

Dear Mayor \_\_\_\_\_:

The Alabama State Bar, in conjunction with the American Bar Association, is celebrating National Pro Bono Week October 24- 30, 2010. Our goals are to educate the public about the extensive work Alabama lawyers are doing by donating their time to improve the lives of vulnerable members of our community, encourage members of the legal community to increase their involvement in pro bono work, and generate financial support for the legal aid system.

The need for legal representation greatly outstrips the available legal resources, and volunteer lawyers are the key to bridging this gap. Without pro bono work, many needy citizens would simply have to do without legal representation, and, in the process, likely sacrifice many available rights and remedies. Celebrating the great work done by pro bono attorneys and encouraging additional work of this kind, therefore, benefits indigent citizens in our community, and ensures the effectiveness of our justice system for all of us.

Pro Bono Week 2010 will feature legal aid clinics and service projects throughout the State. These programs were extremely successful in 2009, and Alabama's efforts received national recognition from the ABA and other state pro bono programs

We ask for your help this year in recognizing the great volunteer efforts of many Alabama attorneys during the past year, as well as enhancing community awareness of pro bono work and the need for increased legal assistance for the poor.

Governor Riley issued the nation's first governor's proclamation last year, creating and establishing this celebration for our state through his act. We are initiating contact with city leaders to ask for their support in issuing a proclamation for their city or area. I have attached a proposed proclamation for your review and consideration. I have copied \_\_\_\_\_, our County Bar Commissioner(s), along with \_\_\_\_\_, our county Bar President, so they will also be aware of this request.

We trust that your office will support our efforts to celebrate and expand pro bono work in \_\_\_\_\_. Please let us know when this will be considered by the council so one or all of us can be there. We would hope to have \_\_\_\_\_ adopt this proclamation within the next two weeks, if possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to a very successful Pro Bono Week 2010 in \_\_\_\_\_!

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_