

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, April 7, 2010  
12:11 p.m.

Legal Services Corporation  
3333 K Street, N.W.  
3rd Floor Conference Center  
Washington, D.C. 20007

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- John G. Levi, Chairman
- Martha L. Minow, Vice Chairman
- Sharon L. Browne
- Jonann C. Chiles (by telephone)
- Thomas A. Fuentes
- Robert J. Grey, Jr.
- Charles N.W. Keckler
- Victor B. Maddox
- Thomas R. Meites (by telephone)
- Laurie Mikva
- Sarah M. Singleton (by telephone)
- Victor M. Fortunato, Interim President and General  
Counsel (ex officio)

1 STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT:  
2 Patricia Batie, Acting Corporate Secretary and FOIA  
Officer, Office of Legal Affairs  
3 Katherine Ward, Executive Assistant, Office of  
Legal Affairs  
4 David L. Richardson, Treasurer and Comptroller  
Charles Jeffress, Chief Administrative Officer  
5 Karen J. Sarjeant, Vice President for Programs and  
Compliance  
6 Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General  
Joel Gallay, Special Counsel to the Inspector General,  
7 Office of the Inspector General  
Laurie Tarantowicz, Assistant Inspector General and  
8 Legal Counsel, Office of the Inspector General  
Ronald "Dutch" Merryman, Assistant Inspector General  
9 for Audit, Office of the Inspector General  
David Maddox, Assistant Inspector General for  
10 Management and Evaluation, Office of the Inspector  
General  
11 Thomas Hester, Associate Counsel, Office of the  
Inspector General  
12 John C. Meyer, Director, Office of Information  
Management  
13 John C. Eidleman, Senior Program Counsel, Office of  
Program Performance  
14 Charles Greenfield, Program Counsel III, Office of  
Program Performance  
15 Michael A. Genz, Program Counsel III, Office of  
Program Performance  
16 Sean Driscoll, Special Assistant, Government Relations  
and Public Affairs Office  
17 Stephen Barr, Media Relations Director, Government  
Relations and Public Affairs Office  
18 Treefa Aziz, Government Affairs Representative,  
Government Relations and Public Affairs Office  
19 Helaine Barnett, former LSC President  
Frank Strickland, former LSC Chairman of the Board  
20 Kennett Marshall, Executive Director, FLSC  
Don Saunders, National Legal Aid and Defenders  
21 Association (NLADA)  
Linda Perle, Center for Law & Social Policy (CLASP)  
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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(12:11 p.m.)

MR. FORTUNO: Good afternoon, everyone.

Because this is the first meeting with the new directors, an organizational meeting, I will be calling the meeting to order. It is pursuant to Federal Register notice. A public announcement that was published in the Federal Register announces the meeting for today to start at 12:00 noon Eastern time, and has three substantive agenda items.

Before approval of the agenda, what I will do is ask that the senior member of the board -- and Tom Meites, I say "senior" not referring to age but to tenure on the board, term of service -- and Tom Meites is the senior member of the board by way of term of service.

So I would ask Tom as the senior member to take it over and to go through the approval of agenda and the election of a chairman, and to then turn it over to the new chairperson to go ahead and proceed from there.

MR. MEITES: First of all, can you hear me?

1 MS. MIKVA: Yes.

2 DEAN MINOW: There's quite a bit of an echo.

3 MR. MADDOX: There is an echo.

4 MR. MEITES: First, since I'm not there, Vic,  
5 can you go around the table and introduce who is  
6 present?

7 MR. FORTUNO: Yes. Why don't we start --

8 MS. MIKVA: Laurie Mikva.

9 DEAN MINOW: Martha Minow.

10 MR. MADDOX: Victor Maddox.

11 MR. FORTUNO: Victor Fortunato.

12 MR. LEVI: John Levi.

13 PROFESSOR KECKLER: Charles Keckler.

14 MR. GREY: Robert Grey.

15 MR. FUENTES: Tom Fuentes.

16 MS. BROWNE: Sharon Browne.

17 MR. MEITES: And second, Vic, could you state  
18 for the record that each of the people just [audio  
19 blip] duly nominated by the President were [audio  
20 blip] --

21 MR. FORTUNO: Tom, you're breaking up on us.  
22 We're catching every other word or so. Are you on a

1 speakerphone?

2 MS. CHILES: Vic, this is Jonann. I'm having  
3 [audio blip] hearing Tom.

4 MR. MEITES: All right. Let me try again.

5 Vic, can you state for the record that these  
6 are the persons --

7 JUDGE SINGLETON: I'm sorry, but it's  
8 impossible to hear him. Is the microphone very close  
9 to the speaker?

10 MR. FORTUNO: No. I think it's at the other  
11 end. If anyone is on a speakerphone, it might help --

12 MR. MEITES: All right. Is this better?

13 MR. FORTUNO: Yes. Yes.

14 MR. MEITES: Okay. Let me try again.

15 Vic, can you state for the record that each of  
16 the persons who just spoke were duly nominated by the  
17 President, were confirmed by the Senate, were properly  
18 sworn in, and each of them has accepted the office?

19 MR. FORTUNO: Yes. Each of the six were  
20 nominated, confirmed, duly appointed, and today took  
21 the oath of office.

22 MR. MEITES: Excellent. Well, welcome to the

1 board of the Legal Services Corporation.

2 The first order of business is approval of the  
3 agenda. And if someone is going to so move, please  
4 identify yourself.

5 M O T I O N

6 DEAN MINOW: I move. It's Martha Minow.

7 MR. MEITES: And is the motion seconded?

8 MR. GREY: Second.

9 MR. MEITES: And who spoke?

10 DEAN MINOW: Robert Grey.

11 MR. MEITES: All right. If there's no  
12 discussion, I'll put the matter to a vote.

13 All in favor of approval of the agenda?

14 (A chorus of ayes.)

15 MR. MEITES: Anyone opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. MEITES: All right. The next item is to  
18 consider and act on nominations for chairman of the  
19 board of directors. I will open the floor for  
20 nominations. Are there any nominations?

21 DEAN MINOW: Yes. It's Martha Minow, and I  
22 would like to nominate John Levi, a distinguished

1 member of the Illinois bar, a man who has been devoted  
2 to public service and civic engagement throughout his  
3 career. And I put his name in nomination.

4 MR. MEITES: All right. Is the nomination  
5 seconded?

6 MS. MIKVA: This is Laurie Mikva. I second.

7 MR. MADDOX: Absolutely.

8 MR. MEITES: Any other nominations?

9 DEAN MINOW: We have another second.

10 MR. MEITES: Okay. Please go ahead.

11 MR. FORTUNO: Actually, we have a second and  
12 an "Absolutely."

13 DEAN MINOW: So Victor Maddox gives an  
14 "Absolutely."

15 MR. MEITES: All right. Are there any other  
16 nominations?

17 MR. GREY: Yes. This is Robert Grey. I'd  
18 like to nominate Martha Minow as vice chair of the  
19 board.

20 MR. MEITES: Robert, let me rule that out of  
21 order. That is the next item on the agenda.

22 Let us -- if there are -- let me again ask for



1 any other nominations for chairman of the board.

2 (No response.)

3 MR. MEITES: Hearing none, I will consider the  
4 nominating process closed. Is there any discussion?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. MEITES: If there's no further discussion,  
7 I will put the matter to a vote. All in favor of the  
8 election of John Levi as chairman of the board of Legal  
9 Services Corporation, please say aye.

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 MR. MEITES: Any opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. MEITES: With that, I turn the symbolic  
14 gavel over to John, and wish him the best of luck.

15 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Thank you. And thank you,  
16 Tom. Thank you, everybody.

17 And it's now my pleasure to recognize as the  
18 next order of business nominations for the position of  
19 vice chair. Are there any nominations?

20 MR. GREY: Mr. Chair?

21 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes, Mr. Grey?

22 MR. GREY: I would like to nominate Martha

1 Minow for vice chair of the board.

2 MS. MIKVA: I would like an absolute second.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Any other nominations?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Hearing no other nominations,  
6 can we vote for the position of vice chair? All in  
7 favor say aye.

8 (A chorus of ayes.)

9 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Any opposition?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Congratulations, Madam Vice  
12 Chair.

13 And now there is a final item on the agenda,  
14 to consider and act on delegation to the chairman of  
15 the authority to make committee assignments, which I  
16 understand is the history of this board. Any such  
17 motion?

18 M O T I O N

19 MR. GREY: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a  
20 motion. This is Robert Grey. Article 5, Section  
21 5.01(b) of the LSC bylaws provides that the board may  
22 delegate the responsibility to appoint directors to

1       serve on committees and to designate committee chairs.

2       And I would so move that the Chair be given that  
3       responsibility.

4               CHAIRMAN LEVI:   Is there a second?

5               MS. BROWNE:   I'll second.   This is Sharon  
6       Browne.

7               JUDGE SINGLETON:   Second.   This is Sarah  
8       Singleton.

9               CHAIRMAN LEVI:   Sarah Singleton seconded.

10              DEAN MINOW:   And Sharon Browne.

11              CHAIRMAN LEVI:   And Sharon Browne seconded.  
12              Any discussion?

13              (No response.)

14              CHAIRMAN LEVI:   All in favor?

15              (A chorus of ayes.)

16              CHAIRMAN LEVI:   Any opposition?

17              (No response.)

18              CHAIRMAN LEVI:   Before we -- well, any public  
19       comment?   That's the fifth item.

20              And any other business?

21              MR. FUENTES:   Mr. Chairman, this is Tom

22       Fuentes, member of the board.   I would like to offer

1 for consideration of this new board, my colleagues, to  
2 which I welcome all of you, an inclusion and change in  
3 the agenda of the board of directors going forth.

4 I have felt that there deserves the inclusion  
5 of the Pledge of Allegiance to the nation's flag at the  
6 beginning of the meetings of the Legal Services  
7 Corporation. I think it would bring a dignity and a  
8 gravitas appropriate to the conduct of business that we  
9 have. I believe that the pledge, by its very nature,  
10 in which we devote ourselves as Americans to liberty  
11 and justice for all, makes it even more appropriate.

12 M O T I O N

13 MR. FUENTES: And so I would like to suggest  
14 that the board take this up. I would so move that the  
15 agenda of the Legal Services Corporation henceforth at  
16 its meetings have as a first item, after calling to  
17 order, the Pledge of Allegiance to the nation's flag.

18 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Is there a second to that  
19 motion?

20 MR. MADDOX: I second Tom's motion.

21 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, isn't this something  
22 that we should be taking up at the next -- putting on

1 the agenda for the next meeting? Is that how we would  
2 do it, or do we --

3 MR. FORTUNO: Action items should be noticed;  
4 if not noticed, should be put on the agenda for the  
5 next meeting and voted on at that time. There are  
6 occasions when it's a minor technical matter, and when  
7 circumstances warrant, taking up on less than seven  
8 days' notice. But traditionally, if it's something  
9 that can be put off to the next scheduled meeting --

10 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Since the next scheduled  
11 meeting is so soon, I assume that the motion and the  
12 seconder, if you wouldn't mind --

13 MR. FUENTES: I would offer it, then --

14 CHAIRMAN LEVI: As an agenda --

15 JUDGE SINGLETON: Well, Mr. Chairman?

16 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes?

17 MR. FUENTES: -- as a next agenda item.

18 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Sure. Yes?

19 JUDGE SINGLETON: Well, Mr. Chairman, isn't  
20 it -- and, excuse me, and Vic -- isn't it possible for  
21 any member of the board to ask that an agenda item be  
22 put on the next agenda?

1           CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes. And that's what we're  
2 doing.

3           JUDGE SINGLETON: Well, but I mean couldn't  
4 Tom Fuentes simply ask the second item of business on  
5 the next agenda be the Pledge of Allegiance? We don't  
6 need a vote on it. Tom just needs to ask that.

7           MR. FORTUNO: Well, I think that that would  
8 presuppose the decision of the board. I think the  
9 first issue would be to take up the question of whether  
10 to -- in case there's any debate, any  
11 discussion -- take up the issue of the Pledge of  
12 Allegiance at the outset of a meeting.

13           I think that -- I think a decision has to be  
14 made, not just putting that on the agenda to actually  
15 take the pledge, but to discuss whether to do it and  
16 then vote on it. And thereafter, it would be -- if  
17 approved, would be taken up at each meeting. That is,  
18 the pledge would be -- there would be a Pledge of  
19 Allegiance at the outset of each meeting.

20           But I think that the initial question is  
21 whether to do so, and that's what will be discussed at  
22 the next meeting. And since it's an action item, it

1 would be taken up at the next meeting for a decision.

2 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Seems appropriate to me. So  
3 that's acceptable.

4 We had a -- many of you were present for the  
5 ceremony we just had this morning. But I know the  
6 tradition, and I assume that on the next agenda, I  
7 believe, there is an appropriate recognition and thanks  
8 to Frank Strickland and his board.

9 But I wouldn't like to close this meeting  
10 without asking for a round of applause for their hard  
11 work -- and Helaine is here, too; for her hard  
12 work -- on behalf of the LSC, the Legal Services  
13 Corporation.

14 This is public service. You folks have  
15 traveled across the country, at times through lousy  
16 weather and with many plane changes, to go visit  
17 programs and to carry on the business of the  
18 Corporation.

19 And we very much appreciate your work and know  
20 that seven years, Frank, is a long time for any  
21 not-for-profit board. And certainly, given the issues  
22 that you had to deal with, you are to be congratulated.

1 And we will formally do that in Arizona, but you won't  
2 be with us.

3 So while you are here, I would like you to  
4 hear a round of applause.

5 (Applause)

6 CHAIRMAN LEVI: And now if we could have a  
7 motion to adjourn?

8 M O T I O N

9 MR. FUENTES: So move.

10 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Second?

11 MS. MIKVA: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN LEVI: All in favor?

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 CHAIRMAN LEVI: The meeting is adjourned.

15 Thank you.

16 (Whereupon, at 12:25 p.m., the open board  
17 meeting was adjourned.)

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