



Proclamation

PRO BONO WEEK 2010

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 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 24 through 30, 2010 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 12th day of October, 2010.

Karen Williams Seel

KAREN WILLIAMS SEEL, Chair

Susan Latvala

SUSAN LATVALA, Vice Chair

Nancy Bostock

NANCY BOSTOCK, Commissioner

Neil Brickfield

NEIL BRICKFIELD, Commissioner

Calvin D. Harris

CALVIN D. HARRIS, Commissioner

John Morroni

JOHN MORRONI, Commissioner

Kenneth T. Welch

KENNETH T. WELCH, Commissioner

