

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

PRO BONO RESOLUTION

Whereas, for over 40 years Central California Legal Services, Inc. has facilitated the delivery of *pro bono* legal services to the poor and disadvantaged in the Central San Joaquin Valley through its Voluntary Legal Services Program in collaboration with private attorneys, the courts, community organizations, and local, state and national bar associations, in support of its mission to “Advance Justice and Empower People;” and

Whereas, since 2004 the Voluntary Legal Services Program of Central California Legal Services, Inc. has experienced unprecedented growth, with the value of donated *pro bono* legal services more than doubling in 2005, and in 2006 showing another 28% increase to exceed \$402,000.00 for an all-time program record; and

Whereas, the Fresno County Bar Association adopted a Pro Bono Resolution at its March 2004 meeting to urge all attorneys and the legal community to donate a reasonable amount of time to the delivery of *pro bono* legal services and/or support not-for-profit organizations that provide legal services to indigent clients; and

Whereas, the Fresno County Bar Association has formed a Pro Bono Services Section, in partnership with, and staffed in part by, the Voluntary Legal Services Program of Central California Legal Services, Inc., to encourage the development of a *pro bono* culture in the legal community and promote the delivery of free legal services to indigent clients; and

Whereas, the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California, at its December 9, 1989 meeting and amended at its June 22, 2002 meeting, adopted a Pro Bono Resolution urging all attorneys, law firms, and members of the legal community to devote at least 50 hours per year, to provide or enable the delivery of *pro bono* legal services to the poor or disadvantaged, with the purpose of improving the legal system and increasing access to justice; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, at its April 2007 meeting, adopted Resolution 2007-003 supporting and encouraging private attorney involvement and urging governing boards of LSC-funded programs to collaborate with other organizations to effectively engage lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of Central California Legal Services, Inc., through its ongoing work to help close the justice gap in all of its service areas throughout California, supports and encourages private attorney involvement through its Voluntary Legal Services Program, and will continue to:

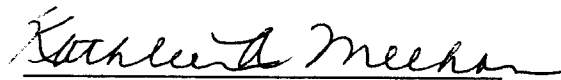
- Urge all attorneys to devote a reasonable amount of time, at least 50 hours per year, to provide or enable the direct delivery of legal services, without expectation of compensation other than reimbursement of expenses, to indigent individuals, or to not-for-profit organizations with a primary purpose of providing services to the poor or on behalf of the poor or disadvantaged, not-for-profit organizations with a purpose of improving the law and legal system, or increasing access to justice;

- Urge all law firms and corporate employers to promote and support the involvement of associates and partners in pro bono and other public service activities by counting all or a reasonable portion of their time spent on these activities toward their billable hour requirements, or by otherwise giving actual work credit for these activities;
- Urge all law schools to promote and encourage the participation of law students in pro bono activities, including requiring any law firm wishing to recruit on campus to provide a written statement of its policy, if any, concerning the involvement of its attorneys in public service and pro bono activities; and
- Urge all attorneys and law firms to contribute financial support to Central California Legal Services, Inc., and other not-for-profit organizations that provide free legal services to the poor, especially those attorneys who are precluded from directly rendering pro bono services.

Be it Further Resolved, that the Board of Directors of Central California Legal Services, Inc., will continue to:

- Promote, support and encourage private attorney involvement initiatives by publicizing and recognizing private attorney involvement through the Voluntary Legal Services Program and by collaborating with national, state and local organizations to create opportunities for such publicity and recognition.
- Collaborate with other organizations and entities to develop and facilitate educational efforts that demonstrate the extent of the unmet civil legal need and encourage collective responsibility within Central California by both public and private entities to help meet this unmet civil legal need;
- Collaborate with other organizations and entities to develop effective strategies for engaging lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons;
- Develop strategies that encourage *pro bono*, including creative recruitment methods and delivery models, attorney practice and continuing legal education rules, and training, mentoring, support, and recognition of volunteers.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Central California Legal Services, Inc. at its August 2007 meeting.



Kathleen A. Meehan, President
Central California Legal Services, Inc.