Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Chief Justice Debra Todd

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Dear Counselor:

I am pleased to join Pennsylvania Bar Association President Jim Antoniono in recognizing attorneys across our Commonwealth for their pro bono service. Every October, legal organizations across America participate in the National Celebration of Pro Bono to highlight the need for pro bono participation, and to thank those who have donated their time throughout the year. This year's celebration, "*Serving Justice. Strengthening Democracy,*" October 25 – 31, 2026, recognizes the essential role pro bono attorneys play in ensuring that legal problems do not prevent people from participating fully in civic life.

Pennsylvania has been a national leader in this celebration since Philadelphia lawyer Sharon Browning organized the first efforts of the American Bar Association in 2009. Since that time, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, local bar associations, and legal aid programs have expanded their efforts to sponsor pro bono events throughout the month of October.

This year's celebration is especially significant because September 28, 2026, marked the 250th anniversary of the ratification of Pennsylvania's first constitution. Our Founders sought to create a government "without partiality for, or prejudice against, any particular class, sect or denomination," and a framework for administering justice through a system of courts, and those concepts remain foundational to our efforts to improve access to justice for the less fortunate throughout our Commonwealth.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the good work of our Pennsylvania attorneys who donate their time and resources to support legal services for those in need. Please take a moment to recognize all of the judges, attorneys, law professors, law students and support staff working toward that goal, and if you haven't already done so, consider adding your direct efforts to Pennsylvania's ongoing pursuit of justice for all.

Warmest regards,

Debra Todd

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