

TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON

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The mission of the Legal Services Corporation is to promote equal access to justice by making legal assistance in civil matters available to those who would otherwise be unable to afford it, according to the highest standards of professional responsibility.

For two decades the Legal Services Corporation has fulfilled that mandate. Today the Corporation supports 323 programs operating over 800 neighborhood offices across the nation. In addition, more than 130,000 private attorneys volunteer their time in activities associated with local legal services projects.

Dedicated attorneys, paralegals, staff, Board members and volunteers have worked with unflinching commitment under often adverse conditions to serve their clients' interests. Legal Services lawyers have won the respect of the judiciary, the organized bar, and the client community for their skill and dedication.

Every day legal services lawyers make a difference in the lives of individual Americans. Let me give you some examples of the cases that they see:

In Georgia, a seventeen-year-old girl and her thirteen-year-old brother had recently lost their mother. Because they had no other family, the Department of Family and Children Services planned to put them in separate foster homes. But the brother and sister wanted to stay together. They went to their local Legal Services program for help. Their lawyer arranged for them to remain together in their home under the supervision of a guardian.

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One of the great strengths of the legal services program is that is not a big government bureaucracy. Services are provided by independent programs that are locally controlled, by boards of directors drawn from the local bar and the client community. The bipartisan creators of the Legal Services Corporation recognized that decisions about how legal services should be allocated are best made not in Washington but at home, by the people who understand the problems that face their communities, by people who are accountable to their communities.

On the twentieth anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation I reaffirm our nation's commitment to equal access to justice and I voice my deep respect for those who have given so much to keep that principle alive over the years.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY

The high point of funding for the Legal Services Corporation was in FY 1981, when Congress appropriated \$321 million, allowing the Corporation to achieve its initial goal of making two legal services lawyers available for every 10,000 low-income Americans (as compared to two lawyers available for every 305 of the general population).

The next year, in response to the Reagan Administration's attempt to eliminate legal services of the poor, Congress cut the Corporation's budget by 25 percent, to \$241 million. Hundreds of legal services offices were closed and many experienced attorneys were forced to leave. It took ten years to restore the LSC budget to the level of \$321 million it reached in 1981. But because of inflation and the increased number of low-income people, in today's dollars it would cost over \$820 million to attain the goal of providing two legal services lawyers for every 10,000 low-income Americans.

When President Clinton took office, the LSC's appropriation (FY 1993) was \$357 million. In response to the Administration's strong support of the Corporation, Congress increased the appropriation to \$400 million for FY 1994 and \$415 million for FY 1995. These increases have allowed local legal services programs to hold the line, for the most part avoiding lay-offs and office closings that would further reduce their ability to provide legal assistance to the poor.

FACT SHEET: THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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* The LSC is headed by a bipartisan Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Board selects the LSC's President, who oversees day-to-day management.

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Lissa ———

A Janet Reno
quote for the
Legal Services Corp
speech ...

— Kathy

44TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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May 28, 1993, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: STYLE; PAGE G1

LENGTH: 706 words

HEADLINE: First Lady For the Defenders;
Lawyers Honor One of Their Own

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Donnie Radcliffe, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

She never mentioned why she was late, but then she didn't have to. In a small town like Washington, if Hillary Rodham Clinton was all smiles last night, it could only mean one thing: President Clinton had won Round 1 on Capitol Hill in the fight for his economic plan.

Back among her kind at the National Legal Aid & Defender Association's third annual awards dinner, the First Lady got a heroine's welcome from some 600 in the legal profession.

At least once people recognized her.

The recoiffed First Lady worked her way along the dais before the crowd started to notice.

But it was recognition of another kind that brought both the hosts and the audience to feet.

"Hillary reminds us of the moral foundation of our work which must shape our future," said association President Lonnie Powers in a special tribute. "Hillary's life is an example of service and of the personal witness that comes of living one's values."

The way she remembers that life, she hadn't struggled alone. Mrs. Clinton had chaired the Legal Services Corp. for two years under President Carter. When Ronald Reagan came to office, he didn't renominate her and all but destroyed the agency. Many of those who had stayed on in the trenches were sitting in the Washington Hilton audience last night.

"All the work that all of you do has stood the test of time," Mrs. Clinton said.

Attorney General Janet Reno told the public defenders and public interest lawyers, "In my eyes, you're a little lower than the angels."

Two of those who've nearly earned their halos also were honored: F. William McCalpin, who followed Mrs. Clinton as chair of the Legal Services Corp. in 1980, and Washington attorney Marna S. Tucker.

TO: Lissa
FROM: Kathy
DATE: Sept. 27, 1994
RE: Legal Services Corp.

Some background notes:

- started in 1975, legal arm of War on Poverty
- mission of LSC is to ensure equal justice for people living in poverty, through the provision of high quality legal representation, and to further the ends of justice and improve the lives of poor people through the rule of law
- HRC was chair of the board 1978-80; during her tenure, federal funding for legal services jumped from \$125 to \$321 million
- LSC uses taxpayer money to finance 323 field programs, with 4,500 lawyers, operating 919 neighborhood law offices nationwide
- in 1993, LSC programs helped more than 1.5 million individuals and families solve legal problems through advice and referral, brief services, dispute resolution, negotiation and settlement and litigation
- most of the cases involve family issues, such as custody and protection from domestic violence, income maintenance for families and the elderly, consumer finance, housing and juvenile matters.
- even though many poor people are helped, it is estimated that LSC programs meet only about one-fifth of the legal needs of the poor

Controversy:

- conservatives accuse the lawyers of using class action suits and lobbying tactics in an attempt change the social order
- in response, LSC argues that lawyers for the poor should have the same freedom as other attorneys to represent their clients
- Republicans want to place restrictions on LSC
- President Clinton is sympathetic to LSC, proposed a \$500 million budget for 1995, but House approved only \$415 million and the Senate voted no increase at all; the two appropriation bills now go to a House-Senate conference for resolution (as of 9/2/94); budget for 1994 was \$400 million
- according to Alexander Forger, president of LSC, civil legal services for the poor have been "overshadowed by the growing fear of crime in the country. Funds available to the justice system are going for police and incarceration, not for legal services. There is little pressure on Congress to assist poor people."

AmeriCorps:

-in Southern California, participants with special skills such as law school graduates will work for LSC on Crenshaw Boulevard in Southwest L.A. They will spend their first year attacking homelessness, encouraging equal educational opportunities and protecting the environment

What lawyers can do:

-Forger would like lawyers to volunteer their time and expertise to supplement the understaffed offices; he would like individual practitioners to accept cases on a pro bono basis from poverty law programs; he would like law firms to lend volunteer lawyers to work full-time in poverty law offices for a four-six month period

Prepared by The Legal Services Corp - stories

The Council Bluffs office of the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa represented a group of low-income people living in a mobile home court, many of whom were elderly and living on fixed incomes. Because of changes in a local ordinance, the local gas company informed mobile home parks that gas lines between the trailers and the main gas line needed to be replaced at the cost of over \$500 per trailer. The mobile home court owners attempted to pass the charges on to the residents, threatening the poorest of them with the loss of their homes. The residents represented by legal services sued the mobile home park to require it to absorb the costs itself. They prevailed at the district court level and on appeal to the Iowa Court of Appeals, freeing themselves and many other low-income people from an unfair financial burden that they could not afford.

In Savannah, Georgia, a seventeen-year-old girl and her thirteen-year-old brother were devastated when their mother died. Because they had no other family, the Department of Family and Children Services planned to put them in foster homes. The brother and sister, however, wanted to stay together, and sought help from Georgia Legal Services. Before her mother's death, the girl had already been handling the household, taking care of her mother, buying the groceries, cooking, managing the money and going to school. Their legal services lawyer found a guardian for the teenagers and a representative payee for their Social Security survivors' check, and helped them convince a juvenile court judge to let them live on their own. But another difficulty soon emerged: according to public housing officials, the girl was too young to keep her mother's apartment. Ironically, she would only be eligible for an apartment if she was pregnant or an unwed mother. The attorney went to court again, arguing that the girl was emancipated and eligible to remain in the apartment. A judge blocked the eviction temporarily and the housing authority dropped plans to force them out. Now that some time has passed, the two young people are ready to think about moving on, although they will always be close to one another and grateful for their time together. Both are headed out of public housing and toward new lives. With the help of her legal services attorney, the young woman has been offered a full scholarship to a North Carolina college next year, and her brother will attend a private boarding school.

In Saint Louis, a retired woman sought help from Legal Services of Eastern Missouri in obtaining custody of her 21-month old granddaughter Ashley, who was HIV-positive and in foster care in Ohio. Ashley's father, the client's son, was dead. Her mother had been unable to care for her, and had asked the grandmother, who already had custody of Ashley's four-year-old brother, to take the child into her home as well. With representation from legal services programs in Saint Louis and Ohio, the grandmother was granted custody of Ashley. To further complicate matters, Ashley had been denied the social security benefits to which HIV-positive children are entitled. The Legal Services lawyer in Saint Louis helped her appeal the decision, which was reversed, enabling the grandmother to make a home for the infant.

In Alaska, a combination of health problems and several poor fishing seasons forced a commercial fisherman to default on the loan he had taken out to buy his fishing vessel. With the help of Alaska Legal Services he was able to negotiate a settlement with the lending institution that allowed him to retain keep the boat and continue to earn a

living for his family.

An elderly woman came to Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati seeking help because a foreclosure action had been filed against her. She faced losing her home because she had signed a home improvement contract that obligated her to repay \$15,000 for siding and other repairs. None of the promised work had ever been done; in fact, the construction company had vanished, but not before selling the \$15,000 loan to a bank, which had filed a lien against the property. With the help of her legal aid attorney the client was able to resolve the situation. The bank was required to arrange for the repairs to be made and the client agreed to pay \$10,000, the fair value of the work, over a ten-year period.

Sometimes a recurrent pattern of problems can best be resolved through a class action case. Several years ago lawyers at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society began to see dozens of cases like the one in Cincinnati. Many clients had lost their homes from the foreclosure of loans at exorbitant interest rates, as high as 30 percent. Payments sometimes exceeded the homeowners' monthly income. Most of the loans had been taken out for home repair work done for elderly, low-income homeowners with substantial equity in their homes, all of which was lost in foreclosure. The repair work was shoddily done and grossly overpriced, and the homeowners had been steered to particular mortgage companies for high-interest, high-fee loans. Legal Aid attorneys learned that many of these loans were being sold immediately to one of the largest bank holding companies in the United States, and that the holding company had in fact made arrangements with the mortgage and home-repair companies to target vulnerable low-income elderly consumers. On behalf of their clients the attorneys filed a class-action lawsuit against the holding company, alleging fraud, usury, and violation of anti-racketeering laws. They also encouraged the Georgia Attorney General's office to investigate the matter. The holding company settled with the Attorney General for \$115 million, of which \$70 million went into a special fund for low-interest loans for home purchases, home repairs, and debt consolidation for low-income people. The company also settled its case with Legal Aid's clients; although the terms of the settlement are confidential, up to 20,000 customers benefitted from it. The company has also stopped buying high interest mortgages and recently began making direct mortgage loans at much lower rates, as well as beginning an \$8 billion loan program for low income people.

A young mother contacted an office of Kansas Legal Services office desperately concerned about the health of her infant daughter, who suffered from an illness that required her to have constant oxygen therapy in order to survive. Because the equipment was too large to take upstairs in her rented home, the infant had to remain on the first floor, which was heated only by a wood-burning stove and lacked proper ventilation. The air in the home was so bad that visiting nurses would become ill and the child often had to be hospitalized, after which she would recover quickly in the clean air of the hospital. Her doctors demanded that the mother move in order to protect her child's health, but her landlord refused to let her break her lease and threatened her with a suit for damages if she did so. With the help of her legal services attorney the mother and daughter were able to move. The infant's health has improved substantially as a result

of her new environment.

In Pine Ridge, South Dakota, an office of Dakota Plains Legal Services represented a Native American woman whose daughter had recently died in Colorado. The mother, a member of the Sioux tribe, sought the return of her daughter's body to the Pine Ridge Indian reservation where she had grown up and where her mother and four children still lived. If the daughter were buried away from her native home, her mother believed, her soul would wander restlessly forever. The return of the daughter's body was opposed by her husband, who had just been released from a six-month sentence for abusing her when she died, and from whom she was attempting to break away. After a hearing at which the mother was represented by a lawyer from Boulder County Legal Services, a Colorado judge found that because of the husband's years of brutal treatment of his wife he deserved no say in where she should be buried, and ordered the return of the daughter's body to the reservation, where she was laid to rest according to Sioux beliefs and practices.

In Harland County, Kentucky, an attorney from the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky represented a former section foreman for a small non-union mine. When he reported to work one evening, the foreman had found a note left by the foreman on the previous shift, saying that a continuous mining machine was malfunctioning, and that the crew had rigged the electrical circuit breaker to keep it from shutting off. The note also told him to warn the machine's operator and helper to "be careful." The foreman examined the machine's circuit breaker and found blue flames shooting from it. With its safety monitoring system bypassed, the electrical circuit presented an electrocution hazard to every miner working at the mine face. The foreman told the miners he supervised that the machine couldn't be safely operated and refused to allow them to work until the electrical problem was corrected. When the mine owner learned that coal production had been interrupted, he immediately fired the foreman, despite federal law, which states that miners cannot be fired or discriminated against because they have complained about or refused to work in unsafe conditions. With the help of his legal services attorney, the foreman won a substantial settlement, enabling him to save his home, which he was in danger of losing because he had not been able to make his monthly mortgage payments during his period of unemployment.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

28-Sep-1994 02:04pm

TO: David B. Grinberg

FROM: Adrien L. Silas - 53589
Office of Mgmt and Budget, TCJ

CC: Kenneth L. Schwartz - 54892

CC: Bradley W. Kyser

CC: Anita D. Ford

SUBJECT: Funding for the Legal Services Corporation

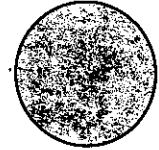
You requested funding information for the Legal Services Corporation. The information follows.

1994 Enacted	\$400M*
1995 LSC Submission	\$848M**
1995 President's Budget	\$500M
1995 House Floor	\$415M (same in committee)
1995 Senate Floor	\$400M (same in committee)
1995 Enacted	\$415M

The funding reflected is budget authority, i.e., the amount shown in appropriation acts.

* In addition, the corporation received \$650K in emergency 1994 funding for the California earthquake and Georgia flooding.

** The Legal Services Corporation, a private non-profit corporation, submits its budget request directly to the Congress without OMB review. The Administration proposes a funding level for the corporation in the President's budget. Therefore, there are two proposed funding levels.



*Melanne -
the LSC proclamation
it looks great!*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR:

✓ FIRST LADY'S STAFF (MELANNE VERVEER)
JOHN PODESTA (PAUL RICHARD)
LLOYD CUTLER (CLARISSA CERDA)
CHRISTINE VARNEY
PAT GRIFFIN
CAROL RASCO
ALEXIS HERMAN (DAN WEXLER)
JODIE TORKELSON
RICKI SEIDMAN - FYI

FROM:

Lana Dickey
for JIM DORSKIND

SUBJECT:

(Draft Proclamation)
NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES WEEK, 1994

Attached for your review is the above-mentioned proclamation designating the week of September 26 through October 2, 1994, as "National Legal Services Week."

It was submitted by the First Lady's Office and edited/revised by the Presidential Letters and Messages Office.

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED. Written or oral response required by no later than Noon, Thursday, September 22, 1994. IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU BY 12:00 P.M., WE WILL ASSUME THAT THE DRAFT IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU.

For questions, discussion, or routine clearance, contact Lana Dickey, extension 67487, or Deborah Pearlstein, extension 65492, via phone or interoffice mail, in room 91. Thank you.

cc: Tim Saunders

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES WEEK, 1994

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The Preamble to the Constitution reminds us that our great Nation was founded, first and foremost, "to establish justice, and secure the blessings of liberty." The very nature of justice demands that it be available to all. True justice cannot be rationed -- it cannot be accorded to some while others are denied the full benefit of their rights. Our Founders understood that privilege and responsibility are inextricably linked. The words "Equal Justice under the Law," inscribed over the portal of our highest court, represent a solemn promise made to every American.

Twenty years ago, the Legal Services Corporation was created to help keep that promise, promoting equal access to justice by making high-quality legal assistance in civil matters available to those who would otherwise be unable to attain it.

In designing the Legal Services Corporation, the Congress recognized the need for an independent entity, protected from political interference, to support local programs that would be accountable to their own communities. Legal Services ensures that all persons, regardless of financial status, will be provided with legal representatives whose responsibility is to fully protect and defend their clients' best interests according to the highest standards of professional obligation.

For two decades, the Legal Services Corporation has fulfilled that mandate. It supports local legal services programs that operate under the auspices of their own Boards of Directors, which are made up of clients and representatives of the local bar. Today, the Corporation supports 323 programs operating in over 900 neighborhood offices across the Nation.

In addition, more than 130,000 private attorneys volunteer their

Legal Services programs extend assistance to more than 1.5 million people every year, vindicating their rights, resolving their disputes, and offering a means of improving their lives. Dedicated attorneys, paralegals, staff, Board members, and volunteers have worked with unflinching commitment, often under adverse conditions, to serve those whose rights and interests they represent. Legal Services has won the respect of the judiciary, the organized bar, and the client community. For many Americans, the existence of legal services has renewed their faith in our government of laws.

On the 20th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, I reaffirm our national commitment to equal access to justice, to decency, to fair play. I voice my deep respect for those who have given so much to keep those principles alive over the years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of September 26 through October 2, 1994, as "National Legal Services Week." I urge all Americans to join me in recognizing the contributions that the Legal Services Corporation and the local programs that it supports have made in fulfilling the promise of equal justice under the law, and I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of , in the year of our
Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence
of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

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-Forger would like lawyers to volunteer their time and expertise to supplement the understaffed offices; he would like individual practitioners to accept cases on a pro bono basis from poverty law programs; he would like law firms to lend volunteer lawyers to work full-time in poverty law offices for a four-six month period

BYLINE: NAFTALI BENDAVID; Naftali Bendavid is a reporter at Legal Times, a Washington-based weekly affiliated with The Recorder. Susan Orenstein, a Recorder senior writer, contributed to this story.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The nation's LEGAL SERVICES AND DATE AFT 1991
AND NOT REUTERS
AND SPEECH OR SPOKE
AND WOMEN OR CORP!
AND NOT WHITEWATER

NUMBER OF STORIES FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:

LEVEL 1...	378	LEVEL 2...	275	LEVEL 3...	295	LEVEL
4...	295	LEVEL 5...	267			

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The Recorder

February 22, 1994, Tuesday

SECTION: Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1656 words

HEADLINE: D-Day for Advocates of the Poor;

Congress ready to decide Legal Services Corp.'s mission

BYLINE: NAFTALI BENDAVID; Naftali Bendavid is a reporter at Legal Times, a Washington-based weekly affiliated with The Recorder. Susan Orenstein, a Recorder senior writer, contributed to this story.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The nation's legal aid lawyers are heading toward a nasty fight in Congress that could finally decide a long-running dispute over their raison d'etre.

At issue: To what extent the taxpayer-funded legal corps for the poor will be unable to wade into a wide array of controversial issues -- instead of settling for a narrower, case-by-case approach to their jobs.

Congress at last appears ready to pass a reauthorization bill that will formally clarify the mission of the Legal Services Corp., which uses taxpayer money to finance poverty lawyers across the country.

That bill will decide whether Legal Services lawyers should be allowed to jump into battles over voting rights, abortion and immigration -- and shape policy by lobbying, rather than just reacting to established law in court.

The reauthorization fight comes at a time when the LSC is undergoing something of a revival, with an energetic new board and increased funding. Yet the agency's new leaders are treading carefully, trying to push ahead with an aggressive agenda without needlessly antagonizing the LSC's many critics.

"I hope the people who have animus toward the corporation will hold on and give us a chance to demonstrate we're not trying to cause a change in the social order," says Alexander Forger, the LSC's new interim president.

To liberals, legal services lawyers are scrappy warriors taking up arms on behalf of migrant farm workers and the inner-city poor. But conservatives have long accused the lawyers of using class actions and other tactics in an attempt to foment a veritable social revolution.

The conservatives have been setting the agenda for more than a decade, but the tide appears to be turning, says John O'Toole, director of LSC-funded National Center for Youth Law in San Francisco.

"Right now there's a much more reasonable climate," he says, adding that he's confident that some restrictions will be lifted.

Some lawmakers -- backed quietly by the new LSC board -- argue that lawyers for the poor should have the same freedom as other attorneys to represent their clients.

"The board thinks there should not be restrictions. That's the ideal," Forger says. "But one recognizes the reality of life when you're dealing with public monies. We recognize some of these issues are of particular concern on the congressional front."

Ralph Abascal, general counsel of California Rural Legal Assistance, says the debate over restrictions has been going on for years. "I don't think the status quo will change very much," he says.

In fact, a contingent led by Reps. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., and Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, is eager to include restrictions in the reauthorization bill, arguing that greater accountability is needed for the taxpayer dollars spent on legal services.

Says McCollum: "We need to keep legal services lawyers out of politics as much as possible."

Conservatives, for example, don't think legal aid lawyers should be permitted to lobby. They see such activity as a classic example of legal services attorneys trying to mend the world rather than do their job.

But Roger Rosenthal, who heads the Washington, D.C.-based Migrant Legal Action Program, which receives some LSC funding, says that sometimes lobbying is the his job. He cites the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act, which he says he's trying to defend from growers' attacks.

"Farm workers are pretty voiceless without some kind of representation," Rosenthal says. "For farm workers' attorneys, the ability to represent their clients

in a variety of forums -- including in the Legislature -- and not have one hand tied behind their back is pretty critical."

The reauthorization bill does permit legal aid lawyers to lobby, but only if they're directly representing clients.

Conservatives consider that a huge exception. "The bill is ridden with loopholes and exceptions," says Elizabeth Whitley, lobbyist for the American Farm Bureau Federation and a longtime Legal Services critic. "You can drive a squadron of trucks through the loopholes."

TOUCH-AND-GO HISTORY

For years, lawmakers have been unable to agree on an LSC reauthorization bill which seems to hit virtually every emotional subject in American politics. Instead, Congress has simply appropriated money to keep Legal Services going, while attaching a bewildering array of restrictions to the funds.

After a knockdown, drag-out fight, a reauthorization bill finally passed the House in 1992. The bill died in the Senate, and it has now been reintroduced in the House by Rep. John Bryant, D-Texas.

The battles over just how firmly to tie legal aid lawyers' hands are once again sure to be bloody. But once those arguments have been resolved, the legislation -- which could reach the House floor within weeks -- seems likely to become law, with White House support.

The quasi-governmental agency was born on 1975, a child of the War on Poverty, and it currently funds 4,500 lawyers in 323 programs nationwide.

President Bill Clinton, whose wife Hillary was chairwoman of the LSC in its heyday, named a new Legal Services board that took office in November. This followed a decade of Republican appointees who were openly hostile to the mission of the very attorneys they were funding.

The new board already has won a big funding boost, at least tentatively -- from \$ 400 million this year to \$ 500 million in the president's proposed 1995 budget.

In Forger, the board has a new leader with glittering credentials: The interim president retired last year as managing partner of New York's Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy and was chairman of the Legal Aid Society of New York for a decade. The plan is to hire a permanent chief by May 1.

CAUTIOUS WORDS

Combatants on both sides say the furious rhetoric has toned down in recent years. In language reminiscent of the Middle East, critics now acknowledge that Legal Services has a right to exist. And legal aid lawyers are trying to soften their image as wild-eyed radicals.

The new LSC board, meanwhile, is walking a razor's edge, fighting for more money and freedom for legal aid attorneys, while promising opponents that those resources won't be used to restructure society.

LSC board member John Broderick Jr., a partner at Broderick & Dean in

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The Washington Times

June 1, 1993, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part D; LIFE; ABOUT TOWN; Pg. D2

LENGTH: 348 words

HEADLINE: Legal Services' 'family reunion'

BYLINE: Jeffrey Staggs; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

"Hillary Rodham Clinton, you have always been our first lady," said F. Wm. McCalpin. He was speaking on behalf of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) at its third annual awards dinner Thursday.

The first lady was given a special tribute by the association, which provides legal aid for the poor.

The mood at the Washington Hilton was chummy at what dinner co-chairwoman Esther Lardent called "this incredible family reunion." The crowd of more than 600 was visibly overjoyed to have one of their own in the White House.

Most legal aid lawyers are funded by the Legal Services Corp. Mrs. Clinton was appointed to the corporation's board in 1977 by President Carter (funny how his name keeps popping up these days) and served as its chairwoman from 1978 to 1980. During her tenure, federal funding for legal services catapulted from \$125 million to \$321 million.

Though no one mentioned it explicitly, virtually everyone who spoke referred in some oblique way to the troubles Legal Services Corp. went through under the Reagan and Bush administrations.

"The Legal Services Corp., the public defender system, all the work that you do has stood the test of time," Mrs. Clinton said. "It did not crumble and wither in the face of opposition."

The Legal Services Corp. was created in the late '60s to be "the legal arm of the war on poverty," said Marna S. Tucker, introduced as the first lady of the Washington Bar, who was also honored by the association. "It was a time of great hope."

But, "For over a decade now legal services advocates have been in a struggle merely to survive."

Attorney General Janet Reno gave an impassioned speech - without notes - in which she called on the law profession to be more activist. She was interrupted numerous times by applause.

"Let's tell prosecutors across the land that they will never be able to build enough prisons unless we invest in children," she said. She was

preaching to a liberal choir, true, but her conviction can't be argued.

GRAPHIC: Photos, A) National Legal Aid & Defender Association dinner. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with NLADA Executive Director Clinton Lyons; B) Attorney General Janet Reno (right) chats with Angela Davis., Both By Vivian Ronay/The Washington Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Manchester, N.H., wants Legal Services to become as non-controversial as programs like Head Start.

"I do think most people in Congress will be champions of the cause, if the cause is presented responsibly," Broderick says. "It's an opportunity for us to remake Legal Services, and that will require cooperation and concessions from all of us."

REDRAWING LIMITS

Another hot topic is redistricting cases.

The Bryant bill forbids legal aid lawyers from suing to redraw the districts of any elected representatives. But such suits are a key weapon for civil rights advocates. While the LSC board has not yet taken a stand on the issue, Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell has come down in favor of legal aid lawyers' being allowed to tackle redistricting.

As for LSC-funded lawyers taking on abortion cases, the Bryant bill leaves intact the existing prohibition, which has been in effect for two decades. Abortion-rights groups are expected to try to ease the prohibition, which could trigger another clash.

But the biggest fight might focus on the outside money that legal aid offices receive from private donors. Currently, whatever restrictions Congress imposes on LSC funds also apply to the outside money.

The new LSC board and many lawyers in the field say that's not fair; private organizations, they argue, should be able to spend their money as they choose.

But Rep. McCollum argues that Congress has every right to attach strings to all money that comes into legal aid groups.

"The organizations wouldn't even exist if it weren't for Congress," McCollum says. "I will be aggressively pursuing ways to restrict their activities, whatever the source of the funds."

Besides getting the reauthorization bill passed with scant restrictions, the other big goal of LSC boosters is to jump-start the LSC budget.

In its heyday under Hillary Rodham Clinton, Legal Services briefly reached its oft-stated goal of funding one lawyer per 5,000 poor people. But when Ronald Reagan became president, he slashed the Legal Services budget, and it's never approached its former funding level.

Last December, New Jersey lawyer Douglas Eakeley wrote a passionate letter to Leon Panetta, director of the Office of Management and Budget, asking him to more than double the agency's budget, from \$ 400 million in 1994 to \$ 848 million in 1995.

That might be a huge jump, Eakeley argued, but it's necessary because Legal Services is meeting just one-fifth of the legal needs of the poor.

With the new money, Eakeley wrote, "offices that had been closed during the onslaught of the early 1980s can be reopened; long-deferred recruiting efforts can be started; national and state support programs that have been starved for funds can gear up."

Instead, President Clinton proposed a \$ 500 million LSC budget for 1995. While

far short of the LSC board's request, that would still be an impressive 25 percent increase.

As the struggles over money, reauthorization and staffing move ahead, legal aid lawyers in the field say the new LSC board is already making a difference.

Board members, for example, are striving mightily to reduce the paperwork required of legal services offices, which field lawyers complain was intentionally used to paralyze them during the Reagan years.

"It's the antithesis of the way it used to feel," says Patrick McIntyre, acting director of Evergreen Legal Services in Seattle. "People are very optimistic, and there's a sense that, if nothing else, the new board shares the basic values of the field and is genuinely interested in fostering high-quality client service."

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, JOHN O'TOOLE: Conservatives have been setting LSC's agenda for more than a decade, but the tide appears to be turning, says the director of San Francisco's National Center for Youth Law., RECORDER FILE (1989); Picture 2, RALPH ABASCAL: CRLA's general counsel says debate over LSC restrictions has been going on for years, and he doesn't expect "the status quo will change very much.", RECORDER FILE (1990).

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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June 1, 1993, Tuesday, Final Edition
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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

given to efforts that help schools, reduce crime, alleviate poverty PAGE 5

16TH STORY of Level 3 printed in FULL format.

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Los Angeles Times

September 11, 1994, Sunday; Home Edition Angeles Unified School District, UC Berkeley, Occidental College, the Urban Corps of San Diego, Local Initiatives Support Corp., Teach for America and VISTA. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the federal Departments of Agriculture and the Intertainly deserves a great deal of applause for pushing Congress to pass a national service program for young Americans.

AmeriCorps, sort of a domestic Peace Corps, will debut on Monday when Clinton swears in the first group of young participants. Under the nationwide, federally funded program, up to 20,000 graduates of high schools, colleges and professional schools will tackle community service projects.

Priority will be given to efforts that help schools, reduce crime, alleviate poverty or clean up the environment. More than 2,000 AmeriCorps participants will be assigned to projects throughout California. Their sponsors -- businesses and groups that will develop programs -- include the California Conservation Corps, the YMCA, the Los Angeles Unified School District, UC Berkeley, Occidental

College, the Urban Corps of San Diego, Local Initiatives Support Corp., Teach for America and VISTA. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the federal Departments of Agriculture and the Interior also will coordinate programs.

Many participants will help children who are abused, disabled, hungry, homeless, poor, sick or illiterate. AmeriCorps members will also counsel youngsters who are in gangs, abuse alcohol or drugs, need day care or lack supervision after school. And that's not all. Some examples:

-- In Southern California, participants with special skills such as law school graduates will work for the Legal Service Corp. on Crenshaw Boulevard in Southwest Los Angeles. They will spend their first year attacking homelessness, encouraging equal educational opportunities and protecting the environment. That's public service.

-- In Central California, AmeriCorps members will help migrant and seasonal farm workers, and they will pay special attention to land and water projects.

-- In Northern California, participants will teach teen-agers how to mediate conflicts, help people who are HIV-positive and encourage the arts.

In return for their activism, AmeriCorps participants will get the minimum wage, health benefits and nearly \$5,000 in scholarship money per year for up to two years. They may use their scholarships for college or vocational training or to reduce student loans. That's a fair exchange between these young Americans and the federal government.

President Clinton has successfully appealed to members of the MTV generation to get involved and use their talents to help their neighbors. The national service program is an idea well worth trying.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 12, 1994

Copyright 1994 The New Jersey Lawyer, Inc.
New Jersey Lawyer

September 5, 1994

SECTION: Pg. 3

LENGTH: 399 words

HEADLINE: First Monday alliance hopes to encourage public interest work

BYLINE: By Rocco Cammarere

BODY:

Most law school graduates do not go into public interest work.

But, the Alliance for Justice, a national umbrella agency of other public interest

groups, is hoping to change their minds and encourage greater government support when it kicks off First Monday on Oct. 3. The nationwide event is timed to coincide with the start of the U.S. Supreme Court's term.

Rutgers University School of Law-Newark is one of the participants.

"The notion was to promote public interest law, to encourage a dialogue on the proper role of the constitutional system, which includes conflicting visions of what the Constitution is all about," said Frank Askin, a law professor at Rutgers.

So, as the U.S. Supreme Court convenes on the traditional First Monday in October, 43 law schools will begin a discussion on public interest law. The schools will organize into 12 regional symposia across the country. All 12 cities will receive a noontime satellite broadcast from Washington, D.C., and listen to six public interest lawyers discuss their causes.

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun has been invited to speak.

The Alliance hopes the program becomes a yearly event.

"The Alliance for Justice in coalition with other public interest, legal services, and civil rights groups, seeks to energize the public interest legal community and inspire law students to consider a career in public service," said Nan Aron, the alliance's executive director.

The Alliance said law schools do not traditionally teach the values that encourage students to enter public interest law.

There are limited jobs in public interest law, said Askin, the executive producer for First Monday. He said the program also hopes to encourage lawyers in private practice to do more pro bono work and to encourage government agencies to fund Legal Services Corp. and public advocate offices.

Ironically, New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman has eliminated the state's public advocate.

Speakers at the Rutgers forum include former public advocate Zulima Farber, who will speak about children at risk; Douglass Eakelèy, president of the National Legal Services Corp. board of directors; and Dean Ronald Riccio of Seton Hall University School of Law.

Askin said the alliance also supports adoption of civil rights attorneys' fees statutes. The federal system has such a statute, but not New Jersey, Askin said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 15, 1994

September 2, 1994, Friday

SECTION: PRO BONO DIGEST; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 1467 words

HEADLINE: The Legal Services Corp.

BYLINE: WILLIAM J. DEAN; William J. Dean is executive director of Volunteers of Legal Services.

BODY:

ON JUNE 18, Alexander D. Forger was named president of the Legal Services Corp. He was selected by the organization's board of directors to lead the not-for-profit corporation established by Congress in 1974. The mission of the Legal Services Corp. is to ensure equal justice for people living in poverty, through the provision of high quality legal representation, and to further the ends of justice and improve the lives of poor people through the rule of law.

Mr. Forger had served as interim president of the corporation since January, when a new board, appointed by President Clinton, regained control of the organization that had struggled through more than a decade of sharply curtailed appropriations and official hostility to its mission.

Douglas S. Eakeley, chairman of the board, said of the selection of Mr. Forger: "We are extremely proud and grateful to have Alex Forger as our president as we move forward in our common cause of justice for all. His lifetime commitment to serving the poor, his distinguished service in the American Bar Association and particularly his efforts to bring diversity to the leadership of that organization, have well prepared him for the enormous task that lies ahead of us all if we are to make real the promise of equal justice for all Americans." Mr. Eakeley said that the Board's Presidential Search Committee had been impressed with Mr. Forger's accomplishments during his interim service at the corporation. "With few resources and with no permanent mandate, Alex has been able to stop in its tracks, redirect and reinvigorate an organization that had lost its way. In so doing, he has gained the respect and affection of those he has worked with in the corporation as well as those in the field who actually make the program work for clients."

Pursuing the Mission

Upon learning of his selection, Mr. Forger expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to "pursue the mission that is the noblest that any lawyer could be asked to carry out. I am in awe of that mission and of those who work throughout the nation to fulfill it."

A graduate of Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs

and Yale Law School, Mr. Forger joined Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in 1950. He became a partner in 1958 and served as chairman of the firm from April 1984 to April 1992. His field of practice is trusts and estates, domestic relations, personal law, foundations and not-for-profit corporations. He served as a director of The Legal Aid Society from 1974-93, and as chairman from 1983-93.

A few days after his selection as president of the Legal Services Corp., he received the Society's Servant of Justice Award. The award is presented annually to individuals who distinguish themselves as advocates for justice for the poor. A former president of the New York State Bar Association, Mr. Forger is a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. He currently chairs the ABA's Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly and the Volunteers of Legal Service AIDS Project.

Legal Services Corp. currently funds 323 field programs, with 4,500 lawyers, operating 919 neighborhood law offices across the United States. In 1993, Legal Services programs helped more than 1.5 million individuals and families solve legal problems through advice and referral, brief services, dispute resolution, negotiation and settlement and litigation.

The vast majority of cases involve family issues, such as custody and protection from domestic violence, income maintenance for families and the elderly, consumer finance, housing and juvenile matters. While many poor people are helped, it is estimated that Legal Services programs meet only about one-fifth of the legal needs of the poor.

In a telephone interview with Mr. Forger, we discussed some of the challenges that lie ahead for the Legal Services Corp.

First, the client base is growing, as the number of people living in poverty in the United States continues to grow. More than 37 million Americans now live in poverty. According to Mr. Forger, "Surveys corroborate the vast unmet legal needs of the poor."

Dismal Financial Picture

Second, funding is a very difficult issue. For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, federal funding for the Legal Services Corp. is \$ 400 million, a 12 percent increase from the prior year. President Clinton proposed \$ 500 million for fiscal 1995, but the House of Representatives approved only \$ 415 million, and the Senate voted no increase at all. The two appropriation bills now go to a House-Senate conference for resolution.

Mr. Forger sees the corporation's financial picture as "dismal." In 1981 the corporation had a \$ 321 million budget. That year the goal of "minimum access" -- two poverty lawyers for every 10,000 poor people -- was achieved. To reach minimum access today would require an appropriation of \$ 848 million.

In Mr. Forger's view, civil legal services for the poor has been "overshadowed by the growing fear of crime in the country. Funds available to the justice system are going for police and incarceration, not for legal services. There is little pressure on Congress to assist poor people. Poor people are not influential. Just appealing to fairness and justice does not get you very far."

Third, there is the continuing problem of ingrained hostility to the Legal Services Corp. among some members of Congress. During the recent Senate debate on appropriations for the corporation, Senator Phil Gramm, R-Texas, offered this amendment: "Provided, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act made available by the Legal Services Corporation may be made available by the Legal Services Corporation may be made directly or indirectly available to any grantee to file or maintain in any Federal or State court any action that would have the effect of nullifying any provision of Federal or State law which seeks to reform welfare . . ."

As Senator Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., pointed out in the debate, "To adopt such an amendment and to say that when it comes to whatever welfare reform policies are passed, welfare mothers and their children cannot be represented by Legal Services lawyers in challenging that policy, I think, takes the heart and soul out of what Legal Services is about."

Yet the Gramm amendment was defeated on the Senate floor by the narrow margin of only 12 votes, 56-44. As The New York Times stated editorially, "Such attacks have been the lot of the program for two decades and will doubtless continue."

Mr. Forger said he believed that with White House support and a hospitable and supportive board of directors, the affairs of the corporation would run relatively smoothly. "Instead," he said, "it is a struggle every day. The support for the Gramm amendment is a wake-up call. We can't take anything for granted, whether it be funding or the continuation of the program."

What can the private bar do at this time to help the Legal Services Corp. in its work? First, we can vigorously support major increased funding for the corporation. In Mr. Forger's view, the corporation is currently "woefully funded."

Second, strong support for the program must come from the private bar. Lawyers need to convey to members of Congress and the public the critical need to provide civil legal services to poor people.

Third, lawyers can help by volunteering their time and expertise to supplement the very understaffed Legal Services offices throughout the country. In Mr. Forger's words, "We need all the volunteers we can get." Individual practitioners can help by accepting cases on a pro bono basis from poverty law programs. Law firms can lend volunteer lawyers to work full-time in poverty law offices for a four-to six-month period, as is being done by some firms in New York City and Washington, D.C. The private bar can also provide training and other resources to Legal Services law offices.

The Legal Services community and private bar have forged alliances in some parts of the country -- Mr. Forger cites New York City as a leading example -- but far more needs to be done. Given his strong ties to both the private bar and the Legal Services community, Mr. Forger is the ideal person to encourage the development of these collaborative relationships.

One of the things that gives Mr. Forger the most pleasure in his new career, he says, is meeting with Legal Services lawyers who work in projects funded by the corporation. He is much taken by the degree of commitment and dedication shown by these lawyers. In his view, "Legal Services lawyers are as skilled as any

lawyers I have met in the private bar." He concluded the interview by saying, "I am so proud to be associated with this group of lawyers!"

GRAPHIC: Picture, no caption

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 08, 1994

August 24, 1994, Wednesday

SECTION: Pg. 4

LENGTH: 157 words

HEADLINE: Legal Services Project To Begin Next Month

BODY:

A CONSORTIUM of legal services agencies will provide teams of lawyers, educators, social workers and paralegals to provide assistance to low-income residents in 11 communities nationwide under a project scheduled to begin next month.

The National Service Legal Corps is the umbrella organization that includes the Legal Services Corp., the National Association for Public Interest Law, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the Project Advisory Group. An estimated 20,000 persons will take part in the various programs during the first year, addressing homelessness, domestic violence, education, the environment and economic development and revitalization.

NSLC was selected as the first project for funding through AmeriCorps, the national services program signed into law last year by President Clinton. Those participating in the program will receive a living stipend and an award to pay off educational expenses.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 02, 1994

August 22, 1994, Monday

SECTION: BAR TALK; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 321 words

HEADLINE: San Jose Law Project Reaches Out

BYLINE: Mark Walsh

BODY:

As classes begin this week at Santa Clara University School of Law, students can look forward to greater opportunities for hands-on lawyering.

That's because a community law program started by students in 1993 was awarded \$ 200,000 last month to expand its operations. One half of the money came from the Legal Services Corp. and the other half from the U.S. Department of Education.

With the funding, the East San Jose Community Law Center will be able to set up shop at 1765 Alum Rock Avenue and hire two full-time staff attorneys and a couple of support staffers. A Santa Clara law graduate has been hired for a one-year fellowship at the clinic, specializing in employment and immigration matters.

"I'm really excited about this project," said Santa Clara law professor Eric Wright, who teaches classes about representing poor and indigent clients and has helped students to organize the center. He said students will have more opportunity to provide volunteer services to the clinic's clients, primarily Latino immigrants who work as day laborers.

Ruben Pizarro, a third-year Santa Clara law student who was instrumental in launching the program last year, said the center will run workshops to teach people about their rights. "Our goal since we began is to help empower the community," he said.

Wright said he is confident the \$ 100,000 Department of Education grant can be renewed annually. But as continued funding from the Legal Services Corp. is more questionable, Wright said the clinic may ultimately have to turn to other groups to stay afloat.

Among organizations expected to lend expertise or resources to the project are the Employment Law Center in San Francisco, the Asian Law Alliance in San Jose and the local branch of the Legal Aid Society.

Wright said attorneys are being interviewed now for the staff positions and that he expects the law center to be up and running by Sept. 1.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Prepared by The Legal Services Corp - stories

The Council Bluffs office of the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa represented a group of low-income people living in a mobile home court, many of whom were elderly and living on fixed incomes. Because of changes in a local ordinance, the local gas company informed mobile home parks that gas lines between the trailers and the main gas line needed to be replaced at the cost of over \$500 per trailer. The mobile home court owners attempted to pass the charges on to the residents, threatening the poorest of them with the loss of their homes. The residents represented by legal services sued the mobile home park to require it to absorb the costs itself. They prevailed at the district court level and on appeal to the Iowa Court of Appeals, freeing themselves and many other low-income people from an unfair financial burden that they could not afford.

In Savannah, Georgia, a seventeen-year-old girl and her thirteen-year-old brother were devastated when their mother died. Because they had no other family, the Department of Family and Children Services planned to put them in foster homes. The brother and sister, however, wanted to stay together, and sought help from Georgia Legal Services. Before her mother's death, the girl had already been handling the household, taking care of her mother, buying the groceries, cooking, managing the money and going to school. Their legal services lawyer found a guardian for the teenagers and a representative payee for their Social Security survivors' check, and helped them convince a juvenile court judge to let them live on their own. But another difficulty soon emerged: according to public housing officials, the girl was too young to keep her mother's apartment. Ironically, she would only be eligible for an apartment if she was pregnant or an unwed mother. The attorney went to court again, arguing that the girl was emancipated and eligible to remain in the apartment. A judge blocked the eviction temporarily and the housing authority dropped plans to force them out. Now that some time has passed, the two young people are ready to think about moving on, although they will always be close to one another and grateful for their time together. Both are headed out of public housing and toward new lives. With the help of her legal services attorney, the young woman has been offered a full scholarship to a North Carolina college next year, and her brother will attend a private boarding school.

In Saint Louis, a retired woman sought help from Legal Services of Eastern Missouri in obtaining custody of her 21-month old granddaughter Ashley, who was HIV-positive and in foster care in Ohio. Ashley's father, the client's son, was dead. Her mother had been unable to care for her, and had asked the grandmother, who already had custody of Ashley's four-year-old brother, to take the child into her home as well. With representation from legal services programs in Saint Louis and Ohio, the grandmother was granted custody of Ashley. To further complicate matters, Ashley had been denied the social security benefits to which HIV-positive children are entitled. The Legal Services lawyer in Saint Louis helped her appeal the decision, which was reversed, enabling the grandmother to make a home for the infant.

In Alaska, a combination of health problems and several poor fishing seasons forced a commercial fisherman to default on the loan he had taken out to buy his fishing vessel. With the help of Alaska Legal Services he was able to negotiate a settlement with the lending institution that allowed him to retain keep the boat and continue to earn a

living for his family.

An elderly woman came to Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati seeking help because a foreclosure action had been filed against her. She faced losing her home because she had signed a home improvement contract that obligated her to repay \$15,000 for siding and other repairs. None of the promised work had ever been done; in fact, the construction company had vanished, but not before selling the \$15,000 loan to a bank, which had filed a lien against the property. With the help of her legal aid attorney the client was able to resolve the situation. The bank was required to arrange for the repairs to be made and the client agreed to pay \$10,000, the fair value of the work, over a ten-year period.

Sometimes a recurrent pattern of problems can best be resolved through a class action case. Several years ago lawyers at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society began to see dozens of cases like the one in Cincinnati. Many clients had lost their homes from the foreclosure of loans at exorbitant interest rates, as high as 30 percent. Payments sometimes exceeded the homeowners' monthly income. Most of the loans had been taken out for home repair work done for elderly, low-income homeowners with substantial equity in their homes, all of which was lost in foreclosure. The repair work was shoddily done and grossly overpriced, and the homeowners had been steered to particular mortgage companies for high-interest, high-fee loans. Legal Aid attorneys learned that many of these loans were being sold immediately to one of the largest bank holding companies in the United States, and that the holding company had in fact made arrangements with the mortgage and home-repair companies to target vulnerable low-income elderly consumers. On behalf of their clients the attorneys filed a class-action lawsuit against the holding company, alleging fraud, usury, and violation of anti-racketeering laws. They also encouraged the Georgia Attorney General's office to investigate the matter. The holding company settled with the Attorney General for \$115 million, of which \$70 million went into a special fund for low-interest loans for home purchases, home repairs, and debt consolidation for low-income people. The company also settled its case with Legal Aid's clients; although the terms of the settlement are confidential, up to 20,000 customers benefitted from it. The company has also stopped buying high interest mortgages and recently began making direct mortgage loans at much lower rates, as well as beginning an \$8 billion loan program for low income people.

A young mother contacted an office of Kansas Legal Services office desperately concerned about the health of her infant daughter, who suffered from an illness that required her to have constant oxygen therapy in order to survive. Because the equipment was too large to take upstairs in her rented home, the infant had to remain on the first floor, which was heated only by a wood-burning stove and lacked proper ventilation. The air in the home was so bad that visiting nurses would become ill and the child often had to be hospitalized, after which she would recover quickly in the clean air of the hospital. Her doctors demanded that the mother move in order to protect her child's health, but her landlord refused to let her break her lease and threatened her with a suit for damages if she did so. With the help of her legal services attorney the mother and daughter were able to move. The infant's health has improved substantially as a result

of her new environment.

In Pine Ridge, South Dakota, an office of Dakota Plains Legal Services represented a Native American woman whose daughter had recently died in Colorado. The mother, a member of the Sioux tribe, sought the return of her daughter's body to the Pine Ridge Indian reservation where she had grown up and where her mother and four children still lived. If the daughter were buried away from her native home, her mother believed, her soul would wander restlessly forever. The return of the daughter's body was opposed by her husband, who had just been released from a six-month sentence for abusing her when she died, and from whom she was attempting to break away. After a hearing at which the mother was represented by a lawyer from Boulder County Legal Services, a Colorado judge found that because of the husband's years of brutal treatment of his wife he deserved no say in where she should be buried, and ordered the return of the daughter's body to the reservation, where she was laid to rest according to Sioux beliefs and practices.

In Harland County, Kentucky, an attorney from the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky represented a former section foreman for a small non-union mine. When he reported to work one evening, the foreman had found a note left by the foreman on the previous shift, saying that a continuous mining machine was malfunctioning, and that the crew had rigged the electrical circuit breaker to keep it from shutting off. The note also told him to warn the machine's operator and helper to "be careful." The foreman examined the machine's circuit breaker and found blue flames shooting from it. With its safety monitoring system bypassed, the electrical circuit presented an electrocution hazard to every miner working at the mine face. The foreman told the miners he supervised that the machine couldn't be safely operated and refused to allow them to work until the electrical problem was corrected. When the mine owner learned that coal production had been interrupted, he immediately fired the foreman, despite federal law, which states that miners cannot be fired or discriminated against because they have complained about or refused to work in unsafe conditions. With the help of his legal services attorney, the foreman won a substantial settlement, enabling him to save his home, which he was in danger of losing because he had not been able to make his monthly mortgage payments during his period of unemployment.