

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Thousands of Northeast Florida residents lack access to legal assistance that is often critical to their safety and independence, forcing them to resolve complex legal problems on their own. Their cases may include domestic violence, divorce, child custody, eviction, mortgage foreclosure, and abuse of the elderly; and

**WHEREAS:** There are limited numbers of staff attorneys serving low-income and underserved clients through nonprofit legal aid organizations in Northeast Florida. While members of the Northeast Florida legal community donate thousands of hours in free legal services and make generous financial contributions to legal aid organizations in our city, there is still a large unmet need for legal assistance for our most disadvantaged residents; and

**WHEREAS:** The Florida Bar emphasizes each member's professional responsibility to provide pro bono legal services to the economically disadvantaged and requires each member to report pro bono involvement annually; and

**WHEREAS:** The American Bar Association has designated the week of October 22 through 28, 2017, as National Celebrate Pro Bono Week; and

**WHEREAS:** The Florida Supreme Court Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, The Florida Bar and The Florida Bar Foundation educate the public about the extensive work lawyers do to improve the lives of vulnerable members of our community, and encourage more individuals in the legal community to get involved in pro bono work and to financially support the legal aid system; and

**WHEREAS:** The Fourth Circuit Pro Bono Committee and The Jacksonville Bar Association reinforce this effort in Northeast Florida and seek to provide support and recognition for pro bono attorneys who assist underserved and low-income residents in our community.

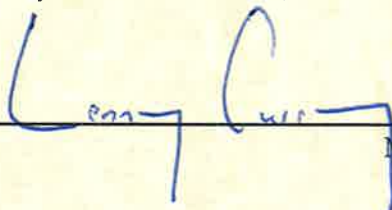
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 22-28, 2017 as

## CELEBRATE PRO BONO WEEK

in Jacksonville and encourage all residents to recognize the pro bono contributions of our local attorneys, and urge all members of the legal community to contribute both time and resources to legal services organizations in an effort to help our most vulnerable citizens.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October  
in the year Two Thousand 17

  
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA