

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 02/02/2015

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[Insert Organization] Supports the Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid

On [insert date][insert name of organization] joined the efforts of the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Louisiana State Bar Association and key Louisiana legal aid organizations by adopting a resolution supporting the **Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid**. The campaign will raise funds for civil legal aid and increase awareness of the growing civil legal needs of our indigent citizens.

Civil legal aid provides free legal assistance to those who would otherwise go unrepresented: women who are victims of domestic violence, children who need a stable home or special education, the elderly whose economic security or health care is in jeopardy, consumers impacted by improper lending practices, communities impacted by disasters and many more. Unlike criminal cases, there is no constitutional guarantee of counsel in civil cases.

Declines in funding combined with Louisiana's high poverty place our already challenged legal aid system in crisis. "Our civil legal aid programs will not survive without our help. Assistance from the legal community is critical to maintaining and developing resources that will provide low income Louisiana citizens meaningful access to the justice system," H. Minor Pipes III, LBF President.

Funding for civil legal aid will have a ripple effect, impacting not only the families served, but the community at large. Schools, businesses, government agencies and the state as a whole benefit from resolving civil legal problems. To learn more about the campaign or to make a donation, contact Laura Sewell at the Louisiana Bar Foundation, 504-561-1046 or laura@raisingthebar.org. Visit our website <http://www.raisingthebar.org/campaign/>

Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) entity organized under the state of Louisiana. As the largest state funder of legal aid, the LBF supports programs providing free legal services for the poor in all 64 parishes. Since 1989, the LBF has distributed more than \$60 million throughout Louisiana to help address the legal needs of indigent citizens, provide a basic understanding of the law, and assist with improvements to the justice system.

The LBF exists to preserve, honor and improve our system of justice by funding, developing or otherwise promoting efforts which enhance the legal profession, increase public understanding of the legal system and advance the reality of equal justice under the law.

(or insert your organizations information here)

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