

1 LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
4 OPEN SESSION

5
6 Monday, November 30, 2009
7 2:43 p.m.

8
9 3333 K Street, N.W. 3rd Floor
10 Washington, D.C. 20007

11 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

12 Frank B. Strickland, Chair

13 Thomas A. Fuentes

Sarah Singleton

14 Herbert S. Garten

Thomas R. Meites

15 Michael D. McKay

Jonann C. Chiles

16 Bernice Phillips

Laurie Mikva

17 STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT:

18 Jeff Schanz, LSC/OIG

Karen Sarjeant, LSC

Linda Perle, CLASP

John Constance, LSC

19 Charles Jeffress, LSC

Kathleen Connors, LSC/GRPA

John Levi, LSC

Sean Driscoll, LSC/GRPA

20 Sean Driscoll, LSC/GRPA

Steve Barr, LSC/GRPA

Karen Dorier, LSC

Julie Strandlie, ABA

21 Robert E. Stein, ABA

Chuck Greenfield, LSC/OPP

Mattie Cohan, LSC

David Levine, Groom Law

22 Mark Freedman, LSC/OLA

Ronald Merryman, LSC/OIG

Tom Coogan, LSC/OIG

Victor M. Fortunato, LSC/OLA

Alice Dickerson, LSC/OHR

Atitaya Pratoomtong LSC/OLA

Robert J. Grey, Jr., LSC

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I now want to convene a
3 meeting of the board of directors. And the first item
4 is to approve the agenda.

M O T I O N

5
6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Is there a motion to
7 approve the agenda?

8 MR. FUENTES: Move approval.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Second?

10 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Those in favor, please
12 say aye.

13 (Chorus of ayes.)

14 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed, nay.

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The ayes have it, and
17 the agenda is approved.

18 Next is consider an act on whether to
19 authorize an executive session of the board to address
20 the items listed below under "Closed Session" on the
21 agenda. Is there a motion to that --

22 MR. FUENTES: Mr. Chairman?

1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes?

2 MR. FUENTES: We will do that. But I'm
3 wondering if I could just take one moment for personal
4 privilege before we do that.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, sir.

6 MR. FUENTES: If we could do that. I know we
7 are all so unsure about how many times we are going to
8 gather again as a board.

9 And I want to express my appreciation and
10 thanks to my colleagues on the board, to all of my
11 colleagues on the board, and to our management team.
12 In our board book, you see it lists a red list with the
13 members of the board, and a green list with the members
14 of our executive staff.

15 And, as an extension of my personal
16 appreciation, I would like to present to you, Mr.
17 Chairman, a copy of a book called "Sacred Ground," that
18 I had the privilege of having a hand in its preparation
19 and publication. It's published by our own Regnery
20 Publishing, and it's a tribute to America's veterans.
21 It's written by my good friend Tom Ruck, with a forward
22 by Bob Dole.

1 I'm going to have copies here for all members
2 of the board. I am asking that we could send copies to
3 those who are not here with us today, and the copies
4 could be distributed to our management team with my
5 personal appreciation.

6 On page 183 Tom was kind enough to acknowledge
7 my participation in the book, and I am very proud of
8 that. So thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Tom, what a wonderful
10 gesture. This is a fabulous book.

11 (Applause.)

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you very much for
13 your generosity and thoughtfulness.

14 M O T I O N

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. Now I will
16 entertain a motion to authorize an executive session of
17 the board to consider the items listed on the agenda
18 for closed session. Is there a motion to that effect?

19 MR. FUENTES: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: A second?

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All those in favor,

1 please say aye.

2 (Chorus of ayes.)

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed, nay.

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The ayes have it. We
6 are now in closed session.

7 (Whereupon, at 2:45 p.m., the meeting was
8 adjourned to closed session. Open session resumed at
9 3:18 p.m.)

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1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We are resuming the open
2 session portion of the board of directors meeting. And
3 Herb, did you have an additional item to report during
4 the open session?

5 MR. GARTEN: I did.

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Go ahead.

7 MR. GARTEN: We have a resolution that is an
8 equivalent to an amendment to our employee handbook
9 regarding thrift plans. We passed a resolution,
10 prospective resolution, effective January 1. And this
11 resolution -- and all of you board members were present
12 while we discussed this; I'm not going into
13 detail -- but this resolution is required in order for
14 management to amend the handbook. And I am looking at
15 a resolution on page 13 of the board book.

16 Does everybody have it? Or else I'll read it.
17 It isn't that long.

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No, I think everybody's
19 got it in the board book.

20 MR. GARTEN: All right.

21 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: On page 13.

22 MR. GARTEN: So, unless there are further

1 questions, I will ask for a motion for board approval
2 of --

3 M O T I O N

4 MR. FUENTES: Move approval on the recommended
5 action.

6 MR. GARTEN: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Is there a second?

8 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Seconded by Bernice
10 Phillips-Jackson.

11 Any discussion on the motion?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All those in favor,
14 please say aye.

15 (Chorus of ayes.)

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed, nay.

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The ayes have it, and
19 the resolution is adopted.

20 Is there anything else from your committee,
21 Herb?

22 MR. GARTEN: No.

1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay.

2 MR. GARTEN: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The next item on the
4 agenda is to consider and act on the annual performance
5 evaluation of the inspector general. Tom Meites, are
6 you going to make that report?

7 MR. MEITES: Our committee met with the
8 inspector general. We had been provided before the
9 meeting with substantial materials from the inspector
10 general, including his 2009 work plan, the -- and the 2
11 semi-annual reports he had submitted to Congress. We
12 were aided in our evaluation by the fact that we had
13 all, as board members, had the opportunity to work
14 closely with the inspector general.

15 He told us that he had stressed with his staff
16 this year production and performance, that he had hoped
17 to add three more staff members in the coming year to
18 bring his staff from 25 to 28. He urged us to explore
19 any of the activities that he had reported in the
20 documents he provided us, too. I don't think any of us
21 felt the need to ask in detail, since we had been
22 reading those reports and being kept abreast during the

1 course of the year.

2 The consensus that emerged from our
3 committee -- and I really urge my fellow board members
4 to give us their views, as well -- is that the
5 inspector general had been a vigorous proponent of
6 efficiency in the operation of his office, had assisted
7 management and the board in efficient management of our
8 tasks, had fulfilled his duties externally, to oversee
9 our grantees, and had fulfilled his duty internally, to
10 oversee both the board's activities and management's
11 activities.

12 I think that all of us share a feeling -- and
13 I would like to hear other board members' views on
14 this -- that the inspector general has been candid with
15 us, and candid with management, that he has at all
16 times -- and particularly those of us in the audit
17 committee have appreciated the chance to work with him
18 on the specific problems that have arisen.

19 I believe our consensus evaluation was that he
20 is doing the job that both we would like him to do, and
21 as we understand what Congress wants the inspector
22 general to do, also the job that Congress would like

1 him to do.

2 Could I have the -- I would like very much to
3 solicit views of other board members.

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Comments from other
5 board members? Tom Fuentes?

6 MR. FUENTES: Mr. Chairman, I would concur
7 with the report offered by the good chairman of the
8 committee. I would also like to say that I think it is
9 a tribute to the inspector general that he has made
10 special outreach.

11 And I think it is also, quite frankly -- if
12 not self-aggrandizing, but for the board -- I think it
13 has reflected in these past -- this past year a
14 maturation of the board in our utilization of the
15 office of inspector general. I think that the board
16 members have come to better understand the usefulness,
17 the availability of the office, which is a very
18 important tool in our tool box, resources, to do our
19 job as board members.

20 And of course, it is facilitated by the
21 pleasant and encouraging attitude of the inspector
22 general. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any other board members
2 have comments?

3 MR. GARTEN: Well, I concur with what both my
4 fellow board members have said. And I always pick up a
5 new word when you speak. "Maturization." So I have
6 matured.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. GARTEN: How much more --

9 MR. FUENTES: Consider the alternative.

10 MR. GARTEN: Very good. Well, I mentioned at
11 a committee meeting that in the six-and-a-half years I
12 was exposed to the predecessor -- for five of those
13 years, approximately -- and I can tell you that the
14 last one-and-a-half years has been a very pleasant,
15 cooperative engagement. And I thank you for all your
16 help.

17 MR. MEITES: Mr. Chairman? Go ahead, I'm
18 sorry.

19 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Go ahead, Tom.

20 MR. MEITES: If there are other remarks by the
21 board members? Otherwise, I will --

22 MS. SINGLETON: I have a remark, Tom.

1 MR. MEITES: Go ahead.

2 MS. SINGLETON: I do not want to detract from
3 the comments of the other board members, which I agree
4 with, and I have told Jeff that I have appreciated
5 working with him and with the members of his staff that
6 I have had the opportunity to work with; I have found
7 them to be very professional and knowledgeable,
8 courteous, and I have truly enjoyed it.

9 There is, however, an area that is not
10 directly addressed by the work plan, but I do think it
11 is something that deserves discussion. And that is the
12 budget of the inspector general's office. I don't
13 think the board should or can micromanage the inspector
14 general's budget. I think, under the -- as I
15 understand the new law, he is allowed to turn in his
16 own budget, if he wants.

17 Nevertheless, I think a discussion would be in
18 order. I say that because I looked at a GAO report on
19 certain entities that are comparable to LSC, in that
20 they're not quite federal agencies, but they are what
21 they call -- or what GAO calls -- "designated federal
22 entities."

1 And I saw in there that LSC -- of all those
2 entities -- and they looked at 31 of them -- LSC has
3 the highest percent of its budget devoted to the
4 inspector general's office. I see that it -- that the
5 LSC office of inspector general -- especially when Jeff
6 adds the new folks, they are going to have, you know,
7 more people working for our inspector general than
8 works for the Securities and Exchange Commission
9 inspector general, than works for the FCC inspector
10 general, for a lot of different groups that were listed
11 in this report from GAO.

12 And it seems to me that's something that
13 should be discussed. And maybe everybody would discuss
14 it and come out with yes, we're at an appropriate
15 level. But I think it's at least worth discussing, and
16 in an open and candid and friendly manner without it
17 being seen as, you know, an attempt to interfere, which
18 would not be my intent, at least. So that's my
19 comment.

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Go ahead, Tom.

21 MR. MEITES: Yes, I agree with Sarah. But I
22 would suggest that this is not the forum for it. I

1 suppose it would --

2 MS. SINGLETON: No, I wasn't suggesting we do
3 it now. I was just making a comment --

4 MR. MEITES: And --

5 MS. SINGLETON: -- about what I would like to
6 see in the future.

7 MR. MEITES: Yes. And as I thought about what
8 you're saying, it's not really the finance committee,
9 because he essentially can submit his own budget. So I
10 would suggest that at some point ops and regs pursues
11 what Sarah has raised, to get some idea of scale, and
12 to have a chance for Jeff to present to us the
13 rationale for the size and scope of his office.

14 M O T I O N

15 MR. MEITES: But at this point I would move,
16 if we're done with the comments, that the remarks of
17 the board at this meeting be the performance
18 evaluation.

19 MR. GARTEN: I will second that.

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. Any further
21 discussion?

22 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All those in favor of
2 the motion, please say aye.

3 (Chorus of ayes.)

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed, nay.

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The ayes have it, and
7 the motion is adopted.

8 The next item on the agenda is to consider to
9 act on recommendations related to what actions to take
10 on proposed resolutions revising the LSC's 403(b)
11 thrift plan with regard to the minimum hours
12 requirements for participation, related conforming
13 amendments to the LSC employee handbook, and amendments
14 to the LSC employee handbook regarding merger of LSC's
15 TDA and 403(b) thrift plans.

16 Which of our committees is going to report on
17 that?

18 MR. GARTEN: I will be glad to do it, with
19 help from counsel and Charles. This is a --

20 MR. JEFFRESS: Mr. Chairman, I think that's
21 what we just voted --

22 MR. GARTEN: Yes.

1 MR. JEFFRESS: -- what you just voted on.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We did?

3 MR. GARTEN: Yes.

4 MR. JEFFRESS: Yes.

5 MR. GARTEN: The --

6 MS. SINGLETON: We haven't voted on the one to
7 change the handbook, though.

8 MR. GARTEN: Yes, we did.

9 PARTICIPANT: Yes, we did.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We did?

11 MR. JEFFRESS: You did that in closed session.

12 MS. SINGLETON: No, we didn't. We said that
13 was going to be done in open session.

14 MR. GARTEN: It was done in open session.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, that's -- all
16 right. So, Herb, we took this up at the beginning of
17 this session.

18 MR. GARTEN: I think so, yes.

19 MR. JEFFRESS: Just before the review of the
20 inspector general, you took this up. It was out of
21 order, but you took this up first.

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Well --

1 MS. SINGLETON: Oh, yes. Right, that is
2 right.

3 MR. GARTEN: Is there any doubt about that?

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: However, this particular
5 part that I just went over includes references to the
6 TDA and the 403(b) thrift plan, whereas the previous
7 one I thought did not have that.

8 But if we've covered it, we certainly don't
9 want to do it again.

10 MR. GARTEN: Well, I -- do you agree that it
11 was covered?

12 MR. JEFFRESS: Yes, in closed session, that
13 was the 403(b). And the one you did in open session
14 does have a reference --

15 MR. GARTEN: Yes, that's what I think.

16 MR. JEFFRESS: -- in it to the TDA.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay.

18 MR. GARTEN: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. All right,
20 then. The next item is to consider and act on the
21 proposal for use of the president's discretionary fund.
22 I believe, Herb, you're going to present that. Is that

1 correct?

2 MR. GARTEN: Yes. Some background. A very
3 close friend of President Barnett made a contribution
4 to Legal Services Corporation, designating the fund as
5 available to Helaine Barnett as the Helaine Barnett
6 discretionary fund. The original contribution was in
7 the amount of \$25,000, and Helaine has given the board
8 a proposal for the use of the balance of the funds,
9 which are \$16,489.31, as of October 30, 2009.

10 The funds were used for, in particular, a
11 capitol event where federal funds could not be utilized
12 for that purpose. Helaine has suggested, and has told
13 us for the first time the name of the benefactor, who
14 originally she told us was a close friend of hers,
15 that -- his name is Mr. Nahmad. Nahmad? Is that how
16 you pronounce it? What's his first name? Johnny?

17 MS. BARNETT: Albert.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MS. BARNETT: Al.

20 MR. GARTEN: Excuse me. I sprung that on you.
21 I shouldn't have done that.

22 MS. BARNETT: I call him Al.

1 MR. GARTEN: Al. Well, Al gave us the funds
2 to be used in Helaine's discretion. She has come to
3 our assistance in using a good part of it where we
4 could not use federal funds. And she is suggesting
5 that the balance be established at New York University
6 School of Law. And she tells us that the School of Law
7 has a major focus on public interest law.

8 The program would be designed to mentor
9 qualified and committed law students from NYU School of
10 Law who are interested in pursuing a career in civil
11 legal services to the poor. Specifically, the fellow
12 would receive \$8,200 for a 10-week internship at LSC
13 during the summer months.

14 We propose one fellow for each of two years.
15 The student would work rotating through the following
16 offices at LSC: office of program performance, office
17 of compliance and enforcement, office of legal affairs,
18 and the office of government relations and public
19 affairs.

20 The selection committee for the fellowship
21 would consist of the dean of NYU's law school, LSC's
22 vice president of programs, and Helaine. The committee

1 would interview at least three students and make a
2 recommendation to the LSC president. And they would
3 advertise this fellowship opportunity this December for
4 the summer of 2010.

5 M O T I O N

6 MR. GARTEN: I would like to make a motion to
7 the following effect, that this proposal, a copy of
8 which I have been reading from, will be included as
9 part of the resolution, and that the board establish
10 this intern fellowship program in the name of Helaine
11 M. Barnett, with appropriate documentation in the
12 program elsewhere that the funding came from Mr.
13 Nahmad. That is my motion.

14 MR. MEITES: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any further discussion
16 on the motion?

17 MR. MEITES: One point.

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Go ahead.

19 MR. MEITES: We did ascertain that additional
20 funds could be contributed this fund, with the aim of
21 making it more of a permanent kind of fund.

22 MR. GARTEN: Yes. And I'm sure NYU would be

1 very interested in that.

2 (Laughter.)

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. Let's
4 proceed to a vote on that motion. All in favor, please
5 say aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Opposed, nay.

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And the motion is
10 adopted.

11 MR. GARTEN: Congratulations, Helaine.

12 MS. BARNETT: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The next item on the
14 agenda is public comment. Is there any public comment
15 today?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And then, finally,
18 consider and act on other business. During the report
19 of the search committee -- that was delivered in closed
20 session, but there was a portion of it that really
21 needed to be delivered in open session. And it was a
22 statement that Helaine presented to the search

1 committee, which I will now ask her to present to the
2 open meeting.

3 MS. BARNETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
4 statement to the search committee in closed session was
5 as follows.

6 In order to arrange an orderly transition of
7 the office of president, some members of the board six
8 months ago asked if I would consider staying on until a
9 new president was appointed by the new board.

10 However, with a new board not yet in place,
11 and with an indefinite period of time until a new
12 president could begin, I have concluded, for my own
13 personal planning, that I will leave LSC as its
14 president as of December 31, 2009, in accordance with
15 my contract, and will not be available thereafter to
16 stay on for what now appears to be an unknown
17 transition period.

18 If I might continue, Mr. Chairman?

19 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Go right ahead.

20 MS. BARNETT: Since this is my last board
21 meeting, I would just like to put on the record what a
22 privilege and honor it has been for me to serve as

1 president of the Legal Services Corporation for these
2 past six years. It has been the pinnacle of my career,
3 as a legal aid attorney. And pursuing LSC's important
4 mission has been a most fulfilling experience.

5 I hope all of you leave today, as I do, with
6 the knowledge that we have made a contribution to the
7 cause of equal access to justice for those less
8 fortunate in our country.

9 Of course I must add that we have not done
10 this by ourselves, but with a dedicated management team
11 and staff in Washington, D.C., with the thousands of
12 individuals working in LSC-funded offices every day
13 across the nation, and those who contribute pro bono
14 and are partners in the equal justice community.

15 Our justice gap report has helped shape the
16 dialogue with Congress, and resulted in increased
17 federal funding.

18 Our focus on quality has been embraced by the
19 entire Legal Services community. Having traveled to
20 more than 40 states, visiting with program staff in
21 urban programs, rural programs, statewide programs,
22 seen migrant farm workers, Native American

1 reservations, disaster-struck areas in the Gulf Coast,
2 I have been so impressed by the dedication of
3 LSC-funded staff, and their ability to respond to new
4 and developing challenges, and make a meaningful
5 difference in the lives of our clients.

6 We strengthened our relationship with LSC
7 grantees, with the ABA, with NLADA, with CLASP, with
8 state chief justices, with the private bar, with IOLTA
9 funders, and access to justice commissions. And I
10 believe we have responded effectively to GAO and to OIG
11 recommendations.

12 As I have traveled this journey with you all,
13 I thank you for your friendship, for your support, and
14 most importantly, for your dedication to the cause of
15 equal access to justice for all. Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Please join me in a
18 round of applause for Helaine Barnett.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any comments from board
21 members?

22 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I think the round of
2 applause spoke very clearly.

3 MS. BARNETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
4 you, members of the board.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: One other agenda item at
6 a -- during the closed session, Tom Fuentes presented
7 gifts to board members, and for the staff members who
8 are outlined in our agenda book. And we were so
9 impressed by it, I wanted him to repeat that so you
10 will understand what he presented to all of us. And I
11 will turn it over to Tom to make that presentation.

12 MR. FUENTES: Well, thank you very much, Mr.
13 Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to say it
14 again.

15 I am very proud of a book called "Sacred
16 Ground, a Tribute to America's Veterans," by a dear
17 friend of mine, Tom Ruck. It's a tribute to Americans
18 who have fallen on behalf of our country. All the
19 royalties that were produced by this book, which we
20 published at my publishing house, Regnery, have been
21 donated to the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund for
22 the children of fallen American soldiers.

1 I brought copies for the members of the board,
2 and for our management team today, as an expression of
3 my personal gratitude to each and every one of you for
4 the courtesy and friendships that we have shared during
5 this period of service.

6 I don't know when we will be together again.
7 But I wanted to make some personal expression to each
8 and every one of you, and thank you for your kindness.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you very much,
11 Tom.

12 Before we conclude, I would like to note the
13 presence of Robert Grey, who has joined us this
14 afternoon as an additional one of our board nominees.
15 And we welcome you to today's meeting. Glad you could
16 be with us.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The final item is to
19 consider and act on a motion to adjourn the meeting.

20 Is there such a motion?

21 //

22 //

1 M O T I O N

2 MS. PHILLIPS: So moved.

3 MR. FUENTES: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Those in favor say aye.

5 (Chorus of ayes.)

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We are adjourned. Thank
7 you very much, everyone.

8 (Whereupon, at 3:50 p.m., the meeting was
9 adjourned.)

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