

2015-J1267

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Thomas J. O'Connor upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Brigid Nolan Memorial Award by the Legal Project

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Thomas J. O'Connor upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Brigid Nolan Memorial Award by the Legal Project which was celebrated at the Legal Project's Pro Bono Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, at the Century House in Latham, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Brigid Nolan Memorial Award is given to an attorney who through his or her dedication to pro bono service with the Legal Project, has helped a victim of domestic violence to begin life anew; and

WHEREAS, Thomas J. O'Connor graduated from Albany Law School in 1974, and joined the Schenectady County District Attorney's Office; he served as the Chief Assistant District Attorney when he entered private practice in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Today, this esteemed man is a partner at Hiscock and Barley where his practice is focused on insurance coverage and commercial litigation; and

WHEREAS, Committed to giving back to his community, Thomas J. O'Connor is the Vice President of the Legal Aid Society's Board of Directors; he has also served since 2008 as a co-Chair of the Legal Aid Society's

"Justice for All" Campaign which raises nearly \$300,000 annually to fund legal services for the poor; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Thomas J. O'Connor joined the Legal Project's Domestic Violence Legal Connections Program Panel, through which he provides pro bono assistance to victims of domestic violence; he has often demonstrated his willingness to take on a case on a moment's notice; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his pro bono service, Thomas J. O'Connor has helped to fill the gap of unmet legal needs in New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Thomas J. O'Connor upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Brigid Nolan Memorial Award by the Legal Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Thomas J. O'Connor.