

## California Senate Resolution

By the Honorable Darrell Steinberg, President pro Tempore of the California State Senate;  
and the Honorable Noreen Evans, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District;  
Relative to the

### Campaign for Justice

**WHEREAS**, Every day, low-income Californians are denied access to the basic rights to which they are entitled under the law simply because they cannot afford a lawyer; and

**WHEREAS**, Currently, The State Bar of California administers three main sources of funding for the benefit of legal aid in the State: Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA), Equal Access Funds through the Court Budget, and voluntary contributions to the Justice Gap Fund; however, due to the downturn in the economy, the need for legal services is rising while revenue continues to decline; and

**WHEREAS**, In September 2010, The State Bar of California and the Legal Aid Association of California gathered legal aid organizations for a statewide meeting to address the funding crisis, where they committed to raising \$10 million in new funds for California legal services through the establishment of the Campaign for Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, The Campaign for Justice seeks to ensure that all Californians share the benefits of access to justice under law by expanding awareness of the importance of legal assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, Remaining steadfast in its mission, the Campaign strives to educate key policymakers about the importance of legal assistance, encourage banks to maximize interest and waive fees on IOLTA accounts, increase individual contributions to the Justice Gap Fund and legal assistance organizations, and encourage pro bono services that leverage legal aid resources; and

**WHEREAS**, The Campaign for Justice supports 95 nonprofit organizations throughout California that provide legal help to countless individuals every year through direct services and programs that coordinate legal services through attorney and law student pro bono; and

**WHEREAS**, In October 2011, the Campaign for Justice launched a coordinated statewide effort to increase awareness of the need for improved 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 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE DARRELL STEINBERG AND SENATOR NOREEN EVANS**, That they recognize 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. 1159  
Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.

Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
President pro Tempore of the California State Senate

Honorable Noreen Evans  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District