

# PROCLAMATION

*City of Hot Springs, Arkansas*



*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"; and

*Now, Therefore, I,* Ruth Carney, Mayor of the City of Hot Springs, on behalf of the Board of Directors do hereby proclaim October 23-29, 2016 as

## "Pro Bono Week"

in Hot Springs, 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 City, our system of justice, and most of all, to the clients served.

*In Witness, Whereof,* I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand sixteen.



*Ruth Carney*  
Ruth Carney, Mayor