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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**NATIONAL PRO BONO DAY 2010**

On Monday 17 May this year Australia will have its second National Pro Bono Day which will be the first day of National Law Week. National Pro Bono Day was first initiated by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre in 2009 and aims to celebrate the outstanding pro bono commitment of the legal profession in ensuring access to justice for marginalised and disadvantaged Australians. It was developed as part of Law Week so as to highlight one of the activities lawyers have to celebrate – their unselfish giving back to the communities in which they exist.

Both the US and the UK have a full National Pro Bono Week. The UK national pro bono week has occurred every year since 2003. The US had its first national pro bono week last year but neither of them have a National Law Week like Australia so National Pro Bono Day has been incorporated into Law Week.

The centrepiece of National Pro Bono Day is the Walk for Justice occurring simultaneously in four state capitals and also in London and New York. It is a fundraiser for the pro bono clearing houses and everybody is encouraged to register to walk through the

Some firms will release reports of their pro bono activities for the past year - others will have an event to thank those lawyers who have made a valuable pro bono contribution to their community.

Members of the profession are encouraged to mark this day by walking for justice and developing other activities to celebrate the profession's pro bono contribution.

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