



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

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

WHEREAS, economic consequences of the pandemic are causing a spike in legal needs in areas such as evictions, unemployment claims and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Alabamians are suffering from these and other legal issues and their need for pro bono legal services is at an all-time high; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Alabama residents continue to lack access to civil legal assistance that is often critical to their safety and independence, forcing them to resolve complex legal problems on their own, including domestic violence, divorce, child custody, contract, bankruptcy, evictions, mortgage foreclosure and the physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, pro bono service programs, legal services agencies, the Alabama State Bar, and local bar associations throughout Alabama have enlisted the services of volunteer attorneys to provide valuable legal services to those in need; and

WHEREAS, while members of Alabama's legal community donate thousands of hours in free legal services, closing three times as many pro bono cases as the national average, a huge unmet need for legal assistance remains for disadvantaged Alabamians; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the Alabama State Bar and its Pro Bono Celebration Task Force, with support from local bar associations statewide, Pro Bono Month 2020 will educate the public about the extensive work Alabama lawyers are doing donating their time to improve the lives of vulnerable members of our community, and will encourage more individuals in the legal community to get involved in pro bono work and financially support the legal aid system; and

WHEREAS, Pro Bono Month 2020 will feature legal aid clinics throughout Alabama, assisting Alabamians who greatly need legal assistance but cannot afford to pay for that help virtual learning opportunities to educate lawyers on pro bono service projects throughout the State of Alabama helping lawyers and law students make volunteer connections with legal aid organizations serving Alabamians and events recognizing the 12th Anniversary of the Pro Bono Celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 2020, as

Pro Bono Month

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 26th day of October 2020.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor