

2011-J2756

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 16th Anniversary of The Legal Project to be celebrated October 27, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 16th Anniversary of The Legal Project to be celebrated at its Pro Bono Reception on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at the Hart Theatre Lounge at The Egg, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The 2011 "Doing the Public Good" honorees include; Paul Harding, Esq., Legal Project Champion Award; David Price, Esq., Kurt Clobridge Memorial Award; Victoria Lane, Esq., Brigid Nolan Memorial; David Cost, Esq., Stanley A. Rosen Memorial Award; Reed & Vella, LLP, Barry A. Gold Law Firm Leadership Award; David Heffley, Four Corners Luncheonette, Friend of The Legal Project; Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerin, NYSBA, Committee on Appellate Jurisdiction, Field of Dreams Award; and Nigro Companies, Swyer Companies Corporate Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, The Legal Project was created as an independent non-profit organization in 1995 by members of the Capital District Women's Bar Association, originally in response to the vast, unmet civil legal needs of victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, This illustrious organization grew from having one part-time executive director to 14 staff and over 200 volunteers serving 2,000 people annually; and

WHEREAS, The Legal Project believes that all people, regardless of

income, gender, disability, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity should have access to legal services; this belief reflects a deep commitment to fairness and equal justice under the law; and WHEREAS, Based upon these beliefs, the mission of The Legal Project is to make the law more accessible to those in need, to increase the legal community's involvement in pro bono work, and to serve as a resource on legal issues, with a special commitment to women and others who may have difficulty in obtaining legal assistance; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of its President, Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq., The Legal Project continues to play a vital role in the community of the Capital District, finding unique and cost-effective ways to meet diverse, unmet legal needs; and

WHEREAS, The Legal Project is widely viewed as one of the programs with expertise in the area of domestic violence and civil legal services, even developing the first military domestic violence civil legal services program in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this remarkable organization offers vital programs to the community including, Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance, Bankruptcy and Credit, Community-Based Legal Clinics, Domestic Violence Legal Connection, Domestic Violence and Military Families Civil Legal Assistance, Foreclosure Assistance, Legally Speaking Workshops, Pro Bono Appeals, Small Business Legal Network, and Wills and Estates; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when programs of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 16th Anniversary of The Legal Project to be celebrated October 27, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq., President, The Legal Project,
1475 Western Avenue, Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, New York 12203, and the
aforementioned honorees.