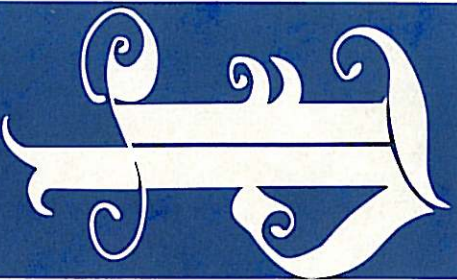


PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Proclamation

PRO BONO WEEK 2009

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

WHEREAS, thousands of Floridians, including children, continue to lack access to legal assistance that is critical to their safety and independence, forcing them to resolve complex legal problems on their own, such as domestic violence, divorce, child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosures and the physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the American Bar Association, this week's celebration is to showcase the great difference pro bono lawyers make to the nation, its system of justice, the communities and the clients they serve; and

WHEREAS, nationally there are approximately forty percent of low to moderate-income families in need of legal aid with only some twenty percent of their needs met; and

WHEREAS, the 6th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee by and through its members' and associated lawyers' pro bono activities to Pinellas and Pasco Counties, help leverage limited funds to provide necessary services to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, commemorating the pro bono contributions this week is to also serve to recruit additional attorneys to meet the legal needs for our low-income citizens; and

WHEREAS, through our local county Bar Associations and other legal service agencies, pro bono attorneys both governmental and private provide invaluable services to the most vulnerable citizens of our community, touching their lives during their most desperate of times.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that the week of October 25 through 31, 2009 be recognized as

PRO BONO WEEK

and urge all citizens to recognize and celebrate the many contributions our legal community makes to the quality of life of our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the seal of Pinellas County, Florida is caused to be affixed this 20th day of October, 2009.

Calvin D. Harris

CALVIN D. HARRIS, Chairman

Karen Williams Seel

KAREN WILLIAMS SEEL, Vice Chairman

Daniel Bostick

NANCY BOSTICK, Commissioner

Neil Brickfield

NEIL BRICKFIELD, Commissioner

Susan Latvala

SUSAN LATVALA, Commissioner

John Morrone

JOHN MORRONE, Commissioner

Kenneth T. Welch

KENNETH T. WELCH, Commissioner

