

**RESOLUTION  
OF  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CAPITAL AREA LEGAL SERVICES  
CORPORATION**

**IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT  
WITH LSC-FUNDED PROGRAMS**

**Whereas**, the Legal Services Corporation and the programs it funds, including **Capital Area Legal Services Corporation**, have long recognized that the overwhelming values of private attorney involvement of LSC-funded programs are increased access, increased human and capital resources, and increase *pro bono commitment*; and

**Whereas**, at its April 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors of Legal Services Corporation adopted Resolution 2007-003 supporting and encouraging private attorney involvement and urging governing boards of LSC-funded programs to collaborate with other organizations to effectively engage lawyers in pro bono representation and other services that benefit low-income persons; and

**Whereas**, the LSC Board of Directors resolution builds upon the following national LSC initiatives:

- The October 2005 LSC report, *Documenting the Justice Gap in America; The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-income Americans*, which found that 50 percent of the potential clients requesting assistance from an LSC grantee were turned away for lack of resources on the part of the program;
- The *LSC Strategic Directors 2006-2010*, which calls upon LSC to increase public awareness of and support of legal services to low-income persons in order to respond appropriately to more of their legal needs;
- The *LSC Performance Criteria*, which considers, in evaluating a program's legal representation and other activities intended to benefit the low-income population in its service area, whether that program effectively integrates private attorneys into its work in order to supplement the amount and effectiveness of its representation and other services;
- The Provision for the Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the LSC Board of Directors 2006 meetings, which highlighted the potential, opportunities and challenges of private attorneys involvement and determined ways in which this critical resource can be used more effectively by LSC-funded programs as a means to help close the justice gap;
- The unanimous adoption in January 2007 by LSC Board of Directors of a strategic work plan entitled *Action Plan for Private Attorney Involvement: Help Close the Justice Gap, Unleash the Power of Pro Bono*, which highlights the

benefits of engaging private attorneys to help represent clients of LSC-funded programs and describes ways in which the LSC Board and staff will work to expand private attorney involvement;

- The American Bar Association's Model Rule 6.1 and similar state bar rules note the ethical obligation of every lawyer to provide *pro bono* legal assistance to persons of limited means;

**Whereas**, in the State of Louisiana, Rule 6.1 states that a lawyer should voluntarily render public interest legal service and may discharge this responsibility by rendering a minimum of fifty hours of service per year;

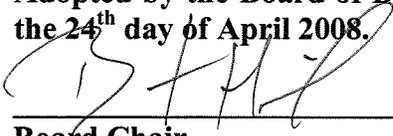
**Whereas**, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana the Baton Rouge Bar Association has long been a supporter of the efforts to promote *pro bono* through assisting **Capital Area Legal Services Corporation** with its *pro bono* project and recognition of volunteer attorneys;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Board of Directors of Capital Area Legal Services Corporation, in an effort to help close the justice gap in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana supports and encourages private attorney involvement in the delivery of civil legal services to low-income Louisianans and will endeavor to:

- Collaborate with other organizations and entities in Baton Rouge to develop and facilitate education efforts that demonstrate the extent of the unmet civil legal need and encourage collective responsibility within Baton Rouge by both public and private entities to help meet this unmet civil legal need;
- Collaborate with other organizations and entities in Baton Rouge to develop effective strategies for engaging lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons;
- Consider including in that collaboration organizations and entities such as the state and local bar associations, access to justice entities, law firms and corporate law departments, law schools and clinics, government and military law offices, and state and federal courts; and
- Develop strategies that encourage *pro bono*, including creative recruitment methods and delivery models, attorney practice and continuing legal education rules, and training, mentoring, support, and recognition of volunteers.

**Be it Further Resolved** that the Board of Directors of **Capital Area Legal Services Corporation** will promote, support and encourage private attorney involvement initiatives by publicizing and recognizing private attorney involvement in the work of **Capital Area Legal Services Corporation** and by collaborating with national, state and local organizations to create opportunities for such publicity and recognition.

**Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Capital Area Legal Services Corporation  
the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008.**



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**Board Chair**