



For Immediate Release

**In Recognition of National Volunteer Week,
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Salutes Volunteer Lawyers**

OKLAHOMA CITY (April 15, 2015) – In honor of National Volunteer Week 2015, which takes place April 12-18, Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma would like to recognize the thousands of volunteer lawyers who make a huge difference for those in need.

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma hosts ProBono.Net/OK, Oklahoma's online portal for legal professionals interested in pro bono work. As the number of people living in poverty has risen, so has the need for legal services that allow Americans to fully participate in society without falling prey to the loss of their housing, income or even their children. Yet studies have shown that only 20% of the civil legal needs of the poor are being met. Pro bono attorneys are often the only source of hope for those who can't afford to hire a lawyer.

Through ProBono.Net/OK, Oklahoma lawyers can access a wealth of resources to assist their representation of low-income Oklahomans with civil legal problems. Legal Aid relies on the many Oklahoma lawyers who regularly give back to their communities by assisting individuals with civil legal problems, free of charge, to leverage our precious resources and increase the number of people we can serve. The economy, our courts and our communities greatly benefit by this sacrifice of time and talent.

ProBono.Net/OK is part of a national network of state portals created by Pro Bono Net, a leader in innovative programs that increase access to justice. The site hosts a Library of training materials, videos, articles, and automated court forms, all available online to support the efforts of our volunteers. From www.probono.net/ok, a Legal Aid volunteer lawyer can find the right pro bono case or activity in which to participate, and sign-up to take a case online.

Pro Bono Net has more than 90,000 members – including over 1,600 Oklahoma members, who are committed to public service. National Volunteer Week 2015 provides an opportunity to recognize them for their efforts.

Pro Bono Net's online platform, www.probono.net, makes it easy for attorneys to get involved in pro bono work, saving them time and connecting them with opportunities through the [National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide](#), which was co-developed with the ABA. Special, issue-specific opportunities are also available through [The National Domestic Violence Pro Bono Directory](#) and the [Immigration Advocates Network](#). Pro Bono Net also developed and maintains LawHelp.org, a public legal information portal with state-based legal referrals, know-your-rights information and a variety of self-help

materials. Pro Bono Net works in partnership with more than 200 legal services organizations around the country, including Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma.

Sponsored by [Points of Light](#)—National Volunteer Week, established in 1974, has grown exponentially each subsequent year, with literally thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled throughout the week.

Legal professionals wishing to get involved can join Pro Bono Net by signing up at www.probono.net/ok. Attorneys can also search for volunteer opportunities at www.probono.net/ok/oppsguide/.

About Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma is a not-for-profit law firm, which provides free civil legal assistance to eligible low-income individuals and their families and to elderly persons in the areas of family, consumer, housing, health and employment. Legal Aid attorneys and staff work through a network of fully-staffed law offices and satellite offices, serving eligible clients in all 77 counties of Oklahoma. Legal Aid's statewide toll-free number to call for legal assistance is 1-888-534-5243.

Funding for Legal Aid is from the Legal Services Corporation, the State of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, 16 United Way or United Fund organizations and aging agencies across the state, as well as generous attorneys, law firms, foundations, businesses and individuals.

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About Pro Bono Net

Pro Bono Net is a national non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to justice for the disadvantaged. Through innovative technology solutions and expertise in building and mobilizing justice networks, Pro Bono Net transforms the way legal help reaches the underserved. Comprehensive programs including www.probono.net, www.lawhelp.org and www.lawhelpinteractive.org, enable legal advocates to make a stronger impact, increase volunteer participation, and empower the public with resources and self-help tools to improve their lives.

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