



Circuit Judge Jack Helinger holds a Pinellas County Commission proclamation commending attorneys’ pro bono work and declaring the week of Oct. 25-31 as Pro Bono Week. To Judge Helinger’s right is Pinellas County Commission Chairman Calvin Harris, and Circuit Judge Linda Allan is second from Harris’ right. Harris presented the proclamation to the two judges and others who help provide pro bono services in the community. They are from left: Pinellas County Attorney James L. Bennett; James D. Thaler, president, and D. C. Collins, executive director, St. Petersburg Bar; John P. Cunningham, executive director, Gulfcoast Legal Services; Myriam Irizarry, counsel to clerk of Pinellas County Court; Judge Allan, Jane Helms, pro bono coordinator, Upper Pinellas County; Chairman Harris; Judge Helinger, Joseph A. Corsmeier, president, Clearwater Bar; Elizabeth Porcelli, Community Law Program; Melissa Jagger, Guardian ad Litem, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Karen France, executive director, Clearwater Bar; and Ken Burke, Pinellas clerk of court.

County Commission’s Proclamation Recognizes Pro Bono Attorneys and Week (Oct. 25-31)


CLEARWATER – Judges Linda Allan and Jack Helinger were among a group of *pro bono* advocates, who went before the Pinellas County Commission on Oct. 20 to receive a proclamation designating the week of Oct. 25-31 as *Pro Bono Week*.

The proclamation (below) – presented to the Sixth Judicial Circuit *Pro Bono* Committee – commemorates the legal work provided by *pro bono* activities of attorneys in the Circuit. Judge Helinger is chair of that committee, and Judge Allan is co-chair.

Judge Helinger said those activities are significant, but he was quick to point out the constant need for even more such work.

As the proclamation points out, even with attorneys’ countless hour of pro bono work, “thousands of Floridians, including children, continue to lack access to legal assistance” with complex legal problems, such as domestic violence, divorce, child custody, mortgage foreclosures and abuse of the elderly.

Judge Helinger said he hopes recognition of the contributions already made will encourage even more attorneys to vol-



PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

PRO BONO WEEK 2009

WHEREAS, access to justice is a fundamental and essential right in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Floridians, including children, continue to lack access to legal assistance that is critical to their safety and independence, forcing them to resolve complex legal problems on their own, such as domestic violence, divorce, child custody, evictions, mortgage foreclosures and the physical and financial abuse of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the American Bar Association, this week’s celebration is to showcase the great difference pro bono lawyers make to the nation, its system of justice, the communities and the clients they serve; and

WHEREAS, nationally there are approximately forty percent of low to moderate-income families in need of legal aid with only some twenty percent of their needs met; and

WHEREAS, the 6th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee by and through its members’ and associated lawyers’ pro bono activities to Pinellas and Pasco Counties, help leverage limited funds to provide necessary services to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, commemorating the pro bono contributions this week is to also serve to recruit additional attorneys to meet the legal needs for our low-income citizens; and

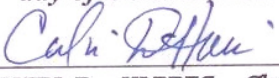
WHEREAS, through our local county Bar Associations and other legal service agencies, pro bono attorneys both governmental and private provide invaluable services to the most vulnerable citizens of our community, touching their lives during their most desperate of times.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that the week of October 25 through 31, 2009 be recognized as

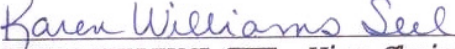
PRO BONO WEEK

and urge all citizens to recognize and celebrate the many contributions our legal community makes to the quality of life of our community.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the seal of Pinellas County, Florida is caused to be affixed this 20th day of October, 2009.




CALVIN D. HARRIS, Chairman

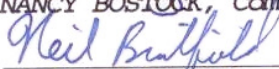


KAREN WILLIAMS SEEL, Vice Chairman

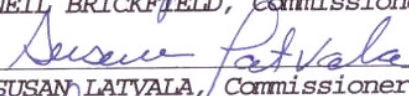




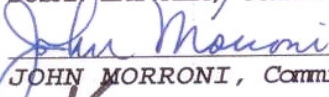
NANCY BOSTOCK, Commissioner




NEIL BRICKFIELD, Commissioner



SUSAN LATVALA, Commissioner



JOHN MORRONI, Commissioner



KENNETH T. WELCH, Commissioner