

A Resolution Honoring National Pro Bono Week

Whereas *the State Bar of Texas embraces the principle that our nation promises justice for all, not just for those who can afford to pay for it, and that the ideal of equal access to justice and quality legal representation to all Texans is central to the Bar's mission,*

Whereas *the State Bar of Texas Pro Bono Resolution adopted in September 2000 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 nonprofit legal aid organizations,*

Whereas *Texas attorneys donate many hours of pro bono legal services and make annual financial contributions to directly fund legal aid organizations, to help address the huge unmet need for legal assistance to the state's poor, especially in light of the current economic situation,*

Whereas *the State Bar of Texas 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,*

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,*

Be It Therefore Resolved *that the State Bar of Texas recognizes the week of October 25–31, 2009, as the first National Pro Bono Week Celebration, commends Texas attorneys for their ongoing pro bono contributions, and reminds all Bar members that by engaging in pro bono work and providing financial support they can make a significant difference in the lives of all Texans who would not otherwise have access to the legal system.*

SIGNED *this 25th day of September 2009.*

*Roland K. Johnson, President
State Bar of Texas*

*Terry Tottenham, President-Elect
State Bar of Texas*

*David J. Fisher, Chair of the Board
State Bar of Texas*

witnessed by

*Michelle Hunter, Executive Director
State Bar of Texas*