LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

OPEN SESSION

Thursday, January 19, 2012 3:31 p.m.

Legal Aid Society of San Diego 1764 San Diego Avenue, Suite 200 San Diego, California 92110

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Victor B. Maddox, Chairman Harry J.F. Korrell, III Gloria Valencia-Weber

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharon L. Browne Laurie Mikva Robert J. Grey Jr. Charles N.W. Keckler Father Pius Pietrzyk, O.P. Julie A. Reiskin

STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT:

- James J. Sandman, President
- Richard L. Sloane, Special Assistant to the President Victor M. Fortuno, Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary
- Mattie Cohan, Senior Assistant General Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs
- Katherine Ward, Executive Assistant, Office of Legal Affairs
- Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General
- Laurie Tarantowicz, Assistant Inspector General and Legal Counsel, Office of the Inspector General
- Joel Gallay, Special Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General
- David Maddox, Assistant Inspector General for Management and Evaluation, Office of the Inspector General
- Ronald "Dutch" Merryman, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Office of the Inspector General
- John Constance, Director, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs
- Stephen Barr, Communications Director, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs
- Janet LaBella, Director, Office of Program Performance Dennis Holz, Managing Attorney, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
- Toby Rothschild, General Counsel, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Thomas F. Smegal, Jr., Former LSC Board Member and Member of Institutional Advancement Committee
- Nancy Davis, WithumSmith+Brown
- Don Saunders, National Legal Aid and Defenders Association (NLADA)
- Chuck Greenfield, National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA)
- Justice Earl Johnson, Jr., American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID)

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CLOSED BRIEFING

Communication by Corporate Auditor with those charged with governance under Statement on Auditing Standard 114

Deferred

Jeff Schanz, Inspector General

Ronald "Dutch" Merryman, Assistant Inspector General for Audits

Nancy Davis, WithumSmith+Brown

- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- (3:31 p.m.)
- 3 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: This is the meeting of the
- 4 Audit Committee of the Legal Services Corporation, and
- 5 I'm going to call the meeting to order.
- I will first note that we have Gloria
- 7 Valencia-Weber, Harry Korrell, and myself present, so I
- 8 believe that constitutes a quorum. Our other committee
- 9 member is David Hoffman, who was not able to make it
- 10 today. And then we have other members of the Board
- 11 present.
- 12 So I will call the meeting to order and ask if
- 13 there is a motion to approve the agenda.
- 14 MOTION
- MR. KORRELL: So moved.
- 16 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Second.
- 17 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: All in favor?
- 18 (A chorus of ayes.)
- 19 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: So the motion is carried and
- 20 the agenda is approved.
- 21 Before I go on to the next item, I want to
- 22 also mention that Paul Snyder, who is a member of the

- 1 Fiscal Oversight Task Force, has agreed to be another
- 2 non-board member of the committee, and he will be
- 3 presumably joining us at our future meetings. He was
- 4 not able to make it today.
- 5 Paul was a great asset to LSC and the Fiscal
- 6 Oversight Task Force. He's the former, I believe,
- 7 managing member or partner of KPMG, I believe, one of
- 8 the big regional accounting firms or the big national
- 9 accounting firms. And so he will be an invaluable
- 10 member of the committee. Unfortunately, even though
- 11 he's based in Phoenix, he was not able to make it to
- 12 today's meeting.
- 13 So item No. 2 is approval of the minutes of
- 14 the committee's meeting of October 18th. And I noted
- 15 the agenda says October 18; the minutes actually say
- 16 October 17.
- 17 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Yes
- 18 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: I don't know which is
- 19 correct. So whatever Monday of that week was -- I
- 20 think it's the 17th, actually. Let's just find out
- 21 here real quick. So it was October 17, so that's
- 22 correct.

- There are at least two errors I noted in the
- 2 draft minutes. One is that Sharon Browne is a
- 3 non-committee member who was also present, and it lists
- 4 you as a member. And the other is, on the second page,
- 5 it lists that David Hoffman is with Sidney Austin.
- 6 That's actually Sidley Austin, so if that correction
- 7 could be made.
- 8 I don't know if there are any other
- 9 corrections. Gloria?
- 10 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Take one B out of
- 11 my name, Valencia-Weber with one B.
- 12 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Okay. And where is that?
- 13 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Page 9, on the
- 14 material -- it's the second page, the same page with
- 15 the Sidley Austin.
- 16 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: I see that. Right. So if
- 17 we can get --
- 18 MR. KORRELL: It appears again in the motion,
- 19 so we can just do a global --
- 20 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Yes. We just do
- 21 them all.
- 22 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: So sort of a global. They

- 1 did get it correct in the first page, Gloria.
- 2 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Yes.
- 3 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: With those corrections --
- 4 MS. BROWNE: And the last page.
- 5 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Yes.
- 6 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Yes. With those
- 7 corrections, is there a motion to approve the draft
- 8 minutes?
- 9 MOTION
- 10 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: I'll move.
- MR. KORRELL: Second.
- 12 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: And seconded. And the
- 13 motion -- aye -- will carry.
- 14 So the third item on our agenda is the
- 15 presentation of the fiscal year FY 2011 annual
- 16 financial audit. And we're going to hear from Dutch
- 17 Merryman, the Assistant Inspector General for Audit,
- 18 and Nancy Davis, who looks like she may be sitting in
- 19 the front row there, who is with WithumSmith+Brown.
- 20 Folks?
- MR. MERRYMAN: For the record, Ronald
- 22 Merryman, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, the

- 1 Office of Inspector General. We're here to present the
- 2 results of the audit. Nancy will provide the briefing.
- 3 We are going to cover several things for the
- 4 committee.
- I did pass out copies of the final report and
- 6 management letter to committee members as well as Board
- 7 members. I have limited copies. That has not been
- 8 formally transmitted to the Board yet, so I'm trying to
- 9 limit it to management and Board members until we can
- 10 formally transmit it.
- 11 The letter was signed -- the transmittal
- 12 letter was signed -- this afternoon. I need to get
- 13 that package together and out to everybody. And then,
- 14 as our practice has been in past years, we will then
- 15 post it to -- and required by law -- post it to the
- 16 website early next week when we get back from the
- 17 committee.
- 18 The letter that will transmit it simply
- 19 indicates that we are forwarding it to the Board for
- 20 its consideration. It does not contain any new
- 21 information because we do not conduct the audit, but we
- 22 do look at certain things under Guidance from GAO and

- 1 also from the Organization of Inspectors General to
- 2 look at independence, to look at staff qualification,
- 3 to look at working papers and the types of working
- 4 papers and information that's contained.
- 5 We do not validate the findings nor have any
- 6 responsibility for the findings. It's the judgment of
- 7 the accounting firm who has conducted the audit for
- 8 those judgments, those major judgments.
- 9 So I'll turn it over to Nancy.
- 10 MS. DAVIS: All right. I'm Nancy Davis. I'm
- 11 a partner with WithumSmith+Brown. We have been your
- 12 auditors in the past. The last couple of years, there
- 13 was an audit rotation and we rotated out. But we have
- 14 been the auditors here at LSC for a number of years, so
- 15 we are familiar with your operation.
- 16 What I'd like to do initially is just provide
- 17 you with a brief overview of the results of the audit
- 18 for the year. Our audit opinion, we were glad to tell
- 19 you that we issued an unqualified opinion, a clean
- 20 opinion, on the financial statements of LSC for the
- 21 fiscal year ended September 30, 2011.
- Our audit was performed in accordance with

- 1 generally accepted auditing standards. But it was also
- 2 performed in accordance with government auditing
- 3 standards, and those standards required that we also
- 4 issue a report to you, which you will find on -- it
- 5 doesn't have a page number, but it's page 14 in the
- 6 report.
- 7 It's a report on internal control over
- 8 financial reporting and on compliance and other
- 9 matters, based on an audit of the financial statements
- 10 performed in accordance with government auditing
- 11 standards.
- 12 We are required under government auditing
- 13 standards to test controls and to test compliance
- 14 with -- test the controls over compliance with issues
- 15 that have a direct and material impact on the financial
- 16 statements. And as a result of that, we issued this
- 17 report. We do not perform enough work to be sufficient
- 18 to issue an opinion on internal controls, and so we do
- 19 not do that.
- 20 As a result of this look at internal controls
- 21 and compliance, we did issue one finding this year
- 22 which we deemed to be significant deficiency in

- 1 internal controls over financial reporting within the
- 2 organization. And we will go into that.
- 3 The audit report that you see here -- the
- 4 financial statements, the footnote disclosure notes,
- 5 and management's discussion and analysis, which is
- 6 presented in the appendix to the report -- all of those
- 7 documents are prepared by management and provided to us
- 8 for audit. And so we have audited the financial
- 9 statements.
- 10 We reviewed the disclosure notes for their
- 11 accuracy and also for their compliance with auditing
- 12 standards. There's been a lot of change in recent
- 13 years; auditing standards are moving these days, and
- 14 that's had a great effect on disclosure notes and
- 15 requirements there. So we looked to see if the
- 16 footnote disclosures do comply with the current
- 17 requirements.
- 18 In this case, we found that with these
- 19 disclosure notes, with the exception of the disclosure
- 20 note on the LRAP program, which we proposed some
- 21 additional changes to that we felt would be -- it's
- 22 disclosure note 12 on page 12 on the loan repayment

- 1 assistance program -- we felt that there was some
- 2 additional information that should be provided that
- 3 would give the reader a more comprehensive
- 4 understanding of the status of the program and some of
- 5 the financial data relevant to the program as it
- 6 existed September 30 of 2011.
- 7 For those of you on the Audit Committee, I
- 8 know you've been a part of this audit in that several
- 9 of you participated in our entrance conference and in
- 10 the exit conference where we discussed some of the
- 11 issues.
- 12 As far as LSC, as you all know, the financial
- 13 position of the organization is fairly stable. Your
- 14 programs are fairly stable. You're a grant-making
- 15 organization. And so as it relates to the financial
- 16 statements themselves, the most significant changes
- 17 that you see from one year to the next has been the
- 18 drop in the amount of appropriated dollars that you all
- 19 received for the year; and also that there were a
- 20 number of changes that occurred as a result from
- 21 clarifying the distinction between what are the exempt
- 22 and the non-exempt employees that you have, as well as

- 1 utilizing some temporary employees rather than
- 2 consultants as you have in the past.
- 3 So the change in the status of some of the
- 4 employees resulted in some increases in your
- 5 obligations in terms of employee benefits, salaries,
- 6 these sorts of things. And across the board, as you've
- 7 lost your appropriated dollars, that has provided a cut
- 8 that has impacted some of your numbers. But otherwise,
- 9 the organization has been very stable.
- I would say that I think that LSC, on the
- 11 whole, does a very good job with their financial
- 12 management. I have worked with Dave for many years and
- 13 he does a fine job. We raised an issue this year that
- 14 we identified in the audit that we felt needed to be
- 15 corrected, and that related to the LRAP program.
- 16 This program began back in 2006/2007, and
- 17 every year the amount of dollars that have been
- 18 reported as being outstanding in loans has been a
- 19 number that's been immaterial to the financial
- 20 statements, taken as a whole.
- 21 However, going from 2010 to 2011, that number
- increased from \$470,000 to \$1.1 million, or 138 percent

- 1 increase, but the realizable value of that receivable
- 2 was really on \$7500. Because you have enough program
- 3 history and whatnot with the writeoffs that would be
- 4 expected, loan forgiveness under that program, it's
- 5 reasonable to be able to estimate that the net
- 6 realizable value was \$7500.
- 7 So we felt that that was something that needed
- 8 to be adjusted, and with it, the related deferred
- 9 revenue amount. And that would be in accordance with
- 10 the accounting standards.
- 11 So we raised this issue with management at the
- 12 time of the exit conference, and I believe that from
- 13 that point and until today that we've had a very
- 14 constructive dialogue in working through the issues,
- 15 both us expressing our position on it and their
- 16 expressing theirs. And I believe that from my
- 17 perspective, we came to a good understanding, and I
- 18 think we're in consensus in terms of going forward.
- 19 So the amounts as reported on the LRAP have
- 20 been adjusted down so that the accounts receivable that
- 21 you see on page 4, your Statement of Financial
- 22 Position, the accounts receivable net only shows

- 1 \$16,473. Of that, \$7500 relates to the LRAP program.
- 2 In other words, that is all that current exists that
- 3 you expect to have refunded to you.
- 4 So that's a significant change from the \$1.1
- 5 million. But we believe that that presents a more
- 6 realistic statement of the assets of the organization
- 7 as of September 30, 2011.
- 8 At the time of the discussion that we had, we
- 9 had initially identified this as a material weakness.
- 10 And the reason that we did this is that materiality in
- 11 an audit to some degree is subjective, and yet we are
- 12 constrained within the confines of the auditing
- 13 standards that we do.
- 14 And the auditing standards permit the auditors
- 15 to assess materiality either based on total revenues of
- 16 an organization or on their total assets. Either one
- 17 is considered valid, depending on which one that the
- 18 auditor believes to be most appropriate.
- 19 Because there were some issues that were
- 20 raised relative to what prior auditors had said or not
- 21 said concerning the treatment of the financial activity
- 22 of the program, we did obtain copies of the prior year

- 1 work papers and reviewed them. And basically, their
- 2 conclusion was that, as presented, the LRAP receivable
- 3 was appropriate in light of materiality.
- 4 But it became clear to me that the other
- 5 auditors had made the determination that materiality
- 6 should be based on total revenues. We had made the
- 7 decision that it should be based on total assets.
- 8 And the reason for that is frequently you will
- 9 go with total revenues; but in this case, because you
- 10 all, being a grant-making agency, basically are a
- 11 pass-through organization for the largest dollars of
- 12 the organization, so we felt that the total assets
- 13 formed a better indication of materiality because that
- 14 was where the real substance of the operations was
- 15 taking place.
- 16 So if you looked at the adjustment that we
- 17 propose for LRAP based on materiality on total assets,
- 18 it was material. If you looked at that based on an
- 19 assessment of materiality based on total revenues, it
- 20 would not be.
- 21 So we felt that because there was some
- 22 discussion that way, and because there was some

- 1 subjectivity in terms of the decisions made, that I
- 2 determined that I felt that it was reasonable at this
- 3 point, then, to downgrade our finding to a significant
- 4 deficiency rather than a material weakness, although
- 5 the finding as it was originally stated still stands.
- 6 Management agreed, or agreed to disagree. But
- 7 we did come to concurrence as to that, and the
- 8 adjustment was made to the numbers to properly reflect
- 9 the value of the assets and liabilities at September
- 10 30.
- 11 And again, I'm just going to give you kind of
- 12 an overview here, and then give you all an opportunity
- 13 to ask any questions you may have.
- 14 We also issued this year a management letter
- in conjunction with the audit report. Management
- 16 letters are not a required component of the reporting
- 17 that we do, but if there's an issue that we believe
- 18 needs to be brought to the attention of those of you
- 19 charged with governance that does not rise to the level
- 20 of a significant deficiency or material weakness, we
- 21 will report it to you in a side letter, which is what
- 22 this is.

- 1 The essence of it is that the deadline for the
- 2 audit, the annual audit every year, has been subject to
- 3 discussion for many years. The Board generally meets
- 4 every January, and that's the time at which the audit
- 5 is presented as completed.
- 6 But GAO has come in in previous years, and the
- 7 federal government requires that the audited financial
- 8 statements of all federal agencies are submitted to OMB
- 9 by November 15th every year. So it was GAO's position
- 10 that they felt that LSC should be issuing their audited
- 11 financial statements earlier than they were occurring.
- 12 However, LSC is not a federal agency, and they
- 13 are not subject to those constraints. So there was
- 14 some dialogue about it in terms of what would be a
- 15 reasonable timeline for the audit to be completed. The
- 16 decision was made that we would issue our draft report
- 17 on the 5th of December, with the final report on
- 18 December 15th.
- 19 For a number of reasons, there were some
- 20 challenges that management had in being able to meet
- 21 the timelines. We agreed to those timelines at the
- 22 entrance conference, discussed them in full. But there

- 1 were some challenges there and so, as a result, the
- 2 timelines slipped.
- 3 So what we were simply raising here in this
- 4 letter is to say that, again, we think that this is an
- 5 issue that needs to be discussed between the IG and
- 6 management and with the auditors to come to some
- 7 concurrence on what is a reasonable timeline for the
- 8 audit that everyone can agree to a date. And then we
- 9 will work together to meet those timelines. So that's
- 10 the nature of that recommendation that we've put
- 11 forward here.
- 12 So, because you all have participated in this
- 13 along the way, I'd like to know if you all have any
- 14 specific questions or areas that you would like me to
- 15 discuss with you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: I guess just one question
- 17 is, in light of the adjustment to the LRAP receivable,
- 18 are there changes to the accounting procedures going
- 19 forward so that that problem won't arise in the future?
- 20 Or is this a one-time adjustment?
- MS. DAVIS: Well, no. The internal control
- 22 that we felt was not present was that when you see a

- 1 spike like that from one year to the next, it gives
- 2 rise -- in our case, it required that we perform
- 3 additional audit procedures that we didn't in the past
- 4 when it was immaterial.
- 5 Because the organization is so stable and
- 6 steady from year to year, and even though it is, these
- 7 issues need to be -- the numbers and the disclosures
- 8 and everything related to the overall presentation of
- 9 the organization needs to be revisited to say, is what
- 10 we have today and what we're doing today appropriate
- 11 and not simply because we did it yesterday?
- 12 It needs to be an active process, not a
- 13 passive process. So I don't believe you're going to
- 14 see these big write-downs. I think that this new
- 15 accounting treatment is something that will be followed
- 16 through from now forward.
- 17 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: So the significant
- 18 deficiency in internal controls was the failure to
- 19 allow for the non-collectibility, if you will --
- 20 MS. DAVIS: Correct. Right.
- 21 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: -- of future loan payback.
- 22 So now you've written that down. It's no longer a

- 1 material issue because it's \$7500. And the controller
- 2 is in agreement with you, I gather, that --
- 3 MS. DAVIS: I believe the problem will be
- 4 resolved.
- 5 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: -- that the problem is not
- 6 going to appear in the future?
- 7 MS. DAVIS: Yes. I do not believe it's an
- 8 ongoing problem, no.
- 9 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: That's good.
- 10 Harry?
- 11 MR. KORRELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 12 I have a question about your review of the
- 13 prior audit treatment of the LRAP issue because I know
- 14 that one of management's concerns was that this had
- 15 been looked at by others, and including by your firm,
- 16 and nobody said that there was a problem.
- 17 Was the treatment of that issue -- was a
- 18 conclusion about that issue that the accounting
- 19 treatment was fine? Or was the conclusion that it was
- 20 not fine but it was not material? I mean, there's a --
- 21 MS. DAVIS: The work papers didn't state that
- 22 clearly one way or the other. However, the conclusion

- 1 that they had on the work papers was that they believed
- 2 that the receivable was reasonable in all material
- 3 respects, which means that it was materially okay. But
- 4 in this case, their materiality far exceeded ours, and
- 5 so that was no additional procedures needed.
- 6 There was nothing that specifically said
- 7 whether they agreed or disagreed with the treatment.
- 8 MR. KORRELL: Okay. Maybe I'm -- you see that
- 9 there's a difference between saying, you're doing it
- 10 fine, or, you're not doing it right but the amount's so
- 11 small it doesn't matter.
- 12 MS. DAVIS: Right.
- 13 MR. KORRELL: Is there a way to assess what
- 14 was said about it the first time through?
- 15 MS. DAVIS: We can't tell from the work
- 16 papers. But I think that what raised the issue at all
- 17 is that those numbers went up 138 percent. And because
- 18 we knew that the underlying value of the receivable was
- 19 only \$7500, regardless of what was appropriate last
- 20 year at the level that it was, it was not appropriate
- 21 this year because it misrepresented the assets that we
- 22 felt in terms of its true value.

- 1 MR. KORRELL: Is there something that -- in
- 2 your view, does that spike in a number? Like is that
- 3 something that should trigger a review? This is more
- 4 of a global issue than just on the LRAP. When a number
- 5 like that moves from -- I don't know, what was the
- 6 number? I don't have the numbers right in front of
- 7 me -- but a relatively small amount, a couple hundred
- 8 thousand dollars --
- 9 MS. DAVIS: 470,000 at one point.
- 10 MR. KORRELL: -- right, to 1 point some
- 11 million dollars, is that something that should flag
- 12 from an internal control standpoint, somebody taking a
- 13 look at this and making sure that we're assessing
- 14 these? Is that making sense?
- MS. DAVIS: Well, we asked that a preliminary
- 16 analytical review be done by comparing last year's to
- 17 this year's ending balances. And we asked management
- 18 to describe and to explain to us why there are
- 19 significant jumps, material changes in numbers. Then
- 20 throughout the course of the audit, we then performed
- 21 procedures to corroborate what we were told.
- 22 And so in our audit, because it jumped that

- 1 much, it did become significant and we did have to do
- 2 more work, where in the past we did not. So how
- 3 management would respond to those changes really would
- 4 be a decision on their part.
- 5 MR. KORRELL: And what's the difference
- 6 between an opinion and a report? We have a report on
- 7 internal controls based on those that you looked at.
- 8 MS. DAVIS: Right. It in our profession is
- 9 referred to as a Yellow Book report. It's a report
- 10 specifically required under government auditing
- 11 standards, as opposed to our opinion. And our opinion
- 12 is something completely different.
- 13 So we are not issuing an opinion on internal
- 14 controls. We're simply reporting on the impact of
- 15 significant internal controls and how they affect your
- 16 financial reporting.
- 17 MR. KORRELL: And this may go beyond the
- 18 discussion of this report or an opinion. But one of
- 19 our committee's responsibilities is to oversee the
- 20 internal controls of the Corporation with respect to
- 21 financial statements. And I just -- this is for Victor
- 22 or for the OIG -- I'm just curious what resources are

- 1 available to us to make sure that we're doing that.
- 2 It sounds like this report is not really an
- 3 adequate -- for us, it's not adequate for us to look at
- 4 that report that you've issued and say, internal
- 5 controls --
- 6 MS. DAVIS: Well, our report -- this report
- 7 has a narrow scope. It's dealing with financial
- 8 reporting. It's internal controls or compliance issues
- 9 that could impact your financial statements.
- 10 So to that extent, yes, we do have to do
- 11 sufficient work to report on that. But it doesn't
- 12 cover the whole scope of controls that may be necessary
- 13 in the organization or things that the IG would
- 14 address. This is a very narrow scope that we're
- 15 reporting on.
- MR. KORRELL: Thank you.
- 17 MR. MERRYMAN: This would be one aspect of an
- 18 overall program. When you look towards getting an
- 19 opinion on internal controls, examination of internal
- 20 controls, if you will, it requires a lot more work in
- 21 the control area. It requires a lot more
- 22 responsibility and representation of management of what

- 1 they have done to look at their own controls. And
- 2 there's a lot -- it's a lot bigger engagement.
- 3 There are directives in OMB circulars that
- 4 deal with management control, which is wider than
- 5 financial control. And it does list as resources
- 6 GAO -- the certified financial statement reports and IG
- 7 reports as assisting in management's responsibility to
- 8 make sure that the control system is in place and
- 9 operating.
- 10 Risk assessment is another thing for control
- 11 that you would look at from the standpoint of the risk
- 12 management program within the organization. Where are
- 13 the major risks? What are the controls that have been
- 14 put in place? And periodically, I believe, the
- 15 committee has been briefed on some of those controls
- 16 and what has been in place to address them.
- 17 So it would be a lot broader to do the whole
- 18 control thing.
- 19 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Gloria?
- 20 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Yes. I understand
- 21 that this is not an opinion, and as you say, were
- 22 essentially addressing the scope of the testing and

- 1 then the results of the testing, which led to this
- 2 conclusion about how the LRAP numbers should be
- 3 treated.
- 4 So as based -- correct me if I have this
- 5 understanding not the way it's supposed to go
- 6 forward -- going forward, you're going to have the
- 7 question of materiality based on the assets in the LRAP
- 8 function rather than --
- 9 MS. DAVIS: It's applied to your financial
- 10 statements as a whole.
- 11 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Right, because of
- 12 how it impacts the financial statement as a whole. And
- 13 it's not based on what prior reviews had used, which
- 14 you call the receivables. Is that correct?
- 15 MS. DAVIS: Right. We looked at the
- 16 circumstances related to this fiscal year, not what
- 17 existed in the prior year. But that's what we could
- 18 report on.
- 19 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: And going forward,
- 20 you and all the parties within LSC have agreed to how
- 21 this LRAP treatment will go in the future?
- MS. DAVIS: It's my understanding that we

- 1 have. I feel comfortable that the corrective action
- 2 management has proposed addresses the issue, yes.
- 3 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: That's correct.
- 4 Management agrees with that. We will account going
- 5 forward for the LRAP receivable in the way described in
- 6 the finding.
- 7 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Let me ask you about the
- 8 timeline issue. I'm not quite sure I understand it.
- 9 The letter we got today refers to a January 9 letter.
- 10 This letter is also dated January 9. So both of
- 11 these --
- 12 MS. DAVIS: As of September -- yes.
- 13 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Right. The audit was as of
- 14 September 30th. But I'm looking at the letter which
- 15 Dutch just gave us today dated January 9.
- MS. DAVIS: Right.
- 17 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: And it talks about this
- 18 timeline business. And as I -- I mean, the letter says
- 19 that a timely audit requires a greater coordination
- 20 between management and OIG and the auditors. And then
- 21 management says, we agree that it requires greater
- 22 coordination.

- 1 So the upshot is we're just going to work
- 2 closer together; we're not going to change the timeline
- 3 in any way? Or is there some change to the timing of
- 4 the audit itself contemplated; it's going to be moved
- 5 up earlier in the year; December 15th is going to
- 6 become December 1st -- I mean, is there some change
- 7 contemplated?
- 8 MR. MERRYMAN: What we contemplate doing in
- 9 the IG is take a look at the circumstances contributing
- 10 to that to see if an adjustment to the timeline would
- 11 be appropriate and bring it back to the committee and
- 12 management so that we can avoid -- around the holidays,
- 13 it gets difficult. That's part of our problem. We
- 14 could not get the information we needed from the other
- 15 audit firm. They didn't have the people on board that
- 16 needed to give us this information.
- 17 So what we want to do is look at the
- 18 situations that contributed to this one, see what could
- 19 be done, if anything, to do things more in advance, if
- 20 we can get them done in advance, and still meet the
- 21 December 15th. I'm not throwing the baby out with the
- 22 bath water.

- But given that, realistically, it's not a good
- 2 date, and we can document why it's not a good date,
- 3 then to bring that back to the committee for
- 4 consideration -- the data actually evolved more because
- 5 of the GAO report on governance, to try to get the
- 6 information sooner.
- 7 And so what we plan to do is bring something
- 8 back to the committee after we work with management and
- 9 the auditor to see if we can adjust it. And if not,
- 10 then what actions do we need to make sure that we get
- 11 it done within the established time that it is now.
- 12 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Okay. Sounds like a plan.
- I guess, Jim, you're happy with that?
- 14 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Yes. I think this is
- 15 something we need to address annually, what a
- 16 reasonable time period is under the circumstances as
- 17 they present themselves each year. But I agree with
- 18 the procedure in going forward that Mr. Merryman has
- 19 described.
- 20 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Good.
- 21 Mr. Inspector General?
- MR. SCHANZ: I do want to make sure that the

- 1 Audit Committee has a degree of confidence in this
- 2 report. Using a due diligence standard, Nancy and her
- 3 team went back and actually obtained working papers
- 4 from the prior audits to see where the divergence
- 5 occurred. And I was very happy that that occurred.
- It took, as Dutch mentioned, a little while,
- 7 and that goes back to your question, Gloria, as to
- 8 whether we do a cost analysis or a comparison basis.
- 9 Generally, the financial statements are for that
- 10 period, the time period, and the opinion is expressed
- 11 based on the time period ending September 2011.
- 12 But because an issue was flagged, we went
- 13 back. We figuratively went back and looked at the
- 14 working papers from the prior audit, which I believe is
- 15 a very good example of due diligence and an opportunity
- 16 for you to have more confidence in the report that was
- 17 issued. Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Thank you, Jeff.
- 19 And I want to thank the panel. Thank you,
- 20 Nancy Davis, for coming to present it to us, and Dutch,
- 21 for your hard work on it. I know it was a big job.
- 22 Any kind of transition year always is, I'm sure. So

- 1 appreciate it very much.
- 2 If there are no other questions from the
- 3 committee members, we're going to move on to our next
- 4 item in the interest of trying to stay on something of
- 5 a schedule.
- The next item on our agenda is report on the
- 7 program quality evaluations. And we have the director
- 8 of the Office of Program Performance, Janet LaBella.
- 9 Welcome, Janet.
- 10 MS. LABELLA: Welcome, and thank you. I'm
- 11 Janet LaBella, the director of the Office of Program
- 12 Performance. And I've been asked to give an overview
- 13 on how the Office of Program Performance performs
- 14 oversight.
- 15 As I'm sure most of you know at this point,
- 16 the Office of Program Performance, or OPP, is charged
- 17 with ensuring grantee provision of high quality legal
- 18 services, and we go about that in a variety of ways.
- 19 We rely on the LSC performance criteria as our
- 20 guide for that. We use that in the evaluation of
- 21 competitive grants through the competitive grant
- 22 process. We use it also when we perform onsite

- 1 evaluations of grantees. As part of the competitive
- 2 grant process, we will recommend special grant
- 3 conditions regarding program quality issues, if those
- 4 are necessary; and we also review those throughout the
- 5 year.
- 6 Our staff maintains regular contact and
- 7 followup with grantees, and that concerns followup from
- 8 onsite evaluations, as well as any issues that were
- 9 spotted during the competitive grant process, as well
- 10 as regular followup throughout the year.
- 11 We also encourage innovation and best
- 12 practices. And as you know, that frequently concerns
- 13 technology. Our 2012 budget is somewhat over \$4
- 14 million, and when we look at how that is allocated
- through OPP's responsibilities, approximately 60
- 16 percent is devoted to program quality, about 17 percent
- 17 is devoted to TIG, and about 15 percent to competition.
- In terms of staff time throughout the year,
- 19 our program staff -- and those are primarily the
- 20 program counsel and program analysts that do onsite
- 21 evaluations and review programs.
- 22 And we have figured out that approximately 34

- 1 percent of their time during the year is spent on
- 2 program quality visits, and approximately 6 percent on
- 3 program engagement visits, and about 2 percent on
- 4 capability assessment visits, and about 11 percent on
- 5 grant application reviews. The rest of the time is
- 6 spent on followup, on committee assignments, and
- 7 promoting the work of programs.
- 8 Currently, we have 27 positions in OPP, of
- 9 which two are vacant, and those are the deputy director
- 10 and a program analyst for special projects. Our core
- 11 staff for program staff consists of 11 program counsel
- 12 and one program analyst. For TIG, we have two program
- 13 counsel, one grants coordinator, and one full-time
- 14 program analyst, and then a portion of another program
- 15 analyst who devotes a portion of his time to TIG. We
- 16 also have two full-time staff for competition.
- 17 As an overview of the grants award process, as
- 18 you know, this was congressionally mandated beginning
- 19 in 1996. Typically, we fund grantees for a maximum of
- 20 three years. Most of the grants are from one to three
- 21 years, with the bulk of them being three-year awards.
- Those grantees that receive a multi-year award

- 1 file annual grant renewals, and as I mentioned before,
- 2 there may be special grant conditions attached to any
- 3 grant award, and that can happen whether the applicant
- 4 grantee is in the regular competition cycle or as part
- 5 of a renewal.
- 6 Most of the service areas have one applicant,
- 7 who is the current provider; however, there have been
- 8 some changes over the years. In 2010, there was a
- 9 multi-applicant service area and a new provider. In
- 10 2011, that was a multi-applicant service area and a
- 11 change in providers resulting from that. And in 2012,
- 12 there was a multi-applicant service area, and again,
- 13 another new provider in Massachusetts.
- 14 The competition process -- and this was the
- 15 first year that Jim oversaw the competition
- 16 process -- is a lengthy process, and it's quite
- 17 comprehensive. The staff review all of the grant
- 18 applications based on the LSC performance criteria, the
- 19 ABA standards, the LSC regulations, and the RFP.
- 20 And if necessary, we will actually perform an
- 21 onsite assessment. That is not just in the case if
- there's multi-applicants, but it can be if we perceive

- 1 from the written materials that there are questions, or
- 2 we think there are some weaknesses there that we want
- 3 to perform an onsite assessment to further evaluate
- 4 them.
- 5 Both OPP and OCE complete a recommendation in
- 6 LSC grants. And we also get input from the OIG. If
- 7 there is a multi-applicant service area, the staff will
- 8 conduct a capability assessment of the applicants,
- 9 which is customarily a visit to both of them.
- 10 They prepare capability assessment reports,
- 11 and we also convene a review panel that assesses the
- 12 capacities of the applicants. And, as you know, the
- 13 LSC president makes the funding decisions, and that is
- 14 after meetings with OPP, OCE directors, and the grants
- 15 manager, typically.
- 16 So in addition to the competition process, we
- 17 perform grantee oversight by onsite assessments. The
- 18 most significant one of those is the program quality
- 19 visit, and that is typically a week-long visit, which
- 20 is performed by a team.
- The team consists of staff from OPP and,
- 22 frequently, temporary employees. Often, the teams will

- 1 be consisting of four to five people. If we have a
- 2 very large program, we may be there longer than a week,
- 3 so there's no set time period and no set number of
- 4 people on the team.
- 5 In 2011, we performed 20 program quality
- 6 visits and one capability assessment visit. We also
- 7 performed 18 program engagement visits. Those are
- 8 shorter visits, typically 2 to 3 days in duration, that
- 9 are performed by the program counsel liaison to the
- 10 program. Sometimes there may be someone else that goes
- 11 on those visits if there are particular questions,
- 12 again, that we want to delve into.
- 13 Those typically can be followups to
- 14 recommendations that we've made in a program quality
- 15 visit, or it can be to find out more about the program,
- 16 or there may be other issues that have come to our
- 17 attention and we want to follow up onsite for those.
- Now, this year, for the first time, we
- 19 implemented another followup activity, which was part
- 20 of the competitive grants process, and we called that
- 21 the post-program quality visit grant application. And
- that applied to programs that were grantees that were

- 1 single applicants for the service area that had had a
- 2 PQV in the last two years.
- 3 We designated certain recommendations in the
- 4 report as tier one, which were those recommendations
- 5 that were to have the greatest impact on service
- 6 delivery for the program. And instead of submitting a
- 7 50-page narrative, those programs indicated whether
- 8 they had implemented the recommendations, and if they
- 9 had not, why not.
- 10 If they were in the process, they indicated
- 11 how far along in the process they were. If they were
- 12 considering it, they explained what the considerations
- 13 were in deciding whether or not they could implement
- 14 the recommendation.
- Most of the recommendations, we found, were
- 16 either implemented or being implemented. Of course,
- 17 with some programs, there were some financial concerns
- 18 that might delay or impede implementation of the
- 19 recommendations. But by and large, we were very
- 20 pleased with the results. It provided us with a very
- 21 succinct way of following up on our recommendations
- 22 from the program quality visit reports for the last two

- 1 years.
- 2 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Janet, let me ask you -- I
- 3 should have asked you this earlier -- how long do you
- 4 think you're going to need?
- 5 MS. LABELLA: Just a few more minutes.
- 6 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Because I have at least one
- 7 question, others may have questions, and we're going to
- 8 be running up against a deadline.
- 9 MS. LABELLA: Then I'll wrap it up quickly.
- 10 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Thank you.
- MS. LABELLA: So this year we had 14 post-PQV
- 12 competitive grant applications, and 28 post-PQV grant
- 13 renewal applications. We also changed the renewals for
- 14 those that had had a program quality visit in the last
- 15 two years, so that the renewal application also
- 16 followed up on the significant recommendations from the
- 17 report.
- 18 Forty-six percent of the applications were
- 19 standard renewals this year and 23 percent and 23
- 20 percent were competitive standard applications; the
- 21 post-PQV renewals represented 21 percent, and the
- 22 post-PQV competitive grant applications were 10

- 1 percent. So that was the breakdown.
- 2 This was our first year that we did this
- 3 followup activity, and we have got good feedback from
- 4 both staff and programs, who thought that it was a good
- 5 way for them to show what they had done in terms of the
- 6 recommendations, and also relieved them of writing a
- 7 50-page narrative describing their service delivery
- 8 system when we had just been there and assessed it.
- 9 So I'd be happy to take any questions.
- 10 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Thank you for that report.
- 11 I have a question. OPP got some very complimentary
- 12 remarks in the strategic planning process that we're
- 13 still undergoing, and it was highlighted as one of the
- 14 most effective parts of LSC by some of the directors.
- I have a question, though. How do you
- 16 determine what a bad program is, and what are the
- 17 consequences when you do that?
- MS. LABELLA: Well, I'm not sure I would use
- 19 the terminology "a bad program." But let's say that we
- 20 perform an onsite visit and determine that there are
- 21 some areas of the delivery system that are inadequate
- 22 or weak.

- 1 We would then issue a report. We would also
- 2 talk, of course, to the executive director and other
- 3 management staff.
- 4 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Right. But you've already
- 5 gone beyond where -- what I'm wondering is how do you
- 6 determine --
- 7 MS. LABELLA: How do we determine it? Okay.
- 8 We determine --
- 9 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: -- that some aspect is weak?
- 10 What is it, is plan English, if we can do that? I
- 11 don't know if it can be done, that says --
- MS. LABELLA: All right. Well, let's --
- 13 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: -- in the universe of
- 14 programs, San Diego is great, but this one over here is
- 15 not really up to snuff.
- 16 MS. LABELLA: We use the performance criteria
- 17 as a guide. But, for example, it might be easier to
- 18 answer your question by example. Let's say we are
- 19 evaluating the intake system, and we determine that the
- 20 wait time on calls exceeds a half hour for someone to
- 21 get through the system; that there's a lot of dropped
- 22 calls that they can measure; and so that the access is

- 1 certainly impaired by a combination of perhaps the
- 2 technology that they're using as well as staffing, and
- 3 there may be some other aspects of that.
- 4 So that is how we look at an intake system.
- 5 We're looking for access. We're looking for
- 6 sensitivity to the clients when they're involved in the
- 7 intake process. And we're looking at how efficiently
- 8 they can move through the process. So that's just an
- 9 example.
- 10 We review, for example, a writing sample from
- 11 every advocate. And there have been programs that have
- 12 said, really, Janet. Are you really going to look at
- 13 these? And I consider it probably the most important
- 14 document that we review in terms of evaluating program
- 15 quality.
- 16 It gives us an idea -- it's supposed to be an
- 17 example of the advocate's best writing in the last 24
- 18 months. And it's not supposed to be a form pleading.
- 19 It's supposed to show analysis, legal argument,
- 20 development, and so forth.
- 21 And if we get form pleadings, that's an
- 22 indication that those advocates are not doing legal

- 1 analysis. They're not doing really significant legal
- 2 work. We often will find typos. We will find other
- 3 errors in these -- I shouldn't say "often," but on
- 4 occasion we do. And that's an indication to us of lack
- 5 of supervision.
- 6 So we review a tremendous number of documents.
- 7 We try to dig fairly deep. We look at, of course, the
- 8 CSRs. We get additional case lists before we go on
- 9 program visits. We have an open case list for every
- 10 advocate that we review. So we try to look at the
- 11 extent of the legal work that the program is doing, the
- 12 quality of it, the efficiencies, and the effectiveness
- 13 of the legal work.
- 14 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: That's very helpful. I
- 15 could go on with other questions, and I will, probably,
- 16 in the future. But I want to go over to Sharon right
- 17 now.
- 18 MS. BROWNE: I just have a real quick
- 19 question. When you identify that there is a weakness,
- 20 are you looking at a checklist that has specific
- 21 criteria -- for example, dropped calls, if it's 30
- 22 minutes before somebody is helped, or there's too many

- 1 dropped calls -- do you have a checklist that you go
- 2 down? And the criteria that you use, is that already
- 3 set out so that the grantee is aware of what you're
- 4 going to look at?
- 5 MS. LABELLA: The LSC performance criteria is
- 6 the general quideline. It's not like a checklist. It
- 7 won't say in there, for example, greater than 30
- 8 minutes is evidence of a significant weakness. But it
- 9 does talk in terms of being sensitive to clients,
- 10 having prompt decisions, being able to do intake
- 11 efficiently and effectively.
- 12 We also have other documents that we use to
- 13 assist our staff when they go onsite, and one of those
- 14 is, for example, an intake checklist that has a lot of
- 15 those things prepared in a checklist format that can be
- 16 of assistance to our staff when they go onsite and
- 17 evaluate programs.
- MS. BROWNE: Are all these documents and
- 19 quidelines available to the grantee so that they know
- 20 what you're going to be looking at?
- 21 MS. LABELLA: The grantees have all received
- 22 copies of the LSC performance criteria, which is again

- 1 the general guide.
- MS. BROWNE: And how about your manual? Do
- 3 they have access to the manual or the instructions
- 4 that --
- 5 MS. LABELLA: You mean to any checklists and
- 6 so forth? No. They don't have access to those. But
- 7 they do have -- they've been provided with the LSC
- 8 performance criteria to assist them. And then the way
- 9 we perform our visits are really in concert with the
- 10 performance criteria. Every performance area is an
- 11 area that we evaluate when we're onsite. And it also
- 12 follows the format of the competitive grant
- 13 application, the RFP, as well.
- MS. BROWNE: Thank you.
- 15 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Thank you.
- 16 Any other questions?
- 17 (No response.)
- 18 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Janet, thank you very much
- 19 for that report. It's very helpful.
- MS. LABELLA: Well, thank you. And if you
- 21 have any other questions later on, feel free to ask
- 22 them.

- 1 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: I will. I will.
- We're going to move on to --
- MS. REISKIN: She went over a lot of really
- 4 good stuff really quickly. I'm wondering if we could
- 5 just get an electronic copy of that at some point?
- 6 MS. LABELLA: Sure. I apologize. I had
- 7 intended to show it as a PowerPoint, but my plane was
- 8 so late I wasn't able to set it up.
- 9 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Do you know what
- 10 else might be helpful, is if we could look at a copy of
- 11 the program quality --
- 12 MS. REISKIN: Yes. The criteria.
- 13 MS. LABELLA: Oh, the performance criteria?
- MS. REISKIN: Yes.
- MS. LABELLA: It's on the LSC website. But if
- 16 you want a copy, I'm sure we can provide you each with
- 17 a copy of it.
- PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: The website's good.
- 19 MS. LABELLA: The website's good?
- 20 MS. REISKIN: Yes. Just electronic is fine.
- 21 You don't have to make copies, at least for me.
- MS. LABELLA: Very well. I'll do that.

- 1 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Thank you very much.
- MS. LABELLA: Thank you.
- 3 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: We're going to move on to
- 4 item No. 5 on our agenda now, report on the LSC 403(b)
- 5 plan performance.
- 6 MR. SLOANE: Good afternoon. I'm Richard
- 7 Sloane. I'm the special assistant to the president,
- 8 and I anticipate that my remarks will be guite brief.
- 9 I submitted a memorandum to the Board, and I'll quickly
- 10 go over that with you.
- 11 So I'll summarize my remarks in two sections.
- 12 The first deals with three recent changes to LSC's
- 13 403(b) thrift plan that took effect during the fourth
- 14 quarter of 2011. Two of those changes were to the
- 15 thrift plan document, and one change was to the thrift
- 16 plan procedures. All of these changes were more fully
- 17 discussed and addressed during the Board of Directors
- 18 meeting in November 2011.
- 19 The first change to the plan document involves
- 20 post-separation compensation, where the thrift plan
- 21 document was amended to include post-separation
- 22 compensation as eligible compensation for thrift plan

- 1 purposes. And that often came in the form of final
- 2 paychecks to participants.
- 3 The second change had the thrift plan document
- 4 amended to permit federal Civil Service Retirement
- 5 System, or CSRS, eligible employees to participate in
- 6 the thrift plan for employee contributions but not for
- 7 employer contributions or employer matching purposes.
- 8 And this was a follow up on Board Resolution 2009-009.
- 9 The third was a change to the loan procedures,
- 10 which were modified to eliminate a prior restriction
- 11 that a participant in the 403(b) plan could not take
- 12 more than two loans within any 12-month period. There
- 13 still are restrictions on participant loans that are
- 14 subject to a cumulative loan amount limitation of the
- 15 lesser of either \$50,000 or 50 percent of the
- 16 participant's vested benefit in the plan.
- 17 All of these three changes were discussed with
- 18 the bargaining units, with the union at LSC. The union
- 19 had no objections to any of them, and all of them have
- 20 been implemented.
- 21 The second section of my remarks will provide
- 22 a very quick summary of the fourth quarter 2011 thrift

- 1 plan performance. As of November 30, 2011, the total
- 2 assets in the thrift plan were approximately
- 3 \$15,600,000. I did receive, just recently, the
- 4 Morningstar-Principia report through December 31, 2011,
- 5 and the total assets in the plan have increased to
- 6 \$16,760,297.
- 7 I'll just note that the Morningstar-Principia
- 8 report is provided monthly. It's a two-page document
- 9 that quickly summarizes fund performance. And I'm
- 10 happy to share that with the Board in full or with this
- 11 committee if you think that that would be useful or
- 12 helpful. So I'll leave it up to you. I'm happy to
- 13 send that to you electronically.
- 14 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Thank you, Richard. We've
- 15 seen that report in the past, and I don't know that we
- 16 have to have it today or at this meeting.
- 17 MR. SLOANE: Great. I'm happy to take
- 18 any questions if you have them.
- 19 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Questions?
- 20 (No response.)
- 21 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Hearing none, I want to
- 22 thank you for your report.

- 1 MR. SLOANE: Thank you.
- 2 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: The next item on our agenda,
- 3 and as usual, Mattie, we're running short on time, is
- 4 the discussion of the committee's charter. I think, in
- 5 light of the fact that we have two members -- I do want
- 6 to get your comments, and we have a couple questions,
- 7 but we don't want to take any action on this today.
- 8 We've got two members of the committee who are not
- 9 present.
- 10 I got an email from Paul Snyder yesterday with
- 11 some comments and questions. I didn't really have a
- 12 chance to review them. And I would like to get their
- 13 comments as well as -- or his comments as well as David
- 14 Hoffman's.
- So that being said, we'd like to have a brief
- 16 report from you summarizing your memo. And I know that
- 17 Harry, at least, has a couple questions.
- 18 MS. COHAN: Sure. For the record, my name is
- 19 Mattie Cohan with the Office of Legal Affairs.
- 20 In accordance with some of the direction from
- 21 the committee at its last meeting, we put together a
- 22 revised draft charter for the committee's

- 1 consideration. There are proposed changes at the
- 2 moment to four sections -- Section 2, Purpose, Section
- 3 7, Authority, Section 8, Duties and Responsibilities,
- 4 and Section 9, Limitations.
- 5 The changes to Section 2 and Section 9 are
- 6 essentially the same thing. It's clarifying that the
- 7 Audit Committee is not an executive committee or, as
- 8 the new term is being used in the D.C. Nonprofit Code,
- 9 a committee of the Board that has the authority to act
- 10 in executive capacity for the Board.
- 11 There is one change in the Authority section
- 12 which is a deletion of the duty to expressly oversee
- 13 the selection of the external auditor, mainly because
- 14 the external audit function, that contracting is done
- 15 by the Office of the Inspector General.
- 16 The Inspector General is responsible for the
- 17 selection and retention of the auditor. And I don't
- 18 want to speak for them, but I believe it's their
- 19 position that there's a concern that the existing
- 20 specific authority statement vesting the committee with
- 21 the authority of overseeing the selection and retention
- of the auditor may infringe on the OIG's independence

- 1 and responsibility in that matter.
- 2 So most of the changes occur in the Duties and
- 3 Responsibilities section. One of the first things that
- 4 was done was reorganization of the duties so that they
- 5 are now grouped by substantive areas of
- 6 concern -- audits and audit-related matters, financial
- 7 reporting, risk assessment, and other duties and
- 8 responsibilities.
- 9 It was believed and suggested at the last
- 10 meeting that the reorganization would be very helpful
- 11 to help the committee get a handle on what it's
- 12 supposed to be doing and where its areas of
- 13 responsibility were.
- 14 So then within that, a lot of the duties that
- 15 are set forth in this reorganized manner are actually
- 16 restatements of some of the existing duties. We've
- 17 tried to tinker with the language to make it clear that
- 18 there's a distinction between the annual financial
- 19 audit performed by the external auditors and other
- 20 audits as may be performed by the Office of the
- 21 Inspector General.
- There is one new duty in this section

- 1 proposed, which expressly vests the Audit Committee
- 2 with the responsibility to address unresolved
- 3 disagreements between management and the OIG on matters
- 4 arising out of the audit process.
- 5 This comes because in the federal sector,
- 6 there's something called the A-50 process, which is a
- 7 specific process for the resolution of disagreements
- 8 arising out of an audit. LSC isn't subject to the A-50
- 9 process. We do have, though, an equivalent process for
- 10 referrals made by the OIG to management on findings of
- 11 the OIG relative to recipients, when they go out and
- 12 review recipients. But there isn't a formal A-50
- 13 equivalent policy regarding OIG findings and referrals
- 14 with respect to audits of management.
- So the proposed duty just basically provides
- 16 some mechanism for the resolution of significant
- 17 disputes should they arise. I think the expectation is
- 18 that because of the good and continued working
- 19 relationship between management and the OIG, that
- 20 process would rarely have to be used because these
- 21 things usually get worked out. But in the event that
- 22 it didn't, there's a place for the OIG and management

- 1 to come and say, we can't resolve this. Help guide us.
- With respect to financial reporting, several
- of those duties are the same as they exist in the
- 4 existing charter with regard to the review of
- 5 management and the Finance Committee's letters of
- 6 certifications regarding financial reporting.
- 7 And I just want to note that in carrying out
- 8 these responsibilities -- because that was part of the
- 9 discussion, was not just what is the responsibility but
- 10 how do we do this -- it's anticipated that the
- 11 committee will ask for and rely upon management, the
- 12 OIG, and/or the external auditors to bring matters
- 13 necessary to the committee's attention. And there's a
- 14 cross-reference to Section 9, Limitations, which says
- 15 that the committee has the right to rely on the
- 16 information brought to it.
- 17 In the duties relating to risk management, we
- 18 took portions of Duty 7 and portions of Duty 6 in the
- 19 existing charter to really focus on the responsibility
- 20 of the committee to review management's monitoring of
- 21 the internal controls.
- 22 These revisions are intended to narrow the

- 1 scope of the duties to make it clear that management
- 2 has the responsibility to identify and mitigate risk
- and to monitor internal controls, and it's the
- 4 committee's responsibility to assist the board in the
- 5 oversight of management in management's
- 6 responsibilities in this process.
- 7 With respect to other duties and
- 8 responsibilities, they are, with one amendment,
- 9 generally consistent with the existing duties in the
- 10 current charter, and they are related to a variety of
- 11 different miscellaneous things -- communications with
- 12 the OIG, meetings with the OIG, establishing procedures
- 13 for the receipt, retention, and treatment of complaints
- 14 regarding accounting, internal controls, reporting to
- 15 the board, periodically assessing the committee's
- 16 performance and reviewing the charter, and other duties
- 17 as consistent with the charter as may be asked by the
- 18 Board.
- 19 The one change in this section is proposing
- 20 that the committee report to the Board four times a
- 21 year rather than twice a year since that's what the
- 22 Board's schedule is. And it seemed just if the Board

- 1 is meeting, that the Board should be getting a report
- 2 from the Audit Committee as a general matter.
- 3 Then finally, I want to note that we've
- 4 deleted one duty from the existing charter in its
- 5 entirety, which is to, in concert with the OIG,
- 6 annually review and confirm the independence of the
- 7 external auditor. This is another one of those places
- 8 where that responsibility rests with the OIG, and the
- 9 OIG has expressed concern that having the committee
- 10 have this duty is a possible infringement and is just
- 11 not necessary.
- 12 Currently, what happens is that the OIG
- 13 reports to the committee on the process it uses to
- 14 complete for and select the external auditor, and this
- 15 practice would continue under the auspices of Section
- 16 6, Resources Being Provided to the Committee, of the
- 17 proposed revised charter. So the committee would still
- 18 get information on this selection and independence of
- 19 the external auditor, but would do so in a manner more
- 20 consistent with the OIG's responsibilities.
- 21 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Let me ask Harry if you've
- 22 got a particular concern that you want to address to

- 1 Mattie now. What I'm going to suggest is that we
- 2 solicit comments from the members, as well as those who
- 3 are not present, and get back to you, and then work in
- 4 some additional items and perhaps address some
- 5 additional concerns with the goal of taking final
- 6 action on this probably at our next meeting, if not
- 7 before that, at another meeting that we schedule next
- 8 quarter.
- 9 MS. COHAN: Certainly. I sit here ready to
- 10 assist the committee in any way.
- 11 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Understood.
- 12 Harry?
- 13 MR. KORRELL: Yes. I'll just make this real
- 14 quick. Mattie, at one point you talked about, I think,
- 15 preparing an annotated version of this, like is item 4
- 16 satisfied by doing A, B, C. Is that still something
- 17 you're contemplating pulling together?
- 18 MS. COHAN: Oh, I believe the annotated
- 19 version that I had done was for the last meeting, and
- 20 for this meeting, I focused on the redline and the
- 21 clean version. But I am happy to put together another
- 22 annotated version, certainly. If that will help you,

- 1 I'm all for it.
- MR. KORRELL: I think at some point, once we
- 3 finalize our charter, it would be helpful to have some
- 4 input on what we ought to be doing.
- 5 MS. COHAN: Absolutely.
- 6 MR. KORRELL: And then most of my other
- 7 comments are really substantive and probably better
- 8 saved for the more meaty discussion of it. I do think
- 9 there are a couple of the items in here that to me
- 10 continue to be over-broad and beyond our appropriate
- 11 responsibilities and capabilities. But I think we
- 12 should probably get the input of the other members of
- 13 the committee and talk about that in more detail.
- 14 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Yes. I agree. And I think
- 15 we're already past time today, so I don't think we can
- 16 really effectively do it.
- 17 So with that, thank you, Mattie. We will
- 18 follow up with you in due course.
- 19 MS. COHAN: Great. Thank you.
- 20 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Our next item on the agenda
- 21 is discussion of the committee members'
- 22 self-evaluations for 2001 (sic) and goals for 2012.

- 1 I'm going to schedule another meeting where we can do
- 2 that in advance of our next quarterly meeting. We'll
- 3 do that by telephone, if that's appropriate, because I
- 4 don't believe we have time to do it now effectively.
- 5 Is there an objection to that? Gloria?
- 6 Harry?
- 7 MR. KORRELL: No.
- 8 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Okay. Item No. 8 is public
- 9 comment. Is there any public comment?
- 10 (No response.)
- 11 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Hearing none, item No. 9 is
- 12 to consider and act on other business.
- 13 (No response.)
- 14 CHAIRMAN MADDOX: Hearing none, we'll move to
- 15 item No. 10, which is to consider and act on
- 16 adjournment. Before we do that, we're going to pass on
- 17 the closed briefing, in consultation with the Inspector
- 18 General's office, and we'll do that, if need be, at
- 19 some other time.
- 20 So is there a motion to adjourn?
- 21 MOTION
- 22 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: So move.

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           MR. KORRELL: Second.
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             CHAIRMAN MADDOX: And all in favor?
             (A chorus of ayes.)
3
             CHAIRMAN MADDOX: The motion carries, and the
4
    meeting is now adjourned. Thank you very much.
5
             (Whereupon, at 4:38 p.m., the committee was
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    adjourned.)
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