifty (50) hours of pro bono legal services to persons of limited means; and

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 23 through October 29, the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, the Arkansas Bar Association, 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, Bob McCaslin, Mayor of the City of Bentonville, do hereby proclaim October 23-29, 2016, as "**PRO BONO WEEK**" in the City of Bentonville, and I urge my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the pro bono community's contributions and the difference they make to our City, our system of justice, and most of all, to the clients served.

Given this twentieth day of October, 2016, in Bentonville, in the great State of Arkansas, in the United States of America.


Bob McCaslin, Mayor
City of Bentonville

