

**CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES
CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS**

Resolution 6

**In Support of
Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Programs**

WHEREAS, national and state financial conditions have led to an increase in the number of low income individuals who need assistance with legal issues that affect their basic human needs (such as medical, housing, government benefits); and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 80% of the legal needs of America's low income citizens are unmet; and

WHEREAS, in the face of economic and social hardship, many states have taken laudatory steps to enact "emeritus" rules that enable retired or inactive attorneys, often through the auspices of qualified legal aid organizations, the opportunity to provide critically necessary volunteer legal services to vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association, as well as state and local bar associations, have instituted special projects and programs to enlist the services of retired or inactive attorneys as volunteers to respond to unmet civil legal needs; and

WHEREAS, such pro bono emeritus rules and programs have enabled retired or inactive attorneys to provide special services, such as drafting legal documents, providing legal guidance and assistance, and assisting social service resource and non-profit legal service centers; and

WHEREAS, according to an American Bar Association survey, participation in such pro bono emeritus programs has been modest, and the need for pro bono service far exceeds available resources; and

WHEREAS, given that pro bono emeritus programs have the potential to allow for a large number of volunteers to help make a real difference in delivering legal assistance to low-income clients;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators do hereby encourage state supreme courts and their respective bar associations, both state and local, to support pro bono emeritus rules and to promote participation in pro bono emeritus programs to help address the growing unmet civil legal needs of low-income clients.

Adopted as proposed by the CCJ/COSCA Elders and the Courts Committee at the Conference of State Court Administrators 2015 Midyear Meeting on December 5, 2015 and at the Conference of Chief Justices 2016 Midyear Meeting on February 3, 2016.