

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 298471

ADOPTED ON OCT 13 2003

WHEREAS, the strength and preservation of our democratic system of government depends greatly on the principle of equal justice for all under the law; and

WHEREAS, ensuring equal justice requires that all citizens, without respect to their economic status, have access to the justice system for the redress of their grievances, and protection of their rights and entitlements under the law; and

WHEREAS, government support of programs that provide free legal services to the indigent and most vulnerable has not been adequate to ensure them appropriate legal assistance in pursuing civil matters that protect their safety, health, educational opportunities, shelter, and other basic necessities of living in a free society; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer efforts of private law firms, lawyers, bar associations, law schools, and others in the legal community are essential to ensure that the disadvantaged have access to the justice system; and

WHEREAS, the SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM is a San Diego County Bar Association-sponsored, non-profit agency whose sole purpose and mission is to provide free legal services in civil matters to the disadvantaged and vulnerable residents of San Diego County, with the volunteer participation of private law firms, attorneys, law students and other advocates; and


WHEREAS, the SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM and its 3,000 registered volunteers have a distinguished history and reputation for providing the highest quality *pro bono* services to thousands of needy children, individuals, and families, as evidenced by the financial support it receives from local and state governmental agencies, charitable foundation grants, law firm and San Diego County Bar Association support, corporate gifts and individual contributions; and

WHEREAS, the SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM is celebrating its 20th anniversary of serving the indigent community at its annual "Justice for All" Awards Dinner on October 1, 2003; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the citizens of San Diego, does hereby recognize the 20th anniversary of the SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM, and commends its board of directors, staff, *pro bono* law firms, lawyers, law students, and its financial supporters and contributors for 20 years of outstanding service to the community and are encouraged to continue to meet the important legal needs of the indigent community in San Diego County in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that October 1, 2003, be and is hereby proclaimed to be "SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM 20TH ANNIVERSARY DAY" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa A. Foster  
Deputy City Attorney

LAF:jab  
09/30/03  
Or.Dept:Council-Atkins  
R-2004-385

R- 298471