

Conference of Chief Justices Conference of State Court Administrators

Government Relations Office
111 2nd Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(866) 941-0229
FAX: (202) 544-0978

CCJ PRESIDENT
Honorable Myron T. Steele
Supreme Court of Delaware
57 The Green
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 739-4214
(302) 739-2004 (fax)

COSCA PRESIDENT
Donald D. Goodnow
Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Supreme Court of New Hampshire
Two Charles Doe Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 513-5401
(603) 513-5454 (fax)

June 10, 2013

Mr. David L. Richardson
Treasurer
Legal Services Corporation
3333 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Mr. Richardson:

On behalf of the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, we respond to the recent notice in the Federal Register whereby the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Board of Directors is seeking public comment on the LSC Budget for FY 2015.

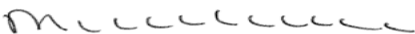
We trust the Board is aware that the Conferences have adopted a series of resolutions in 2002, 2009, 2011, and 2012 in support of adequate public funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Moreover, last year, the Conferences published a policy paper report on "The Importance of Funding for the Legal Services Corporation."

Our policy paper research and the recent White House Forum on Increasing Access to Justice make clear that the depressed national economy is spawning an increase in citizen poverty with a concomitant multiplication of civil legal problems for low-income people. Due to the enduring economic recession and federal budget cuts, LSC and local legal service providers are forced to cut back legal assistance rather than increase capacity. Hence more and more citizens forego legal remedies or feebly represent themselves in cases involving family stability, healthcare, shelter, and livelihood. Contemporaneously many court budgets are just beginning to recover from recession-driven cuts and trial judges continue to manage dockets with very tight appropriations.

In the face of these sobering circumstances, we urge LSC leaders to seek from Congress an FY 2015 appropriation that provides a significant increase above LSC's current appropriations level.

After LSC submits its next budget request to federal policy makers, we are confident that the Conferences will continue to champion the importance of LSC programs to the administration of justice in our country.

Sincerely yours,



Chief Justice Myron T. Steele
President
Conference of Chief Justices



Donald D. Goodnow
President
Conference of State Court Administrators