



JIM STRICKLAND
CITY OF MEMPHIS MAYOR



MARK H. LUTTRELL, JR.
SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR

Shelby County, Tennessee
and
City of Memphis

Joint Proclamation

WHEREAS, access to justice is a fundamental right in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Memphis and Shelby County residents continue to lack access to legal assistance that is often critical to their safety and independence, forcing them to resolve complex legal problems on their own, including domestic violence, divorce and child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosure, and physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, legal services agencies, pro bono service programs, and the Memphis Bar Association have enlisted the services of volunteer attorneys and paralegals to provide valuable legal services to those in need; and

WHEREAS, although members of Memphis legal community donate thousands of hours in free legal service and make generous financial contributions to legal aid organizations in Shelby County, a huge unmet need for legal assistance remains for disadvantaged citizens; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association makes a coordinated effort to showcase the great difference that pro bono lawyers and paralegal make to the nation; and

WHEREAS, during the month of October the Memphis Bar Association Access to Justice Committee in collaboration with local pro bono projects, businesses, government agencies and community organizations will be celebrating "Pro Bono Month" to highlight the work of the Memphis pro bono community and the difference it makes to our city, justice system, communities, and most of all to the clients served.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Jim Strickland, Mayor of the City of Memphis, and Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor of Shelby County, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2016 as

Pro Bono Month

in Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee and thus we urge all citizens to recognize the importance of Pro Bono legal work and thank those that commit to it.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Memphis to be affixed this 1st day of October 2016.

Jim Strickland
Mayor of City of Memphis

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Shelby County to be affixed this 1st day of October 2016.

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.
Mayor of Shelby County