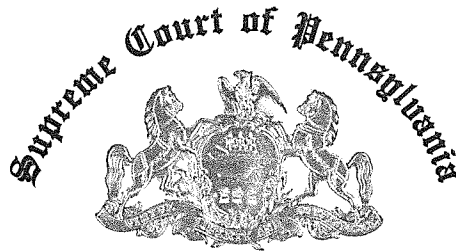


One Oxford Centre, Suite 3130  
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Chief Justice Debra Todd

October 2024

Dear Counselor:

Please join me in recognizing this year's National Pro Bono Week, October 20-26. Every October, legal organizations across America participate in this national celebration to highlight the need for pro bono participation, and to thank those who have donated their time throughout the year. Pennsylvania has been a national leader since Philadelphia attorney Sharon Browning organized the first concerted pro bono effort of the American Bar Association in 2009.

The theme of this 16th annual celebration is "Making Justice a Reality in Our Communities." The Pennsylvania Bar Association, local bar associations, and legal aid programs will sponsor events that celebrate past service and provide opportunities for Pennsylvania attorneys to assist those in need.

Pro bono work is a professional responsibility and an individual ethical commitment of each lawyer. As expressed in Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Responsibility 6.1:

**A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to public service or charitable groups of organizations, by service in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.**

I hope you will join me in celebrating the contributions 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, lawyers, law students and legal support staff working to help the less fortunate among us achieve access to justice; and if you haven't already done so, please consider volunteering yourself.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Todd".

Debra Todd

