A Resolution of The Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors

September 23, 1990

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) supports statutory reform of the Federal legal services program, having adopted a resolution expressing such support on June 25, 1990; and,

Whereas, the Board believes such reform should focus the limited resources entrusted to the Corporation on the recognized needs of indigent clients and should prevent the questionable activities of some legal services programs; and,

Whereas, the Board desires enactment of statutory provisions to retain existing restrictions barring use of LSC funds and private funds for abortion-related litigation and to extend those restrictions expressly to the use of Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts for abortion-related litigation; and,

Whereas, the Board further believes statutory provisions should be enacted to extend similar restrictions barring LSC programs from engaging in redistricting-related litigation; and,

Whereas, the Board seeks legislation to bar LSC programs from participating in cases on behalf of those involved in drug-related criminal activity; and,

Whereas, the Board believes lobbying at any level of government should be barred as an inappropriate activity for LSC-funded lawyers and a diversion from their mission of providing day-to-day legal services to indigent Americans; and,

Whereas, the Board believes the Congress should enact statutory provisions to apply to the lawyers in LSC programs the same prohibitions on client solicitation as apply to lawyers in private practice; and,

Whereas, timekeeping is required in order to ensure the delivery of legitimate legal services to indigent people and to properly effect compliance with the statutory and regulatory provisions applying to the LSC programs; and,

Whereas, the Board believes that the delivery of services would be improved by institution of competition for grants and contracts; and,

Whereas, reform legislation addressing the concerns stated above has been introduced as The Legal Services Reform Act of 1990 by Members of Congress, led by the Honorable Bill McCollum, Harley Staggers, and Charles Stenholm; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, that we urge the Congress to bring needed reform to the Federal legal services program by enacting The Legal Services Reform Act of 1990; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Board authorizes the LSC staff: to provide technical assistance and support to Members of Congress and their staff; to convey the support of the Board for The Legal Services Reform Act of 1990; and to inform Members of Congress about the implications of these and other proposed statutory provisions concerning the Federal legal services program.