



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, more than one million Tennesseans are unable to afford needed legal services; and

WHEREAS, studies show that more than seven out of ten of these Tennesseans, or 700,000, face legal problems each year; and

WHEREAS, there are only 79 paid legal aid lawyers in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, despite funding for legal assistance provided by the Legal Services Corporation and the state of Tennessee and private fundraising efforts which make an enormous contribution to the effort to meet these legal needs, four out of five requests to legal aid are turned down due to lack of resources; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Supreme Court continues to make access to justice its number one strategic priority; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee lawyers provided more than 567,000 hours of pro bono or free legal assistance last year; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee lawyers volunteered in record numbers during last October's Celebrate Pro Bono Month and assisted more than 1,200 Tennesseans with their legal needs; and

WHEREAS, during the month of October 2011 these efforts will be celebrated with legal advice clinics, public education and "Wills for Heroes" programs, free continuing legal education and numerous other events acknowledging the tremendous contributions that Tennessee lawyers make in pro bono services and funding for legal services through the Tennessee Bar Foundation Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 2011 as

CELEBRATE PRO BONO MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 26th day of September, 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Haslam", written over a horizontal line.

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Rayatt", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State

