

Proclamation

by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

- Whereas,** access to justice is a fundamental and essential right in a democratic society and the United States Constitution, through the Sixth Amendment, protects the right of every citizen to be represented by legal counsel in criminal matters; and
- Whereas,** thousands of West Virginians do not have access to civil legal assistance that is critical to their safety and independence, forcing them to resolve complex issues on their own, including domestic violence, divorce, child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosure, job protection, freedom from unlawful discrimination and physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia attorneys are vital members of their communities who often contribute their time and professional abilities to improve the lives of others and the vitality of community organizations; and
- Whereas,** volunteer attorneys donate thousands of hours of time each year, and the invaluable contributions of these attorneys help ensure and protect a just society for every citizen; and
- Whereas,** the *National Pro Bono Celebration Week* is a coordinated effort to showcase the great differences that pro bono lawyers make to the people of West Virginia, highlight opportunities for pro bono service to help those who cannot afford legal assistance, recruit and train more pro bono volunteers and acknowledge the partnerships that form the basis for many of the West Virginia Bar's most successful pro bono efforts.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 20-26, 2013* as:

Celebrate Pro Bono Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join together to support our legal community and its efforts to ensure a just democratic society for all the people of West Virginia.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Second day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Thirteen and in the One Hundred Fifty-First year of the State.



Earl Ray Tomblin

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

By the Governor:

Natalie E. Tennant

Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State