

Colorado Legal Services

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LEGAL SERVICES CORP

2007 JUL 31 AM 11:48

RECEIVED

Direct Line: 303-866-9399

July 27, 2007

Stephanie Edelstein
Program Counsel
Office of Program Performance
Legal Services Corporation
3333 K Street, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20007

Re: Private Attorney Involvement –
Board Resolution

Dear Stephanie:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Resolution in support of Private Attorney Involvement adopted by the Board of Directors of Colorado Legal Services at its regular meeting on the evening of July 25, 2007. The original was signed by Daniel A. Vigil, the Chair of the Board of Directors following its adoption. He asked that the Resolution be forwarded to you as soon as possible and that Frank Strickland, Chair of the Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors, and LSC President, Helaine Barnett, be made aware of the action of the CLS Board of Directors.

The CLS Board will now proceed to work diligently to implement the Resolution and to take all actions necessary to support increased Private Attorney Involvement as called for in the Resolution.

If you have any questions in this regard, or if CLS can be of any assistance to LSC as it implements its Action Plan for Private Attorney Involvement, please inform me accordingly.

Respectfully,



Jonathan D. Asher
Executive Director

JDA/ccg
Enclosure

**RESOLUTION
of the
BOARD of DIRECTORS
of
COLORADO LEGAL SERVICES**

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In Support of Enhanced Private Attorney Involvement

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

Whereas, at its April 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors of the 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 Directions 2006-2010*, which calls upon LSC to increase public awareness of and support for legal services to low-income persons in order to respond appropriately to more of their legal needs;
- The *LSC Performance Criteria*, which consider, 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 attorney 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 professional responsibility of every lawyer to provide *pro bono* legal assistance to persons of limited means;

Whereas, in Colorado, the Colorado Supreme Court has adopted a vigorous Pro Bono initiative to encourage law firms and all lawyers to meet the aspirational goals of Rule 6.1 of the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and Colorado Supreme Court initiatives, in large part, are the result of the efforts of the Access to Justice Commission and its various local Access to Justice Committees; and

Whereas, the Colorado Supreme Court has adopted various Rules to encourage and support pro bono participation and activities

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of Colorado Legal Services, in an effort to help close the justice gap in Colorado, supports and encourages private attorney involvement with Colorado Legal Services and will endeavor to:

- Collaborate with other organizations and entities throughout Colorado to develop and facilitate educational efforts that demonstrate the extent of the unmet civil legal need and encourage collective responsibility in Colorado by both public and private entities to help meet this unmet civil legal need;
- Collaborate with other organizations and entities throughout Colorado to develop effective strategies for engaging lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons;
- Will include in that collaboration the Access to Justice Commission, local Access to Justice Committees, the Colorado Lawyers Committee the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, the Legal Center serving Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons, Catholic Charities, the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, the University of Colorado School of Law, the University of Denver College of Law and their clinics, law firms and corporate law departments, government and military law offices, and the 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 Colorado Legal Services will promote, support and encourage private attorney involvement initiatives by publicizing and recognizing private attorney involvement in the work of Colorado Legal Services and by collaborating with national, state and local organizations to create opportunities for such publicity and recognition.



Daniel A. Vigil, Chair
Board of Directors
Colorado Legal Services
Adopted July 25, 2007.