

Working with Our Partners to Build for a Strong Future

2012 was a year of challenge, accomplishment, and opportunity for the Legal Services Corporation.

Our biggest challenge, of course, was the combination of record-high demand for legal services and significantly reduced resources to meet that demand. But we worked to expand and fortify our relationships with our stakeholders and our colleagues involved in funding, promoting, and delivering legal services—Congress, IOLTA programs, the judiciary, bar associations, pro bono organizations, law schools, and the entire provider community—to build for a strong future.

Among the highlights of the year:

- With our new Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, Carol Bergman, we worked to build bipartisan support for LSC funding. We have a compelling case. LSC implements the core American value of access to justice—a value reflected in the very first line of our Constitution and in the closing words of our Pledge of Allegiance. LSC funding is a good investment of taxpayer dollars that returns significant economic benefits for communities and government alike. Recent LSC initiatives demonstrate our commitment to effective management and prudent stewardship of federal funds.
- Our new Vice President for Grants Management, Lynn Jennings, hit the ground running and began implementing the recommendations of LSC's Fiscal Oversight Task Force. Because of her work, LSC's Offices of Program Performance, Compliance and Enforcement, and Information Management are now better integrated to provide enhanced support for and oversight of LSC's grantees.



I visited a number of LSC-funded legal aid programs in 2012. Every visit left me inspired, impressed, and grateful for the talent, resilience, professionalism, passion, and effectiveness of the people I met.

To me, legal aid lawyers are the heroes of the legal profession. They are, as a group, the lowest paid lawyers in the profession. They labor day in and day out with crushing caseloads, with the emotional burden of knowing how many people they are unable to help, and with the insecurity that comes with precarious funding. But they do it gladly, and with a commitment to their clients that is absolutely remarkable. They are making America's promise of equal justice under law real for the people they serve.

I am honored to work with them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Sandman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

James J. Sandman
President
Legal Services Corporation
July 21, 2013

- Our new Chief Information Officer, Peter Campbell, has begun revamping LSC's technology to improve efficiency and facilitate our work with grantees. Peter has a deep background in using technology to maximize performance in non-profit organizations.
- We obtained a \$276,000 grant from the Public Welfare Foundation to bolster LSC's data collection and reporting systems and to give LSC grantees the tools to collect, analyze, and use data to manage their programs for peak effectiveness.