

HR 9093

2013

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating April 3, 2013, as "Legal Aid
3 Day" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, with more than 2.5 million households receiving
6 food stamp assistance and about 60,000 Floridians without
7 shelter, many citizens of this state continue to battle poverty,
8 and

9 WHEREAS, many Floridians still struggle to find full-time
10 jobs, with recent rates of unemployment as high as 7.8 percent
11 and 740,000 Floridians currently out of work, and

12 WHEREAS, with 323,813 Florida homeowners in foreclosure
13 proceedings during 2012, many Floridians struggle to save their
14 homes, and

15 WHEREAS, by passing the Florida Access to Civil Legal
16 Assistance Act, the Florida Legislature has recognized the
17 importance of providing civil legal assistance to the poor and
18 ensuring access to justice for all, and

19 WHEREAS, formed in 1973, Florida Legal Services expanded
20 the availability of civil legal assistance to the poor in this
21 state and has become the lead organization for preserving and
22 improving legal assistance to Florida's most vulnerable citizens
23 in all 67 counties through direct representation, legislative
24 and administrative advocacy, training, technical support, and
25 coordination of local legal aid offices, and

26 WHEREAS, by working with local legal aid attorneys
27 throughout the state, Florida Legal Services has collaborated
28 with state lawmakers to secure legal protections for Medicaid

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29 recipients and people moving from welfare to work, regulation of
30 day-labor operations, protections for the homeless, protections
31 for residential tenants, restrictions on predatory mortgage
32 lending practices, and landmark title loan reforms, as well as
33 protecting access to the courts, and

34 WHEREAS, Florida Legal Services and the state's legal aid
35 attorneys and staff demonstrate commitment, dedication, and
36 excellence in serving this state's most vulnerable and needy
37 citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
40 Florida:

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42 That in honor of the contributions of Florida Legal
43 Services and legal aid attorneys and staff to guaranteeing
44 access to justice for all Floridians, April 3, 2013, is
45 designated as "Legal Aid Day" in the State of Florida.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
47 presented to each legal aid/service attorney in this state as a
48 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.