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March 8, 2016 proclaimed “Illinois Legal Aid Online Day” in Illinois
Governor lauds ILAO’s “vital role” in state justice system

CHICAGO, IL - March 3, 2016 - To recognize Illinois Legal Aid Online’s 15th anniversary, Governor Bruce Rauner has proclaimed March 8th, 2016 as Illinois Legal Aid Online Day in the state of Illinois.

Since its formation in 2001, Illinois Legal Aid Online’s legal self-help websites have been visited 17 million times, with 3 million of those visits in 2015, making it by far the most accessed legal aid resource in the state. By using innovative technology, ILAO has helped level the playing field for lower-income and vulnerable Illinois residents who can’t afford a lawyer so they can solve their civil legal problems, like eviction, divorce, domestic violence, foreclosure and more. ILAO increases access to justice by simplifying a complex legal system so that people can better understand their rights, make informed decisions and represent themselves when forced to do so.

In his proclamation, Governor Rauner acknowledges that ILAO’s “service to millions of people throughout the State of Illinois has transformed how those in need of legal help learn about, understand and solve their civil legal problems.”

Illinois Legal Aid Online has organized a number of activities on March 8th to celebrate its 15th anniversary, including a free CLE program for lawyers, an online fundraising and social media campaign, and an after work happy hour hosted by its Young Professionals Board.

The marquis event on March 8, 2016 will be a free CLE program sponsored by Chicago law firm, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP. The program, entitled “Email and Clouds and #Hashtags, Oh My!,” will explore the timely topic of a lawyer’s ethical obligation to be technologically competent. This event will feature experts who will discuss the ethical rules and risks that lawyers face in the digital age. Panelists include Will Hornsby, Staff Counsel, American Bar Association; Catherine Sanders-Reach, Director Law Practice Management & Technology, The Chicago Bar Association; Greg Leighton, Partner, Neal Gerber & Eisenberg; and Dennis Garcia, Assistant General Counsel, Microsoft Corporation. The event will be held from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Neal Gerber’s offices at 2 N LaSalle St., 17th Floor.

The happy hour event will take place from 5:30-7:30pm at Elephant & Castle on 111 W. Adams Street. Tickets are $30.
To register for the CLE program, happy hour and other activities planned for March 8th, visit IllinoisLegalAidOnline.org/events.

About Illinois Legal Aid Online:

Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) is a nationally-recognized, groundbreaking statewide technology center for legal services. Since 2001, ILAO has lowered barriers to the law so that people can understand their legal options, make informed decisions, and represent themselves in court. ILAO leverages technology to put the law within reach for all Illinoisans regardless of their location, income and education. For more information, please visit IllinoisLegalAidOnline.org.