



Association of American Law Schools

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

President

Paul Marcus

College of William & Mary

April 10, 2017

President-Elect

Wendy C. Perdue

University of Richmond

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Immediate Past President

Kellye Y. Testy

University of Washington

The Association of American Law Schools (AALS), urges you to continue funding for Legal Services Corporation (LSC). AALS is a nonprofit association of 179 law schools and its members enroll most of the nation's law students and produce the majority of the country's lawyers and judges, as well as many of its lawmakers. As you know, the LSC was established by a bipartisan effort in Congress and signed into law by President Nixon in 1974. It is the largest funder of civil legal aid in the United States. We hope that you will work on behalf of the American people to ensure that LSC will be able to continue its vital mission of ensuring access to high-quality civil legal assistance for low-income Americans.

Serving through 2017

Darby Dickerson

The John Marshall School of Law

Without LSC's critical efforts, many Americans would not have access to legal aid. LSC has helped millions of Americans with legal issues related to veterans' benefits, housing, domestic violence, protecting seniors against fraud, adoption and guardianship, and many others.

Avi Soifer

University of Hawai'i

Serving through 2018

Alicia Alvarez

The University of Michigan

Access to justice is at the core of our constitutional society. As Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell once wrote, "Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building; it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society."

Vincent D. Rougeau

Boston College

American law schools recognize the importance of training students to work for this fundamental ideal through law school clinics, pro bono projects, and other experiential offerings. LSC has been a great partner, providing opportunities for our students to gain hands-on experience through externships at organizations that receive funding from the corporation.

Serving through 2019

Erwin Chemerinsky

University of California, Irvine

Although much has been done, clearly the need for civil legal assistance remains great. Law schools provide some legal services in their role of educating the next generation of lawyers. Law schools, however, cannot possibly meet the national need for legal services on their own. That is why support for community legal services programs and LSC is needed.

Camille A. Nelson

American University

Executive Director

Judith Areen

"Access to justice" is the theme for our organization this year, which will culminate with professional development programming for law faculty and staff surrounding the theme at our annual meeting in January of 2018. AALS is also highlighting the work of law schools towards their commitment to access to justice.

Associate Director

Elizabeth H. Patterson

Even in a challenging budget environment, the continued support of LSC is a wise investment that will pay off in the prosperity of our citizens and reaffirm the nation's commitment to equal justice for all.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul Marcus
President

cc:

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510