

RESOLUTION OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ON THE PROPOSED STANDARDS FOR PROVIDERS

OF CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, attorneys representing indigent clients should be held to the same high standards of professional conduct as attorneys representing any client; and

WHEREAS, the various states are currently deliberating on the Model Rules of Professional Conduct proposed by the American Bar Association and any deficiencies in those Rules with respect to serving indigent clients shall be addressed then; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Standards for Providers of Civil Legal Services to the Poor define too narrowly how a private legal aid program may be organized and operated and, therefore, may discourage badly needed supplemental private attorney efforts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Standards may adversely affect the Corporation's capacity to fulfill its statutory responsibility to monitor and enforce compliance with federal statutes; and

WHEREAS, some of the proposed Standards may undermine the traditional commitment of the lawyer to his or her individual client in deference to a "client community";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors urges the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants to reconsider its proposed Standards for Providers of Civil Legal Services to the poor in their present form for the reasons stated above and those presented by Basile Uddo to the Standing Committee on September 27, 1985. The Board urges the Standing Committee to give further careful and independent study to whether the professional responsibility of those who deliver legal services to indigent clients is not adequately addressed in the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Adopted: October 11, 1985