

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 160

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARY CARTER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates June 2, 2021, as Civil Legal Aid Day at the state capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Wednesday, June 2, 2021, as Civil Legal Aid Day at the state capitol.

3 WHEREAS, even though the outcome of civil legal matters often results in life-  
4 altering consequences, indigent citizens have no right to counsel in civil matters; and

5 WHEREAS, a basic tenet of a just society is the provision of equal access to legal  
6 services, a tenet that is essential to the achievement of fairness in our civil justice system;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, a foundation of our legal system is access to legal services, regardless  
9 of a citizen's ability to pay; and

10 WHEREAS, at 20%, Louisiana's poverty rate is among the nation's highest, and an  
11 estimated 230,000 poor Louisiana citizens will need legal services each year; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2020, the Acadiana Legal Service Corporation and the Southeast  
13 Louisiana Legal Services Corporation helped 32,494 people to achieve increased access to  
14 safety, employment, and security; and

15 WHEREAS, the Acadiana Legal Service Corporation and the Southeast Louisiana  
16 Legal Service Corporation provide legal representation in merited cases to Louisiana's poor  
17 and work to ensure equal access and justice for all; and

18 WHEREAS, these organizations help historically disadvantaged constituents with  
19 legal matters, including veterans seeking service benefits, victims of domestic violence  
20 seeking protection against abusers, senior citizens fighting consumer fraud, homeowners  
21 opposing unlawful foreclosure, and parents seeking child support; and

1           WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all stakeholders in Louisiana's justice system  
2 to ensure access to legal services; and

3           WHEREAS, each year, Louisiana attorneys provide hundreds of thousands of hours  
4 in volunteer legal services; and

5           WHEREAS, a study commissioned by the Louisiana Bar Foundation found that the  
6 total net social return on investment for Louisiana's legal aid programs during the 2020 fiscal  
7 year was 918%, so for every dollar the state invests in Louisiana's civil legal aid providers,  
8 these programs deliver \$9.18 in immediate and long-term financial benefits; and

9           WHEREAS, investment in civil legal aid benefits families, schools, businesses,  
10 government agencies, and the state as a whole.

11           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Wednesday, June 2, 2021, as Civil Legal Aid  
13 Day at the state capitol and does hereby extend sincere thanks to the caring professionals  
14 who provide civil legal aid to the citizens of Louisiana.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 160 Original

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