THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 69 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY COSTA, TEPLITZ, KITCHEN, FERLO, TARTAGLIONE, STACK AND RAFFERTY, MARCH 20, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 20, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the United States Supreme
2   Court decision in Gideon v. Wainwright that affirmed the
3   right to counsel in criminal cases.

4   WHEREAS, March 18, 2013, marked the 50th anniversary of the

5 landmark legal decision of the United States Supreme Court in

6 *Gideon v. Wainwright*; and

7   WHEREAS, The important decision announced that the right to

8 counsel in criminal cases as provided by the Sixth Amendment to

9 the Constitution of the United States was a fundamental right

10 and that it applied to the states through the Fourteenth

11 Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

12   WHEREAS, The decision and the story concerning it were

13 memorialized in the book by Anthony Lewis entitled *Gideon's*

14 *Trumpet* which has been listed as required reading for some first

15 year law students, and the book was later depicted in a film of

16 the same name starring Henry Fonda; and

17   WHEREAS, The impact of that historic judicial decision was

18 the creation and expansion of the public defender system in the

1 United States for the representation of indigent offenders in

2 criminal cases; and

3   WHEREAS, The importance of the public defender system in this

4 Commonwealth and indigent defense was the subject of a Joint

5 State Government Commission Report issued in December 2011 that

6 was established by Senate Resolution 42 of 2007; therefore be it

7   RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the 50th anniversary of

8 the United States Supreme Court decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*

9 that affirmed the right to counsel in criminal cases; and be it

10 further

11   RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth recognize the essential work

12 of the men and women who provide this fundamental service in the

13 criminal justice system.