



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, in 1961, Clarence Earl Gideon, whose request for public legal council was denied, faced a five-year prison sentence on charges of stealing \$5 in change and a few bottles of beer and soda from a Florida pool hall; and*

*WHEREAS, after the Florida Supreme Court denied his Habeas Corpus petition, Gideon appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which reviewed his case and ruled unanimously in Gideon v. Wainwright on March 18, 1963 that Gideon's conviction was unconstitutional because Gideon was denied representation at trial; and*

*WHEREAS, the United States Constitution guarantees, through the Sixth Amendment, the right to counsel for children and adults alike, as essential to Due Process and to a fair trial; and*

*WHEREAS, upon retrial with public defender representation, Gideon was acquitted on all charges; and*

*WHEREAS, Gideon's promise of representation remains unfulfilled in many ways, and indigent defense services across the country are woefully underfunded and understaffed, putting poor people at greater risk of being wrongly convicted; and*

*WHEREAS, the dedicated members of the Colorado Public Defender system believe that the single overriding objective for the Office of the State Public Defender, which was established in 1970, is to provide zealous and effective representation for indigent individuals who are charged with a crime in Colorado;*

*Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 18, 2013, in honor of*

### ***THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIDEON V. WAINWRIGHT DECISION***

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado, this eighteenth day of  
March, 2013*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Hickenlooper".

*John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor*

