The State Bar of California
Resolution

NATIONAL PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATION

WHEREAS more than 6 million Californians live below 125% of the federal poverty level and there are fewer than 800 legal aid attorneys to serve them; and

WHEREAS the State Bar's Pro Bono Resolution adopted in December 1989 and amended in June 2002 strongly encourages all State Bar members to contribute at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services a year and to make a financial contribution to non-profit legal services organizations, and

WHEREAS California attorneys donate thousands of hours of pro bono legal services and make annual financial contributions to the Justice Gap Fund and directly to legal services organizations, to help address the huge unmet need for legal assistance to California's poor, especially in light of the current economic situation; and

WHEREAS the State Bar of California actively promotes pro bono participation in a variety of ways on an ongoing basis and gives special recognition annually for outstanding pro bono contributions made by its members; and

WHEREAS the American Bar Association has designated October 25 – 31, 2009 as the first National Pro Bono Week Celebration to recognize the valuable pro bono contributions made by lawyers throughout the year, and to increase pro bono participation across the country to narrow the justice gap;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California recognizes National Pro Bono Celebration Week each year, as designated by the American Bar Association, commends California attorneys for their ongoing pro bono contributions, and reminds all members that by engaging in pro bono work and providing financial support they can make a significant difference in the lives of California's poor who would not otherwise have access to the legal system.

Adopted by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California on May 15, 2010