

Proclamation

WHEREAS, There are more than 80,000 persons with disabilities in Minneapolis, making this the largest protected class group in the city; and

WHEREAS, the promise of equal justice under law is the most fundamental tenet of our justice system; and

WHEREAS, the bench and bar face a crisis of unmet need for legal representation for the disadvantaged in Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Minneapolis residents continue to lack access to legal assistance that is often critical to their independence and safety, compelling them to resolve complex legal issues on their own, including but not limited to dissolution, child support modification, mortgage foreclosure, bankruptcy, immigration, eviction, domestic violence and the abuse of the vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, while members of Minneapolis' legal community donate thousands of hours in free legal services and make generous financial contributions to legal aid organizations in our city, a huge unmet need for legal assistance remains for disadvantaged Minneapolis residents; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Professional Responsibility Rule 6.1 underscores that lawyers have a special professional aspiration to ensure that our justice system is accessible to everyone; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Legal Assistance to the Disadvantaged Committee, Pro Bono Week educates the public about the good work lawyers are doing to improve the lives of vulnerable citizens of our community and encourages more individuals in the legal community to get involved in pro bono work and to financially support the legal system; and

WHEREAS, Pro Bono Week will feature the MSBA/LAD Pro Bono Council's CLE on Monday, October 26, 2009, to help lawyers and law students make volunteer connections with legal aid organizations serving the Minneapolis area;

NOW, THEREFORE, I R.T. RYBAK, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, do hereby proclaim October 26 – 31, 2009, to be:

PRO BONO WEEK IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

and urge all Minneapolis residents to recognize the contributions of our legal community to help those most in need.



A stylized, handwritten signature of R.T. Rybak, the Mayor of Minneapolis, is positioned above the text "Mayor of Minneapolis".

Mayor of Minneapolis