**Pro Bono Week Proclamation**

**Whereas**, a National Pro Bono celebration is observed annually to recognize those who participate in providing high quality legal services to those living on the social margins and to recruit more pro bono volunteers, and

**Whereas,** the promise of equal justice under law is the most fundamental tenet of our justice system, and

**Whereas,** the bench and bar face a crisis of unmet need for legal representation for citizens with civil legal problems in many areas, including family law issues such as dissolution, child support, and domestic violence; housing issues such as foreclosure and eviction; and consumer issues, and

**Whereas,** although in 2020 more than 31,000 lawyers and paralegals in Illinois provided almost more than 1.8 million hours of *pro bono* legal services and Illinois lawyers and paralegals donated over $17 million dollars to help fund additional legal services, there is still an unmet need for legal assistance, and

**Whereas,** the ABA, the Illinois State Bar Association and its Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services and others support the celebration of Pro Bono Week to educate the public about the good work lawyers are doing to improve the lives of the vulnerable citizens of our community and to encourage more individuals in the legal community to get involved in pro bono support of the legal system, and

**Whereas,**  this organization supports the goal of educating the public about the extensive work local lawyers are doing and to encourage more support both by volunteering and by donating financially to support pro bono work and the legal aid community,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the undersigned, in their representative capacities, do hereby commend the lawyers of the local bar association and of the state for their work in providing legal services in our society and does hereby recognize and proclaim October 24 through October 30, 2021 as

PRO BONO WEEK

and further urge all residents to recognize the contributions of our legal community to help those most in need.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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Bar Association President

Chief Judge

Mayor