



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
Michael L. Bender, Chief Justice  
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

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## **Chief Justice Bender proclaims Oct. 21-27 as Pro Bono Week** *Colorado attorneys encouraged to renew their commitment to pro bono work*

DENVER – Celebrating October 2012’s designation as Legal Professionalism Month, Chief Justice Michael L. Bender has proclaimed Oct. 21 - 27, 2012, as Pro Bono Week.

“It is critical for all Colorado attorneys to remember that access to justice is a cornerstone of our judicial system,” Chief Justice Bender said. “An ongoing commitment to ensuring that the state’s indigent and most vulnerable have a voice in the courts is of paramount importance. I am urging all Colorado attorneys to renew their commitment to pro bono participation.”

In 2006, under Rule 6.1 of the Code of Professional Conduct, the Colorado Supreme Court implemented a pro bono commitment program. As a core value of the legal profession, the pro bono commitment program encourages every Colorado attorney to provide at least 50 hours annually of legal services at no charge, primarily to indigent persons and/or organizations that serve indigent persons.

In 2007, the Court began recognizing those law firms and solo practitioners making the commitment and achieving the 50 hour goal. Law firms achieving the goal must complete 50 hours of annual pro bono service, on average, for all attorneys in the firm. Since the program began, 237 law firms and solo practitioners have made the commitment to participate, and for calendar year 2011 a total of 170 firms and solo practitioners achieved the 50 hour goal.

A complete listing of the law firms and solo practitioners participating can be found at:  
[http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme\\_Court/Pro\\_Bono.cfm](http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme_Court/Pro_Bono.cfm)

The Supreme Court’s invitation to participate in the pro bono program is posted to:  
[http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/File/SupCtCJInviteProBonoLegalSvcsRecogProg\\_1.pdf](http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/File/SupCtCJInviteProBonoLegalSvcsRecogProg_1.pdf)

**Editor’s note:** A copy of Chief Justice Bender’s proclamation has been distributed with this press release.

*This information is provided as an e-mail service of the Colorado State Judicial Branch, Office of State Court Administrator, 101 W. Colfax, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202. To discontinue this service or update your e-mail address, please respond to this message with your name, contact information and any comments.*