

California Legislature Assembly Resolution

By the Honorable Bob Wieckowski
25th Assembly District; Relative to

Campaign for Justice

Whereas, The annual income of one in six Californians fell below the 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines in 2010, qualifying them for free civil legal services in California; and

Whereas, Unemployment, foreclosures, and other aspects of the current economy have increased the need for legal services; and

Whereas, Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) funds in California have decreased significantly over the last four years, resulting in unavoidable cuts in IOLTA funding for legal services for Californians in need, as well as other funding sources; and

Whereas, Legal services organizations efficiently provide access to the justice system and promote fair conflict resolution; and

Whereas, Legal services organizations offer financial and economic benefits to the State by reducing the need for many state services and allowing people to help themselves; and

Whereas, Legal services organizations in California are forced to turn away more than half of qualified applicants seeking legal assistance because they lack the necessary resources to help the increasing number of applicants; and

Whereas, A network of attorneys and other leaders who care about fairness and seek to ensure that all Californians have access to justice under the law have organized a Campaign for Justice, through which legal aid and pro bono lawyers will keep families in their homes, enable children to access health care, secure wrongfully denied unemployment benefits, and help persons with disabilities get Social Security; and

Whereas, The lead entities in the Campaign for Justice are the Office of Legal Services of The State Bar of California and the Legal Aid Association of California, an organization of more than 75 legal services providers; and

Whereas, The Campaign for Justice launched a coordinated statewide effort in October 2011 to increase awareness of the need for increased resources to provide legal services for those in need, under the banner: "Choose Justice, Increasing Access for Those Without"; and

Whereas, The Board of Governors of The State Bar of California, the Legal Aid Association of California, the Judicial Council of California, and voluntary bar associations throughout the State have declared their ongoing support for the Campaign for Justice to increase resources for legal services for those of limited means; now therefore be it

Resolved by Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski, That he recognizes the month of October as Campaign for Justice Month for the purposes of honoring those who work to make justice equally accessible to all and who ensure that the resources supporting that work are adequate and sustainable; and to affirm the importance of providing equal access to the civil justice system for all Californians as a way to protect them from harm, help them assert their rights, and ensure the fair application of the law.

Member Resolution No. 1178
Dated this month of June, 2013

Honorable Bob Wieckowski
25th Assembly District