



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are only about 300 full-time legal aid lawyers to serve more than 1.5 million low-income people in the Chicago area who are eligible for their services, leaving a huge need for legal assistance for Chicagoans in critical need of the protections of our legal system; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged people in our community 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, child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosures and the physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, lawyers and legal professionals in Chicago donate hundreds of thousands of hours in free legal services to help address these critical legal needs and make generous financial contributions to support pro bono and legal aid organizations in our city; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court's Pro Bono Reporting Rule underscores that lawyers have a distinct professional responsibility to take a leadership role in ensuring that our justice system is accessible to everyone; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by The Chicago Bar Association and The Chicago Bar Foundation, and part of the American Bar Association's National Pro Bono Celebration, Pro Bono Week highlights the extensive work lawyers are doing to improve the lives of vulnerable people in our community and encourages more individuals in the legal community to get involved in pro bono work and to financially support the legal aid system; and

WHEREAS, Pro Bono Week again will feature the CBA Young Lawyers Section's 23rd Annual Pro Bono and Community Service Fair on Thursday, October 27, 2016, to help lawyers and law students make volunteer connections with legal aid organizations serving the Chicago area:

NOW, THEREFORE, I RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim October 24-28, 2016 to be PRO BONO WEEK IN CHICAGO, and urge all Chicagoans to recognize the contributions of our legal community to help those most in need.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor