



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

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Colorado Chief Justice proclaims Pro Bono Week *Attorneys urged to renew commitment to pro bono participation*

DENVER – In recognition of the second annual National Pro Bono Celebration, Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey announced today she has proclaimed this week, Oct. 24-30, 2010, Pro Bono Week.

The proclamation is intended to encourage attorneys to commit to or renew their commitment to providing legal services free of charge to indigent residents, and to express the State of Colorado’s gratitude to pro bono attorneys for the difference they make in the lives of their indigent clients.

“The programs available to indigent Coloradans to find affordable or free legal representation cannot meet the growing demand for such services, especially in these difficult economic times,” Chief Justice Mullarkey said. “Attorneys who commit to providing pro bono services are an invaluable and essential part of providing access to justice for some of our state’s most vulnerable residents.”

Since 2006, when the Colorado Supreme Court began formally recognizing attorneys and law firms who commit to providing pro bono legal services, tens of thousands of hours of pro bono legal services have been provided to residents who otherwise may not have been able to afford legal representation.

For more information on National Pro Bono Week, please visit

<http://www.probono.net/celebrateprobono/>.

A copy of the Colorado proclamation is attached below.



HONORARY PROCLAMATION

National Pro Bono Week

WHEREAS, access to justice is a fundamental and essential right in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, indigent members of our society lack full and fair access to our system of justice without the efforts of both staff and volunteer attorneys who help to give a voice to their clients in matters of domestic violence, loss of their homes, harm to their children, evictions, foreclosures, physical abuse of the elderly, and other major legal needs; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the 100–person staff of Colorado Legal Services cannot meet the civil legal needs of the more than half million persons in Colorado who fall below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the assistance of *pro bono* attorneys is an invaluable and essential part of providing access to justice for indigent residents of the State of Colorado;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARY J. MULLARKEY,
Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court,

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do hereby proclaim October 24 – 30, 2010, to be PRO BONO WEEK, and urge all attorneys to renew their commitment to *pro bono* participation, and express the gratitude of the State of Colorado to *pro bono* attorneys for the difference they make in the lives of their indigent clients.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary J. Mullarkey".

Mary J. Mullarkey
Chief Justice, Colorado Supreme Court