

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, one-quarter of the state's population lived at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level, and 86 percent of the civil legal problems they faced went unaddressed or were inadequately addressed because of a lack of resources; and

WHEREAS, those numbers have risen as a result of the pandemic as more people are facing employment and housing issues and are unable to afford the services of a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, while lawyers with South Carolina Legal Services and other organizations across the state have been working valiantly to address these needs, they cannot shoulder the burden alone; and

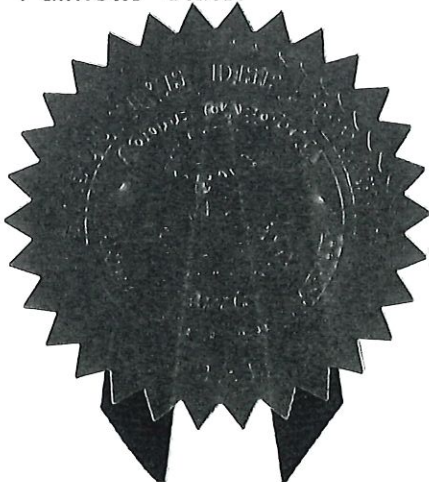
WHEREAS, the Comment to Rule 6.1 of the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct acknowledges that the basic responsibility for providing legal services for those unable to pay ultimately rests upon the individual lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, and the legal profession generally, and therefore lawyers, should assist in providing free legal services to the disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, Celebrate Pro Bono Week provides an opportunity to recognize the lawyers in our state who have risen to the challenge and provided pro bono legal assistance during these extraordinary times, to acknowledge the important role lawyers play in our communities, and to raise awareness of and support for pro bono legal service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 26 - 30, 2020, as

CELEBRATE PRO BONO WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join together to support our legal community and its efforts to provide pro bono legal assistance to the disadvantaged and to ensure a just democratic society for the people of the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA