

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2000-17T

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRO BONO POLICY
FOR ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED IN THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, one of the many challenges facing our legal system today is meeting the legal needs of citizens unable to pay for legal assistance;

WHEREAS, the magnitude of these needs has increased in recent years with the growing complexity of our legal process;

WHEREAS, the Taft Administration seeks to encourage and facilitate efforts by attorneys employed by the State of Ohio to provide pro bono legal services within their communities and to become involved in Bar Association and other activities seeking to improve the legal system;

WHEREAS, it is in the public's interest to encourage and facilitate these services and activities;

WHEREAS, public lawyers, like all lawyers, have an ethical responsibility to provide pro bono legal services to the poor under the Code of Professional Responsibility adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio;

WHEREAS, the Taft Administration seeks to implement a policy that will encourage and facilitate lawyers employed by the State of Ohio to more easily satisfy their professional responsibility;

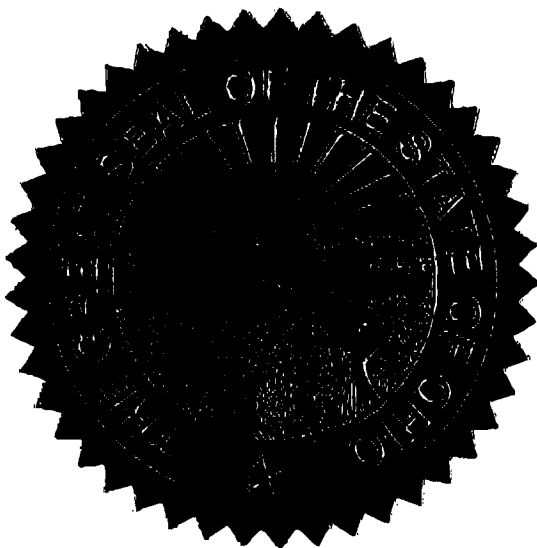
WHEREAS, many pro bono legal service programs, as well as bar association activities, also broaden and enhance the professional skills of public-sector lawyers;

WHEREAS, these activities often expose public sector attorneys to new areas of the law and different approaches to solving problems, counseling clients, negotiating resolutions and dealing with other professionals in real world settings;

WHEREAS, a policy promoting and facilitating the delivery of pro bono legal services and activities designed to improve our legal system by State attorneys has other benefits consistent with the public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Taft, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Ohio do hereby establish a Pro Bono Policy for attorneys employed in the Executive Branch of State Government. A copy of this policy is attached hereto and made a part of this Order.

Effective with this Order, I revoke all Executive Orders previously issued which are inconsistent with this Order.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at Columbus, this 12th day of June, in the year Two Thousand.

Bob Taft

Bob Taft, Governor

ATTEST:

J. Kenneth Blackwell
Secretary of State

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio

on June 12, 2002

J. KENNETH BLACKWELL
Secretary of State

Per *J. Kenneth Blackwell*