



THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

FULTON BUILDING

16TH FLOOR

200 NORTH THIRD STREET

HARRISBURG, PA 17101

April, 2018

THOMAS G. SAYLOR
CHIEF JUSTICE

(717) 772-1599

Dear Counselor:

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1968 that initiated changes in Pennsylvania's judiciary, furthering our mission to provide equal access to justice for all while providing for the needs of the most vulnerable.

As Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, I am proud of our steadfast commitment to that mission throughout the past fifty years. Despite our efforts, however, the needs of our poorest citizens continue to challenge both the criminal and civil justice systems.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court supports civil legal aid in a variety of ways, from funding a loan forgiveness program for legal services practitioners to celebrating the work of pro bono volunteers.

The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, in partnership with our regional legal aid providers and a network of specialty legal aid programs, helps provide the framework and structure for legal assistance for the poor.

This year, lawyers across Pennsylvania will once again contribute to civil legal aid through the IOLTA portion of our annual licensing fee, but it is the volunteer efforts--whether in direct representation of clients or additional financial contributions that most greatly impact those in need.

In my role as Chief Justice, I see the remarkable benefit provided by pro bono lawyers working to meet the civil legal aid needs of the community. These efforts reflect the model partnership promoted by the Pennsylvania Bar Association of local legal aid programs working with local Bars to facilitate private practice attorneys providing *pro bono public* service to those in need.

Once again this year, I encourage you to make a personal commitment to provide pro bono service in whatever way you are able, whether through direct representation to the poor or financial support of our legal aid programs.

My sincere thanks to those who already contribute your time, your talents and your financial support to this most worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Saylor
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania