

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the practice of law is a demanding, challenging and complex endeavor, one in which the rights, liberties and safety of our citizens have been protected and preserved for centuries, and access to courts and legal representation is a fundamental and essential right in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, many people cannot represent themselves adequately in matters of complex legal issues without the assistance of attorneys, but some do not have the financial resources to hire representation or seek legal advice; and

WHEREAS, pro bono publico, more familiarly known as **pro bono**, is defined as professional work undertaken voluntarily and without payment, or at a reduced fee as a public service to those that are unable to afford the services, most commonly in the legal profession, and in the Tampa, Florida area dedicated volunteer attorneys donate countless hours of pro bono time each year to assist unrepresented parties; and

WHEREAS, the **Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association**, celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, has established the *Pro Se Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic* whereby individuals representing themselves may obtain legal consultation from volunteer attorneys, available at the courthouse during set times to offer guidance on legal issues and court procedures, benefitting both the indigent individuals and the court's administration; and

WHEREAS, the **Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Court Outreach Committee** sponsors Pro Bono Week to educate the public about the extensive work bankruptcy lawyers do to improve our communities and encourage more attorneys to get involved in pro bono work; and

WHEREAS, Pro Bono Week is an opportunity to recognize the selfless contributions many lawyers make to their communities, to cultivate a new group of pro bono volunteers, and to show appreciation for the numerous relationships that allow for the success of the pro bono efforts, and a **Pro Bono Week Celebration** will be held at the United States Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Florida in Tampa on October 23, 2013, and will include guest speaker The Honorable Judge Catherine Peek McEwen and a reception.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of October 21-26, 2013 as

“PRO BONO WEEK”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in expressing appreciation to all those in the legal profession offering their services pro bono so that all citizens are afforded equal representation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 18th day of October, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor