



SUPREME COURT OF IOWA  
RESOLUTION  
PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

**WHEREAS,**

Many Iowans of limited means are unable to afford legal services to address their civil legal problems. Legal service organizations and volunteer lawyers do much to help address these needs for civil legal services. Nevertheless, there is a substantial gap between the services available and the demand for such services. This gap is growing due to the consequences of the nation's economic downturn.

The lack of legal representation impedes access to justice. As officers of the court, lawyers shoulder a professional responsibility to ensure that all people have equal access to justice. Indeed, lawyers can proudly claim pro bono service to the needy and disadvantaged as a hallmark of their profession.

The American Bar Association has designated the week of 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 nation to address the unmet needs of poor Americans for legal services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

The Court recognizes the week of October 25-31, 2009 as the first National Pro Bono Week Celebration.

The Court recognizes that many Iowa lawyers serve the public good and honor their professional commitment by donating thousands of hours of pro bono services and making financial contributions to legal service organizations and pro bono programs. The Court commends these attorneys for their important contributions, which benefit our state, our justice system, our communities and, most of all, the clients they serve.

The Court urges all Iowa attorneys to devote at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services a year.

The Court encourages all judges to promote pro bono service by lawyers. To this end, the Court encourages judges to write and speak in support of pro bono service, recruit lawyers to do pro bono service, participate in events to honor and recognize lawyers who do pro bono service, train lawyers for pro bono service, make appropriate administrative accommodations for cases involving litigants receiving pro bono services, and give advisory assistance to pro bono programs.

ISSUED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA  
OCTOBER 19, 2009

