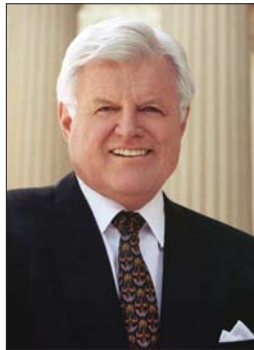


## SEN. KENNEDY: UNCLE SAM MUST DO MORE

I congratulate the Legal Services Corporation for all it has accomplished in the past 30 years to make access to the legal system a reality to those who can't afford it. The Corporation has more than exceeded the great expectations of all of us in



Congress who voted to create it in 1974 and who continue to fight each year for the funds it needs to keep the doors of justice open to everyone. It makes no sense for

Congress to leave local legal aid offices struggling year after year to meet the growing demand for legal services.

The Corporation still hasn't fully recovered from the severe funding cuts made by the Gingrich Congress in 1996, which forced over a hundred legal aid offices across the nation to close, even though the number of persons in poverty continued to go up. The number of Americans eligible for this federal aid is now at an all-time high. It only creates greater hardships and greater dependency on other government programs when people are turned away and their legal problems involving family relationships, domestic violence, health, employment, and housing are left unresolved.

In spite of the obvious unmet need, it's still very inspiring to know that so many of our fellow citizens have benefited from the Corporation's good works over the past 30 years and that the Corporation continues to live up to its ideals so well. The legal services community deserves better from Congress and the White House, and I'll do my best in coming years to see that Uncle Sam upholds his end of the contract.

*Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA)*

## CONGRESSMAN SERRANO TIPS HAT TO LSC

I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to the Legal Services Corporation as you celebrate your 30th anniversary. For three decades you have been making justice possible for those who could not otherwise afford it. LSC began as an attempt to pro-

mote equal access to our system of justice. In the last year alone, you have helped more than one million clients obtain their rights under a system that usually treats those with money better than those without. You have helped low-income Americans receive child support they are due, keep their homes and farms against the odds, and win their fight for workers' rights. The willingness of local programs to fight for those who have no voice is truly inspiring and serves as a wonderful demonstration of our shared American values.

I cannot speak highly enough of individuals who work every day to improve the lives of those around them. On this 30th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, I salute you for your commitment to helping others and for your dedication to the ideals of this nation. I expect continued great things from the LSC in the years to come.

*Representative José Serrano (D-NY)*



## LYONS TO STEP DOWN AS NLADA LEADER

Dear Equal Justice Community:

One of the most important and sacred responsibilities of institutional leadership is to plan and provide for successful transition for new leadership into the future. The National Legal Aid and Defender Association Board of Directors and I—believing that it is best to begin such transition when the organization is strong financially, programmatically, and operationally—began planning for executive succession and transition back in 2001. The result of that planning is that on April 1, 2005, after 33 years in legal services (21 of those at the helm of NLADA), I will turn over the reins of executive leadership to a new president of NLADA.

In each of three decades as chief executive, I and a remarkable group of dedicated advocates, partners and supporters, such as NLADA Board members, front-line attorneys and national and state leaders, have participated in the steady evolution of NLADA into a strong force for equal justice in America. In the face of great challenges, NLADA has become a powerful national

advocate and voice for quality legal representation for those who cannot otherwise afford legal help.

More specifically, NLADA's legislative advocacy work, at critical times, has helped to increase LSC funding and to aid in the creation and preservation of new funding sources, such as preserving the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) as a funding strategy. More than 2,000 equal justice advocates and practitioners participate in our quality training programs each year. The work we do, including our public awareness efforts, our research and evaluation, and our technical assistance programs, ensure continued public support for legal services as a critical component of our democratic value system. At the same time, NLADA has worked to ensure its financial integrity and ability to grow programmatically by securing resources from entrepreneurial ventures and by expanding support from the foundation, legal, and business communities.

Upon turning over the reins of NLADA leadership, I will take on the new role of chairman and CEO of the NLADA Insurance Program, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NLADA. We hope to provide better and more competitively priced insurance to NLADA members and to secure the insurance program as a resource where portions of the proceeds can be reinvested back into the legal services community.

Although we have made strong inroads to justice, we have miles to go before we realize our mission of making real the promise of equal justice in the daily lives of ordinary people. I am confident that as the torch is passed to a new generation of leadership, the time will come when we can at last rejoice in making justice for all a reality.



*Clint Lyons, Esq.  
NLADA President and CEO*