



**John Bel Edwards**  
GOVERNOR

## Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** four of every five Louisianans living in poverty lack access to legal assistance that is often critical to their safety and independence, with the majority of these civil problems being domestic violence, divorce, child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosures and the physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and
- WHEREAS,** legal services agencies, pro bono service programs, the State Bar of Louisiana and local bar associations throughout Louisiana have enlisted the services of volunteer attorneys to provide valuable legal services to those in need; and
- WHEREAS,** civil legal aid is often an indispensable tool necessary to address critical survival needs such as employment and income, housing, healthcare, education, and family safety; and
- WHEREAS,** access to civil legal aid attorney can mean the difference between shelter and homelessness, economic stability and bankruptcy, positive work and unemployment; and
- WHEREAS,** during October 22 -28, 2017, the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Program in collaboration with local pro bono projects, businesses, government agencies and community organizations will be celebrating "Pro Bono Week" to highlight the work of Louisiana's pro bono community and the difference it makes to our state, our system of justice, our communities and, most of all, to the clients served.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 22-28, 2017 as

**PRO BONO WEEK**  
in the State of Louisiana.



*In Witness Whereof, I have herunto set my hand  
officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the  
State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of  
Baton Rouge, on this 2nd day of October  
A.D., 2017*

  
Governor of Louisiana