



THE STATE BAR
OF CALIFORNIA

ATTACHMENT C

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARGARET M. MORROW

520 S. GRAND AVENUE, 8th FLOOR, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071

(213) 622-0300 Fax Number: (213) 622-3799

February 1, 1994

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504

Re: FYI 1994 Budget Rescission Legislation (S 1608)

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As President of the State Bar of California, I am writing to convey to you the State Bar's strong support for an adequately funded Legal Services Corporation. I am also writing to express our concern that proposals to cut the budget deficit threaten to reduce the amount of funding available for this already under-funded program.

We know the significant impact the budget deficit has on the nation's economy. Reducing Legal Services Corporation's funding, however, would have a devastating impact on the poor, the homeless, the disabled, and the many other disadvantaged members of our society who depend on the services they receive from their local legal aid offices. Such a funding reduction, moreover, would have an infinitesimally small impact on the budget deficit.

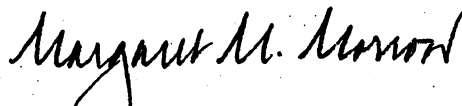
We applauded the significant increase in the FY 1994 appropriation for the Legal Services Corporation, and we thank you for your efforts in obtaining that increase. We entreat you now to do everything in your power to protect this long-overdue increase from erosion.

The continued effectiveness of the Legal Services Corporation is vital to the justice system and to millions of Americans who depend on the legal assistance the Corporation makes possible. Study after study reveals that we currently meet only 15% to 20% of the legal needs of the poor. The \$400 million appropriation for this year is essential to maintain even that level of service.

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
February 1, 1994
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Thank you in advance for your continued support of this key program. We know you will approach the hard choices involved in addressing the budget deficit with wisdom and vision.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret M. Morrow". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

MARGARET M. MORROW
President



**THE STATE BAR
OF CALIFORNIA**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COLIN W. WIED

1200 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 716, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

(619) 234-7144 Fax Number: (619) 234-4875

May 23, 1989

The Honorable Alan Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cranston:

As President of the State Bar of California, I am writing, with unanimous consent of the Board of Governors, to convey to you the State Bar's strong support for an adequately funded Legal Services Corporation and to express the State Bar Board's heightened concerns about the current Legal Services Corporation Board's actions that are clearly contrary to the purposes the Corporation was created to serve.

I would be remiss, however, if I did not take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the State Bar for the strong bipartisan support given to the federally funded legal services effort by the Congress over the last eight years. The Congress stepped in at a critically important time to provide the leadership and direction that was not forthcoming from the administration or from those in charge of the Legal Services Corporation. Indeed, support from the Congress remained strong in the face of recommendations from the administration and the Corporation for zero-funding or severely reduced funding. We thank you for that support.

The State Bar of California has a long history of speaking out in support of the enactment of rational policies by the Legal Services Corporation and in favor of full funding or increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation. As I am sure you are aware, the State Bar of California has, as well, spoken out on numerous occasions against unwise and ill-conceived regulatory action by the Legal Services Corporation.

Over the past several years, the Legal Services Corporation has established a pattern of practices and policies that are viewed by the organized bar and supporters of legal services for the poor as inimical to the interests of providing legal services to the poor in this country.

In requesting an adequately funded Legal Services Corporation, with appropriate restrictions that would prevent the current Board of Directors from implementing changes that would

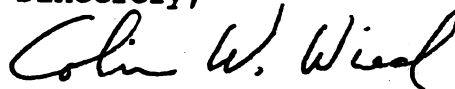
The Honorable Alan Cranston
May 23, 1989
Page Two

be detrimental to the program's well-being, the State Bar also is seeking prompt appointment and confirmation of a new, supportive Board of the Legal Services Corporation.

With this action, the State Bar Board of Governors is joining hands with bar leaders across the country, including the American Bar Association, in asking that you take the necessary action to place the Legal Services Corporation in the hands of people who believe in the program and will work to expand it. All of us are fully committed to equal access to justice as provided to the poor through adequately funded legal services programs with the ability to fully represent eligible clients -- a commitment obviously not shared by the current Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation. The State Bar of California recognizes the importance of other measures and has been an innovator in new sources of funding and in increasing services of the private bar to indigents. But none of these measures can replace a diminished Legal Services Corporation budget. Therefore, we also urge you to increase funding for the program.

We urge the Congress to pass a reauthorization bill for the Legal Services Corporation which faithfully adheres to the original Act's mandate for providing "high quality legal assistance to those who would be otherwise unable to obtain adequate counsel" while ensuring that the program remains "free from the influence of or use by it of political measures" and that program attorneys have "full freedom to protect the best interests of their clients in keeping with the canons of ethics and the high standards of legal services."

Sincerely,



Colin W. Wied, President
State Bar of California

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BAR PRESIDENTS

The organization of the nation's present, past and future bar leaders

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Contact: Julie M. Strandlie, ABA Governmental Affairs Office
jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org, 202-662-1764

April 20, 2010

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives and Senators:

As Presidents of State and Territorial Bar Associations and national Bars of Color, we urge Congress to work together to strengthen and improve the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) by providing at least \$435 million in funding and by enacting bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the program for the first time since 1981.

Thanks to your efforts and strong bipartisan support, for FY 2010 Congress provided a much-needed \$30 million increase bringing the annual appropriation up to \$420 million. This increase will help thousands of the most vulnerable Americans access critical legal assistance in matters where their home, their safety and their independence are at stake.

This year, we are asking Congress to provide another increase of at least \$15 million as the next step toward closing the justice gap and meeting the critical need that exists today because of the rise in foreclosures, unemployment and related issues resulting from the economic downturn. The President has requested \$435 million; the House of Representatives last year approved \$440 million.

At the beginning of the recession in 2008, 54 million Americans (including 18.5 million children) qualified for federally funded legal assistance. The 2009 LSC Justice Gap study reaffirms that one in every two individuals who qualified for and actually *sought* assistance from LSC-funded programs was denied help because of a lack of resources; even worse, in foreclosure cases, LSC-funded programs must turn away two eligible clients for every client served. The justice gap has grown and is likely to continue to grow this year as our country struggles to emerge from the current economic crisis. At the same time demand for help has increased, other major sources of funding for legal aid (including state appropriations, private giving and Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts revenue) are declining or are under severe stress.

The low-income and disadvantaged Americans who depend on LSC-funded legal aid organizations include: people facing wrongful foreclosure of their homes due to predatory lending and other consumer fraud; women and children victimized by domestic violence; veterans denied the benefits our country promised them; and many other vulnerable members of our communities. Whether these people have access to the legal help they need could mean the difference between shelter and homelessness; medical assistance and unnecessary physical suffering; food on a family's table and hunger; economic stability and bankruptcy; productive work and unemployment. The failure to resolve their basic legal issues causes even greater hardship for them and often leads to their reliance on other government programs.

LSC currently funds 136 local programs serving every county, state and Congressional District in the United States and its territories. These local programs provide direct services to approximately one million constituents who struggle to get by on incomes below or near the poverty line.

Bar Presidents' Letter
April 20, 2010

The bipartisan LSC Board requested \$516.5 million for FY 2011 in its attempt to close the justice gap over the next several years. Without continued incremental increases in federal funding, many more will be denied assistance in the future. We request your support to increase LSC funding to at least \$435 million to help meet this urgent need.

Finally, LSC has not been reauthorized since 1981. Over those almost 30 years, many things have changed in the delivery of legal services and in corporate governance. For the first time in almost 20 years, legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate to reauthorize the program. We urge Congress to work together this year to come to an agreement on a reauthorization bill that will not only improve the efficiency and the delivery of legal services to low-income persons, but strengthen governance and accountability.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Mary T. Torres
National Conference of Bar Presidents

Thomas J. Methvin
Alabama State Bar

Jesse H. Diner
The Florida Bar

Charles E. English, Jr
Kentucky Bar Association

Sidney K. Billingslea
Alaska Bar Association

Bryan Cavan
State Bar of Georgia

Kim M. Boyle
Louisiana State Bar
Association

Raymond A. Hanna
State Bar of Arizona

Hugh R. Jones
Hawaii State Bar Association

Geraldine G. Sanchez
Maine State Bar Association

Donna C. Pettus
Arkansas Bar Association

Román D. Hernández
Hispanic National Bar
Association

Thomas C. Cardaro
Maryland State Bar
Association

Howard B. Miller
The State Bar of California

Douglas L. Mushlitz
Idaho State Bar

Valerie A. Yarashus
Massachusetts Bar
Association

David M. Johnson
Colorado Bar Association

John G. O'Brien
Illinois State Bar Association

Charles R. Toy
State Bar of Michigan

Francis J. Brady
Connecticut Bar Association

Roderick H. Morgan
Indiana State Bar Association

Leo I. Brisbois
Minnesota State Bar
Association

Benjamin Strauss
Delaware State Bar
Association

Jane V. Lorentzen
The Iowa State Bar
Association

James G. Flood
The Bar Association of the
District of Columbia

Thomas E. Wright
Kansas Bar Association

George R. Fair
The Mississippi Bar

Bar Presidents' Letter
April 20, 2010

H. A. "Skip" Walther
The Missouri Bar

Cynthia K. Smith
State Bar of Montana

Joseph J. Centeno
National Asian Pacific
American Bar Association

Mavis T. Thompson
National Bar Association

Lael R. Echo-Hawk
National Native American
Bar Association

Michael F. Kinney
Nebraska State Bar
Association

Kathleen J. England
State Bar of Nevada

James J. Tenn, Jr.
New Hampshire Bar
Association

Allen A. Etish
New Jersey State Bar
Association

Stephen S. Shanor
State Bar of New Mexico

Michael E. Getnick
New York State Bar
Association

John R. Wester
North Carolina Bar
Association

Barbara B. Weyher
North Carolina State Bar

Jane L. Dynes
State Bar Association of
North Dakota

Barbara J. Howard
Ohio State Bar Association

Allen M. Smallwood
Oklahoma Bar Association

Kathleen A. Evans
Oregon State Bar

Clifford E. Haines
Pennsylvania Bar Association

Arturo L. Hernández
Puerto Rico Bar Association

Victoria M. Almeida
Rhode Island Bar Association

Fred W. Suggs, Jr.
South Carolina Bar

Bob L. Morris
State Bar of South Dakota

Gail Vaughn Ashworth
Tennessee Bar Association

Roland K. Johnson
State Bar of Texas

Stephen W. Owens
Utah State Bar

Eileen Morris Blackwood
Vermont Bar Association

Ruth Miller
Virgin Islands Bar
Association

Jon D. Huddleston
Virginia State Bar

Stephen D. Busch
Virginia Bar Association

Salvador A. Mungia
Washington State Bar
Association

Stephen R. Crislip
West Virginia Bar
Association

Sandra M. Chapman
West Virginia State Bar

Douglas W. Kammer
State Bar of Wisconsin

William Hiser
Wyoming State Bar