

April 5, 2019

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

Ranking Member Cay Granger  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Jose Serrano  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, & Related Agencies  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Robert Aderholt  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, & Related Agencies  
1203 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Richard Shelby  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
304 Russell Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Chairman Jerry Moran  
U.S. Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, & Related Agencies  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen  
U.S. Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, & Related Agencies  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

As deans of law schools in the United States, we urge you to at least maintain – if not increase – funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the largest funder of civil legal aid in our nation. The LSC has long received bipartisan support, and we hope that you will continue to work together to ensure that the LSC has the funding it needs to perform its critical mission.

We lead a diverse array of law schools – large and small, public and private, in college towns and big cities, in red states and blue states – that have a wide variety of institutional missions. Our personal views span the political spectrum. What brings us together today is a shared conviction that the loss of LSC funds would devastate efforts to provide access to essential legal services in our communities.

LSC-funded providers serve millions of low-income Americans who could not otherwise afford legal representation. These providers help people who live in households with annual incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, a category that includes almost one in five Americans. The cases involve some of the most difficult, life-changing circumstances a person can face. The most common LSC-funded matters include advocating for the needs of military

families, protecting domestic violence victims, representing parties in guardianship proceedings, ensuring safe and affordable housing, and protecting Americans, especially the elderly, against unfair (and even fraudulent) lending practices.

LSC funding, even at current levels, leaves many people without any legal assistance. Though LSC funds helped nearly 1.8 million people in 2017, a study published that year found that 86 percent of the civil legal needs of the eligible population are not being met. From 2007 to 2017, funding per eligible person decreased from \$7.46 to \$6.10.

Research shows that civil legal aid is a wise public investment and actually saves taxpayer dollars. For example, by helping end cycles of domestic violence, making it possible for children to leave foster care more quickly, and reducing unnecessary evictions and unjust foreclosures, LSC funds reduce the need for public spending in other areas.

As law school deans, we see the impact of LSC funds, not just in direct service by legal aid organizations, but through the partnerships that the funds facilitate. Many of our schools operate clinics and externships that collaborate with organizations that rely on LSC funds. The funds have a positive ripple effect across our communities and into future generations of attorneys, as our students work alongside experienced attorneys dedicated to serving the less fortunate.

LSC has been a success story because it reflects a bipartisan affirmation of who we are as Americans. As the late Justice Antonin Scalia stated in his remarks celebrating the organization's 40th anniversary, the LSC "pursues the most fundamental of American ideals," for "without access to quality representation there is no justice."

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Andy Abrams  
Charleston Law School

Kerry Abrams  
Duke University School of Law

Aviva Abramovsky  
University at Buffalo School of Law

Robert W. Adler  
University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law

Robert B. Ahdieh  
Texas A&M University School of Law

Klint Alexander  
University of Wyoming College of Law

Mark C. Alexander  
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

Vikram David Amar  
University of Illinois College of Law

S. James Anaya  
University of Colorado Law School

Horace E. Anderson  
Elizabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Jerry L. Anderson  
Drake University Law School

D. Benjamin Barros  
University of Toledo College of Law

Leonard Baynes  
University of Houston Law Center

Theresa Beiner  
University of Arkansas Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law

Patricia Bennett  
Mississippi College School of Law

Jessica W. Berg  
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Luke Bierman  
Elon University School of Law

Richard A. Bierschbach  
Wayne State University Law School

Mary Lu Bilek  
CUNY School of Law

Gary Bledsoe  
Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Craig M. Boise  
Syracuse University College of Law

Gregory W. Bowman  
West Virginia University College of Law

Mark E. Brandon  
University of Alabama Culverhouse School of Law

David A. Brennen  
University of Kentucky College of Law

Martin H. Brinkley  
University of North Carolina School of Law

John C. Brittain  
University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law

Jennifer Gerarda Brown  
Quinnipiac University School of Law

Marcilynn A. Burke  
University of Oregon School of Law

Cindy G. Buys  
Southern Illinois University College of Law

Charles B. Campbell  
Faulkner University Jones School of Law

Megan M. Carpenter  
University of New Hampshire School of Law

Erwin Chemerinsky  
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Kevin Cieply  
Ave Maria School of Law

Annette E. Clark  
Seattle University Law School

David R. Cleveland  
Valparaiso University Law School

Jennifer M. Collins  
SMU-Dedman School of Law

Danielle M. Conway  
University of Maine School of Law

Mark W. Cordes  
Northern Illinois University College of Law

Colin Crawford  
University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law

Phyllis L. Crocker  
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Anthony W. Crowell  
New York Law School

Darby Dickerson  
The John Marshall Law School

Matthew Diller  
Fordham Law School

Davison M. Douglas  
William & Mary Law School

Susan Duncan  
University of Mississippi School of Law

Lyn Suzanne Entzeroth  
University of Tulsa College of Law

Felecia Epps  
University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law

David L. Faigman  
University of California Hastings College of Law

Ward Farnsworth  
University of Texas School of Law

B. Keith Faulkner  
Liberty University School of Law

Stephen C. Ferruolo  
University of San Diego School of Law

Daniel M. Filler  
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Lee Fisher  
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Timothy Fisher  
University of Connecticut School of Law

Susan Freiwald  
University of San Francisco School of Law

Maryellen Fullerton  
Brooklyn Law School

Thomas C. Galligan, Jr.  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center

Jon M. Garon  
Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law

Heather Gerken  
Yale Law School

Thomas Geu  
University of South Dakota Law School

Gary S. Gildin  
Dickinson Law, Pennsylvania State University

Barbara Glesner Fines  
University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law

Risa L. Goluboff  
University of Virginia School of Law

Mark C. Gordon  
Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Donald J. Guter  
South Texas College of Law Houston

Chris Guthrie  
Vanderbilt Law School

Andrew T. Guzman  
USC Gould School of Law

James Hackney  
Northeastern University School of Law

Joseph Harroz, Jr.  
University of Oklahoma College of Law

Brant J. Hellwig  
Washington and Lee School of Law

Wendy Hensel  
Georgia State University College of Law

James B. Hughes, Jr.  
Emory University School of Law

Rachel M. Janutis  
Capital University Law School

Garry W. Jenkins  
University of Minnesota Law School

Christian A. Johnson  
Widener University Commonwealth Law School

Jennifer J. Johnson  
Lewis and Clark Law School

William P. Johnson  
Saint Louis University School of Law

Michael J. Kaufman  
Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Linda M. Keller  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Michael J. Kelly  
Creighton University School of Law

Paul F. Kirgis  
University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law

Andrew R. Klein  
Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law

Lisa A. Kloppenberg  
Santa Clara University School of Law

Harold J. Krent  
IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law

Maureen Lally-Green  
Duquesne University School of Law

Madeleine M. Landrieu  
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

Elena B. Langan  
Concordia University School of Law

Tamara F. Lawson  
St. Thomas University School of Law

J. Rich Leonard  
Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law

Melanie B. Leslie  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Jerrold Long  
University of Idaho College of Law

David Lopez  
Rutgers Law - Newark



Gregory N. Mandel  
Temple University Beasley School of Law

John Manning  
Harvard Law School

Thomas McHenry  
Vermont Law School

Margaret Sova McCabe  
University of Arkansas School of Law

David D. Meyer  
Tulane University Law School

Thomas J. Miles  
University of Chicago Law School

Eric J. Mitnick  
UMass Law School

Richard Moberly  
University of Nebraska College of Law

Blake D. Morant  
George Washington University Law School

Trevor W. Morrison  
New York University School of Law

Jennifer L. Mnookin  
UCLA School of Law

Kimberly Mutcherson  
Rutgers Law - Camden

Nell Newton  
Notre Dame Law School

Anthony Niedwiecki  
Golden Gate University School of Law

Erin O'Hara O'Connor  
Florida State University College of Law

Elaine M. O'Neal  
North Carolina Central University School of Law

Angela Onwuachi-Willig  
Boston University School of Law

Hari M. Osofsky  
Penn State Law

Alicia Ouellette  
Albany Law School

Antony Page  
Florida International University College of Law

Sergio Pareja  
University of New Mexico School of Law

Matt Parlow  
Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law

Eduardo M. Peñalver  
Cornell Law School

Wendy C. Perdue  
University of Richmond School of Law

Jennifer Rosato Perea  
DePaul University College of Law

Andrew Perlman  
Suffolk University Law School

Christopher J. (C.J.) Peters  
University of Akron School of Law

John K. Pierre  
Southern University Law Center

Susan Westerberg Prager  
Southwestern Law School

Carla D. Pratt  
Washburn University School of Law

Margaret Raymond  
University of Wisconsin Law School

Suzanne Reynolds  
Wake Forest University School of Law

L. Song Richardson  
University of California Irvine School of Law

Jacob H. Rooksby  
Gonzaga University School of Law

Laura Ann Rosenbury  
University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law

Jim Roth  
Oklahoma City University School of Law

Vincent D. Rougeau  
Boston College Law School

Theodore W. Ruger  
University of Pennsylvania Law School

Katharine Traylor Schaffzin  
University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

Michael P. Scharf  
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Niels Schaumann  
California Western School of Law

Michael Hunter Schwartz  
McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific

Sudha Setty  
Western New England University School of Law

Stephen M. Sheppard  
St. Mary's University School of Law

D. Gordon Smith  
BYU Law School

Bruce P. Smith  
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Aviam Soifer  
University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law

Nancy Staudt  
Washington University School of Law

Andrew L. Strauss  
University of Dayton School of Law

Henry C. Strickland  
Samford University Cumberland School of Law

Douglas J. Sylvester  
Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Amy Timmer  
Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Bradley J.B. Toben  
Baylor Law School

Donald B. Tobin  
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

William M. Treanor  
Georgetown University Law Center

Robert K. Vischer  
University of St. Thomas School of Law

Gary R. Wade  
Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law

Kevin K. Washburn  
University of Iowa College of Law

Michael Waterstone  
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Ronald Weich  
University of Baltimore School of Law

Mark D. West  
University of Michigan Law School

Michael Whiteman  
Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law

Robert M. Wilcox  
University of South Carolina School of Law

Amy J. Wildermuth  
University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Melanie D. Wilson  
University of Tennessee College of Law

Verna L. Williams  
University of Cincinnati College of Law

Kimberly A. Yuracko  
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

*Institutional affiliations are listed for identification purposes only and do not imply institutional endorsement.*