
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 455 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DEAN, BOBACK, McNEILL, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, FREEMAN
AND SOLOMON, AUGUST 24, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, AUGUST 24, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to require pro bono
2 legal service as a condition of admission to the Pennsylvania
3 Bar.

4 WHEREAS, The practice of law requires commitment to
5 individuals who lack resources to the legal system; and

6 WHEREAS, The pressing economic situation, nationally and in
7 this Commonwealth, has reduced access to legal services; and

8 WHEREAS, Rules 6.1 through 6.5 of the Rules of Professional
9 Conduct (relating to public service), encourage pro bono legal
10 service; and

11 WHEREAS, Specifically, Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional
12 Conduct provides that:

13 "A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A
14 lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing
15 professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of
16 limited means or to public service or charitable groups or
17 organizations, by service in activities for improving the law,
18 the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial

1 support for organizations that provide legal services to persons
2 of limited means";
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Applicants for admission to the Bar of the Supreme
5 Court of Pennsylvania will achieve educational and social value
6 by participating in pro bono legal service; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of New York has recently required pro bono
8 legal service of applicants for admission to the New York State
9 Bar; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Supreme
11 Court of Pennsylvania to amend Rule 203(b) of the Pennsylvania
12 Bar Admission Rules (relating to admission of graduates of
13 accredited and unaccredited institutions) by requiring up to 50
14 hours of supervised pro bono service in compliance with Rules
15 6.1 through 6.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
18 the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.