

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

**ORIGINAL**

CLIENT SELF-HELP CONFERENCE

8:30 a.m.  
Saturday, July 8, 1989

The North Room  
700 Building  
Conference Center  
Alexandria, Virginia

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
(202) 628-2121

I N D E X

|                               | Page |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Opening Remarks by Ms. Barnes | 3    |
| Reports of Small Groups       |      |
| Public Benefits               | 6    |
| Child Support                 | 8    |
| Housing-Landlord/Tenant       | 16   |
| Divorce                       | 51   |

\* \* \* \* \*

MOTIONS

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Motion by Ms. Newsome | 170 |
| Motion by Ms. Fifield | 172 |

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

## P R O C E E D I N G S

(8:30 a.m.)

1  
2  
3 MS. BARNES: For those of you who had a nice time  
4 sightseeing and seeing old Virginia at its best, guess what?  
5 It's time to get down to brass tacks this morning. That's what  
6 it is called.

7 We came here on a mission and so now we have to try to  
8 bring all the little parts together to get the mission working  
9 right. We are very saddened this morning. Mrs. Lorain Miller  
10 from Detroit, our Client Board Member, had to leave to go home  
11 suddenly. She lost her son, so Mrs. Benavidez is going to lead  
12 us in a short word of invocation and I ask, as she does that,  
13 that you join with her in your heart for Lorain.

14 Mrs. Benavidez?

15 (Whereupon, the invocation was presented by Ms.  
16 Hortencia Benavidez.)

17 MS. BARNES: We are a little late in getting started  
18 for a number of reasons, but we are going to kind of charge  
19 right forward right now, if you don't mind.

20 Our project this morning was to break in small groups.  
21 In your package yesterday, you had a listing of how these groups  
22 were going to be broken down and who would be a member of each

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 team. Some of our persons had to leave and so we have had to  
2 substitute other names.

3 We also decided that due to the lateness of the hour,  
4 point number one, and secondly, we felt that we would allot more  
5 time to the groups as they came back to make their reports, like  
6 we had arranged for two hours for each little group session to  
7 meet. We decided to break that down into about an hour.

8 Then, as the groups come and make their reports, there  
9 will be more time for the group to have input and to work around  
10 that, so if that meets with your approval, we will try to  
11 proceed from here.

12 We have listed here -- and this was put together by  
13 LSC staff -- the persons who would work on each team. After I  
14 have called your names and you have taken your places, I would  
15 like to ask that out of your group, you select one person who  
16 will do your reporting. That person, when we come back to do  
17 reporting, they will take their places.

18 We are looking at, for instance, in the child support,  
19 for -- yes, ma'am?

20 A PARTICIPANT: Since Ms. Miller is not going to be  
21 here, would it be possible, since we have five people assigned  
22 to Public Benefits to maybe allow Beth Bellino to substitute for

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Ms. Miller on Child Support?

2 MR. MOSES: Actually, we have already done some  
3 changes.

4 MS. BARNES: So, under Child Support, Rose Palmer  
5 Phelps, Rosie Newman, Betty Murphy and Charlie Moses.

6 MR. MOSES: Will those people with Child Support can  
7 go to the far table in the back. Those people with Divorce can  
8 go to the middle table in the back. Those people with Housing  
9 can meet over here, and those people with Public Benefits can  
10 meet over here on this side of the table.

11 MS. BARNES: I might ask that while you are assembled  
12 in your small groups, in addition to working out your plan for  
13 your suggested topics, that you will be jotting down in mind  
14 what you would like to see coming out of this conference in the  
15 way of recommendations to LSC Board.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. BARNES: Housing and Landlord/Tenant, Ms.  
18 Benavidez; Earnest Ware, William Fry and Susan Fifield.  
19 Divorce, Ms. Maureen Bozell, Gladys Barnes, Doreatha Merritt,  
20 Pat Seidel and Susan Speir.

21 Last but not least, Public Benefits, Catherine  
22 Jermany, Dorothy Byrd, Beth Bellino, Julie Briggs and Shirley

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Peoples.

2 (Whereupon, the participants assembled for small group  
3 discussions.)

4 MS. BARNES: I am sure the groups -- just passing  
5 through, I heard a lot of wonderful comments on what we need to  
6 do and what this should be about and what we are doing and what  
7 we see as the need, so we are going to ask the first group, and  
8 that is Public Benefits. Are you ready, Benefits? Whom did you  
9 all select as your speaker? Would you mind standing and giving  
10 us your report, please?

11 I want to get your recommendations. Maureen has been  
12 kind enough to help us. She volunteered.

13 (Laughter)

14 MS. BARNES: Okay. Public Benefits. Let's give  
15 Public Benefits our very undivided attention.

16 Report of Public Benefits Group

17 MS. BYRD: We have come up with a couple of ideas here  
18 about mainly getting the word out, such as an outreach program  
19 to let people know what is available and how-to information to  
20 let them know what they need when they go in for help, and  
21 simplifying the forms for the people, and the coverage would be  
22 for the food stamps, the AFDC, the Social Services and the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Medicare.

2 (Off the record.)

3 I'll recap it. An outreach program would get the  
4 information out to the public of what services are available,  
5 ~~how-to information program to let the public~~ the public know how to apply  
6 for the services, and simplify forms.

7 We were discussing this in reference to the Food  
8 Stamps, AFDC, Social Services and Medicare/Medicaid cards or  
9 whatever each state calls their card. They were also referring  
10 to a sliding scale fee for clinic and prescription drugs for  
11 people who have quite a few medical problems, so that they can  
12 get what they need. Is that it, Shirley?

13 MS. PEOPLES: Except that we talked about volunteers.

14 MS. BYRD: Networking volunteers, possibly a  
15 coordinator over a group of volunteers to network them, and a  
16 suburban area, rather than having the clients always go into the  
17 city, transportation into the city. If they could have networks  
18 within suburban areas, in the communities where the needs are.

19 MS. PEOPLES: Suburban versus rural.

20 MS. BYRD: Rural, suburban, country areas, whichever.  
21 Is that it? Okay.

22 MS. BARNES: We will proceed right on to the next one,

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 which is Child Support.

2 Report of the Child Support Group

3 MS. PHELPS: Our group consisted of Rosie, Betty  
4 Murphy, Beth Bellino and myself. The initial basics of self  
5 help in the child support area would be wage assignments, a rule  
6 of contempt, you can just put modification down. Number three  
7 would be modification of the child support order, a change in  
8 the order, either an increase or a decrease. This is self help  
9 people can do with no problem.

10 You can abbreviate child support by just putting "CS".  
11 The IRS intercept for enforcement of arrears. Just put  
12 intercept. Initial filing for child support, judgments for  
13 arrears -- just put judgments -- paternity establishment, parent  
14 location, and some states require state application if you live  
15 in that state, so you can just put state application.

16 MR. DURANT: State application for what, child  
17 support?

18 MS. PHELPS: Child support, yes. Okay, filing an  
19 appeal or an exception to a child support order; subpoena  
20 information for discovery for income; waiving a fee; private  
21 investigation on proving income of the defendant --

22 MR. DURANT: What was number twelve?

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PHELPS: Waiving a court fee.

2 A PARTICIPANT: What is the private investigation?

3 MS. PHELPS: It's a private investigation on income of  
4 the defendant, again, a form of discovery. Spousal support  
5 with child support, and certain states have this; other states  
6 don't, so just put spousal support.

7 Medical support enforcement; filing for the Uniform  
8 Reciprocal Enforcement Support Act. Just put URESA down, U-R-E-  
9 S-A, okay?

10 MR. DURANT: How many states have that?

11 MS. PHELPS: URESA?

12 MR. DURANT: Yes.

13 MS. PHELPS: That is a national Act.

14 MS. SPIERS: That basically means you have an out of  
15 state case.

16 MS. PHELPS: But if you live in Texas, forget it.  
17 Just put URESA and put out of state or out of county.

18 MS. SPIERS: It is the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement  
19 Act.

20 MS. PHELPS: Enforcement of a military order; and, for  
21 clients who are on AFDC, how to get their fifty dollar  
22 pass-through check and information on that.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           The recommendations of our committee were the  
2 following:

3           Number one, that child support experts come in and  
4 train Legal Services clients and paralegals how to do pro se on  
5 the area of child support or self help; a list of child support  
6 advocacy groups made available to Legal Services and to be  
7 distributed to all Legal Services offices.

8           MR. DURANT: Is such a list existing?

9           MS. PHELPS: Yes, absolutely, definitely.

10          MS. SPIERS: We've got six of them in the room.

11          MR. DURANT: I thought they were all in this room.

12          MS. BELLINO: Oh, no. There's more of us. We're just  
13 a drop in the bucket.

14          MS. SPIERS: You should have been at our conference  
15 two weeks ago.

16          MS. PHELPS: Okay. Another one is reference material  
17 on child support offered free from the Office of Child Support  
18 Enforcement ordered by Legal Services offices and distributed to  
19 clients.

20          MS. BOZELL: So, they should have available in the  
21 office --

22          MS. PHELPS: Right. All they have to do is write to

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 the Office of Child Support Enforcement, and it is sent to them  
2 free. Some of it will be hand-outs.

3 MS. SPIERS: It is available in quantity so we don't  
4 have to worry about quantity.

5 MS. PHELPS: Okay, number four is the individual Legal  
6 Services offices in various states contact State Child Support  
7 Agencies for the state handbook on child support.

8 MS. BOZELL: Obtain state handbook?

9 MS. PHELPS: Just put "obtain state handbook", some  
10 states, not all states.

11 MS. SPIERS: California has one.

12 MS. PHELPS: Virginia has one.

13 MS. BOZELL: Those are also available free, and make  
14 it available to the clients and the staff, is that it?

15 MS. PHELPS: And the staff. Referrals are made by  
16 Legal Services offices to the nearest child support advocacy  
17 organization and should network with the organization as well as  
18 the national child support organization, the National Child  
19 Support Advocacy Coalition. Just put "network with national  
20 child advocacy groups".

21 The last one is that heavily populated areas that have  
22 Hispanic-speaking people should have that material offered to

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 them in their language. Then we decided to cut it off. We  
2 could have had a lot more.

3 MS. SPIERS: We were on a roll.

4 MS. PEOPLES: Could we have our chart back? We need  
5 to do some changes on Public Benefits. The reason we came up  
6 with these particular things, we need to have some discussion  
7 about it.

8 First, we feel that there are people that just don't  
9 know what they do when they come in the welfare department.  
10 They leave frustrated and crying; some of them don't go back.  
11 Folks don't want people to know they have to apply for welfare,  
12 so they are ashamed.

13 As a result of that, they have either delayed benefits  
14 or they just don't go back at all. We felt that people needed  
15 to know about what kinds of programs are available to them.  
16 Then, when they get in the Welfare Department, they've got all  
17 these nasty forms to fill out. A lot of them can't read, so  
18 they miss out because they left out something. They don't want  
19 to tell anybody they can't read.

20 We felt that people needed to have forms simplified.  
21 Just like there is a 26-page form, just like AFDC and stuff. We  
22 said you could combine the form. You could have one page for

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 the initial staff, you know. This is what we are saying client  
2 groups could work toward, you know, helping to get some  
3 simplified forms.

4 They don't have to do it, but they could just kind of  
5 draft up something and get it. Have a receipt, you know, so  
6 people's stuff gets lost and they can't find it, so that delays  
7 their benefits.

8 We thought that those clinics, you know, neighborhood  
9 clinics that can assist people that ain't got no money because a  
10 lot of people are one dollar above the Medicare program, that we  
11 could make contact with the folks that have the money and talk  
12 about having these so that people won't be left out without no  
13 kind of medical services, you know.

14 Volunteers and networks, we can do these things around  
15 with some of these programs, as well, because you still need  
16 some kind of information back about the law, the interpretation  
17 of the law, you know what I'm saying? So, if we have some  
18 workshops and some kind of training, we can go, you know, with  
19 the people and have discussions with them about what their  
20 rights and responsibilities are.

21 We didn't go all through the details, like the other  
22 group.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. DURANT: If I can interrupt you, are they the  
2 kinds of things that have been laid about by the Child Support  
3 Group that would be aligned with public benefits?

4 MS. PEOPLES: They are the same people, a lot of them.  
5 The fifty dollar pass-through is something given back to the  
6 welfare recipient of the money is child support connected, so  
7 there are problems with people knowing they are eligible,  
8 whether their money is being paid in or not. Maybe the man  
9 makes this payment and he owes you for another month or  
10 something.

11 When people go off of welfare, they are entitled to  
12 their money and they have trouble getting that back money that  
13 is due to you, so some of those things overlap because the  
14 welfare money may be the child support.

15 MS. PHELPS: Another thing under the public benefits  
16 would be the welfare programs that offer for retraining and  
17 getting the clients skilled. Most of the clients that come in  
18 for child support are not made aware through their case worker  
19 what is available for retraining, technical skills, even child  
20 care, that transportation could be paid for.

21 Everything can be paid for by the Welfare Department  
22 while they are in school, so training programs --

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: That should be something up there, too.  
2 That is something the groups could work with.

3 MS. PHELPS: There are many programs that just came  
4 under the 1988 Welfare Reform Act. You can have those things in  
5 Legal Services waiting rooms and clients can get those, and they  
6 can be in the laundromats and libraries and so forth so that  
7 people can have a telephone number and they'd know how to  
8 contact somebody.

9 The rights to appeal, a lot of things should be made  
10 simplified. Number seven should be the right to appeal and how  
11 they can go through the appeals process.

12 MS. BELLINO: Maybe these things ought to be put out  
13 on audio tape for those who can't read. They can pop it into a  
14 cassette player and listen to the instructions.

15 MS. PHELPS: Sometimes what their case worker tells  
16 them is not the exact thing and they really need to know when  
17 they can appeal and when not to appeal.

18 MS. BARNES: Thank you all very kindly. Of course, we  
19 will be going back over everybody's in a group setting, but we  
20 just wanted to get it down. The next will be Housing  
21 Landlord/Tenant. Ms. Benavidez, Ware and Fry. I guess your  
22 other two members were absent, right?

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. FRY: We got the blessing of Susan in our group.

2 MS. FIFIELD: Thank you.

3 Report of the Housing-Landlord/Tenant Group

4 MR. FRY: Maureen, I don't think you will need to  
5 write this down. I'll give it to you afterwards, if you want  
6 it, but it is only six points I want to talk about.

7 The first thing we want to say is in the context of  
8 housing, we think self-help is a misnomer and that, in fact, it  
9 is probably a misnomer across the board. I just want to speak  
10 for the particular area that we focused on.

11 It is virtually impossible for someone in the housing  
12 field to help themselves alone. They need a considerable  
13 support system. We think that that support system is best done  
14 by a group of nonlawyers who are expert in housing and that they  
15 need to provide, in some way, materials, training and knowledge  
16 of the law.

17 They need to provide support and, in some cases,  
18 representation.

19 MS. BOZELL: By support, do you mean attorney support?

20 MR. FRY: No, by support, I mean a sense of  
21 empowerment, to provide materials and support which leads to  
22 empowerment, namely, people helping themselves.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           Let me just talk about the housing area for a moment,  
2 because I think it is an interesting area from the perception of  
3 self help. Housing is probably more complicated than some of  
4 the other areas because you have two large areas to deal with.  
5 You have public housing on the one hand and private housing on  
6 the other hand.

7           Public housing is governed by complex regulations that  
8 start at the federal level with HUD and wind their way down  
9 through the system in the form of regulations and policy  
10 statements. The federal regulations are not binding on the  
11 states except as boundaries.

12           In public housing, you have local Public Housing  
13 Authorities administering the HUD monies, HUD programs, HUD  
14 regulations and often reinterpreting the regulations and putting  
15 out their own regulations.

16           The end result is that disputes over public housing,  
17 over admission and eviction and things like that, can get very  
18 complicated. It is inconceivable that a lay person on their own  
19 would know these rules and regulations or have the resources at  
20 hand to find out what their rights are.

21           So, in the most common problem -- I think common in  
22 numbers -- there are many, many evictions in public housing.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 HUD creates numerous possible defenses. The state Public  
2 Housing Authorities and the local authorities often modify those  
3 regulations, deny the defenses, and you have difficult  
4 situations.

5 MS. PEOPLES: What do you think tenant councils do?

6 MR. FRY: They do a lot of this.

7 MS. PEOPLES: I'm having some difficulty in seeing--  
8 I'm sorry. I should let you finish; I'm sorry.

9 MR. FRY: I'm not saying that nobody does this. What  
10 I am suggesting is that some help in this area can be much more  
11 difficult than it is in some other areas, where you are dealing  
12 with simply applications and putting in forms.

13 You could say the same thing about private housing.  
14 There are complex regulations on the state and county level, and  
15 people's rights about private housing are often difficult to  
16 understand.

17 One of the things about housing is that I think it  
18 shows the need for a considerable support system to be available  
19 in order for people to help themselves.

20 MS. BOZELL: Are you talking about prevention and that  
21 sort of thing?

22 MR. FRY: No. I'm talking -- maybe I -- I'm not

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 talking about lawyer support, because what I want to get to is a  
2 relationship between the self-help providers, of which there  
3 exists quite a few already, and the Legal Services programs,  
4 which I think is a very important relationship but of a specific  
5 kind.

6 Now, the second point I think we want to make is that  
7 the self-help concept involves not only people helping  
8 themselves through self-representation and applying for benefits  
9 and contesting things on their own, but it involves changes in  
10 the system.

11 In other words, we think the concept of self help  
12 shouldn't be limited to individuals representing themselves or  
13 individuals doing their own legal work, that it has to go past  
14 that to include systemic change, which means changes in laws and  
15 regulations.

16 Self-help providers -- that's the only word I can  
17 think of right now -- should take both of those goals into  
18 account. Let me explain now what I mean by self-help providers.  
19 The concept of self help, I think, is confusing. The term self  
20 help is applied often to what people do for themselves and then  
21 it is applied at the same time to what the organizations, like  
22 the child support groups, do for them.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 I want to use the term self-help provider as the  
2 groups that work to empower individuals to help themselves, and  
3 there is a difference, so I'm talking about self-help providers.  
4 The pattern, as self-help providers have emerged around the  
5 country, is something like this: They are not lawyers; they are  
6 distinct from Legal Services, law firms and law groups; they are  
7 led by nonlawyers, most often people who have had personal  
8 experience in the field. That just seems to be the trend.

9 They are people who become experts in their specific  
10 area; they are highly specialized. They specialize in child  
11 support and the related issues, or they specialize in housing and  
12 the related issues. One kind of self-help provider will know  
13 child support inside out; they will know much more than Legal  
14 Services programs know about it.

15 The self-help provider for housing will know much more  
16 about housing than the local Legal Services project except for  
17 the attorneys that specialize in housing. These self-help  
18 providers have a relationship with Legal Services and other  
19 forces in the community that is quite special and should be  
20 special; and, that is, that they are on equal status with the  
21 Legal Services program.

22 They have their own funding, their own separate

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 status. They have authority in the community. They can bring  
2 about change. They speak and stand for the poor that they  
3 assist, but they can call on the Legal Services program as  
4 equals. They can get the help from the Legal Services program  
5 when they need it; they can criticize the Legal Services  
6 program; and, they can influence what the Legal Services program  
7 does.

8 In other words, they are equals and, in a sense, they  
9 need each other. Legal Services needs self-help providers out  
10 in the community, because they --

11 MS. BOZELL: To put this down, do you want to  
12 recommend that Legal Services programs strengthen their  
13 connections to these providers?

14 MR. FRY: We've got some recommendations for Legal  
15 Services in particular, but I haven't come to them yet.

16 MS. PEOPLES: Could you clarify for me what the equal  
17 basis of the provider with Legal Services is? How do you deal  
18 with that in terms of welfare recipients, per se, like the  
19 public benefits recipients who don't have no funding, who do  
20 some of this stuff. How do you distinguish what their status  
21 is?

22 MR. FRY: What we are saying is that if there is a

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 self-help provider for public benefits, that it should be a  
2 group of nonlawyers who are expert in public benefits, who  
3 devote their time to helping public benefic applicants and  
4 recipients get their rights, get their benefits, fight  
5 terminations and so forth.

6 They also should be concerned about systemic changes  
7 in the law to make it easier for welfare people to function and  
8 survive and deal with the agencies. This should be an  
9 organization in the community of such standing that it is on a  
10 par with the Legal Services program, so that it can go to the  
11 Legal Services program and say, "We are in the community. We  
12 are a powerful organization. We need your help." And, it can  
13 get it.

14 Or, it can say, "We are of the community. We are a  
15 powerful organization. We don't like the way you are doing  
16 this. Let's sit down and work it out." But, the idea of being  
17 on a par, I think, is important.

18 MS. BOZELL: I think maybe I'm not understanding.  
19 Does this group already exist, or are you suggesting it exists?  
20 Which is it?

21 MR. FRY: The --

22 MS. BOZELL: The providers you are saying, this ideal

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 group that would be on a par with Legal Services. Does it exist  
2 already?

3 MR. FRY: In many places.

4 MS. PEOPLES: In some areas, you do and in some areas,  
5 there are no organizations.

6 MS. NEWSOME: It exists in Indiana, but Legal Services  
7 housing does not approve of Legal Services in any manner.

8 MR. FRY: I guess what you would have to say is this:  
9 The ideal that we are describing exists in a few places. In  
10 many places, it doesn't exist and we think it should.

11 MS. BOZELL: How can Legal Services do anything about  
12 it? How does Legal Services create a group outside of itself?

13 MR. FRY: We'll get to that.

14 MS. FIFIELD: Legal Services' priority should be that  
15 they take what the clients want. Their priorities should be  
16 what the clients identify as priorities, and that is what is  
17 supposed to be set up.

18 Another thing that we were talking about is that, for  
19 instance, in Montana, we are very much on an equal par with  
20 Legal Services. If Legal Services was doing something we didn't  
21 agree with, our organization would go through a campaign to  
22 change that. We would go through a real concise campaign. We

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 change things like that all the time. That's how we know to  
2 make changes. We organize. We bring people together.

3 So, if Legal Services wasn't doing what low income  
4 people thought they should be doing in Montana, we would  
5 organize and we would go through a media campaign. I mean,  
6 there certainly are a lot of different ways of getting the  
7 points across. We'd go to the national corporation. We would  
8 do whatever we had to do to change that.

9 We would make it, I guess you'd call it hot, until  
10 they changed, and that's what --

11 MS. PEOPLES: That is because there is an organized  
12 group there. I want to do self help when there is not a group  
13 an attorney is going to deal with when there is an eviction.  
14 They can help the individual who has a problem but how do you  
15 deal with dealing with stuff in terms of housing in which there  
16 is no group?

17 MR. FRY: Where there is no group at all?

18 MS. PEOPLES: Just like some of those rural areas.  
19 They don't have no organized groups.

20 MS. FIFIELD: I'm talking about Montana.

21 MS. PEOPLES: They don't have none, so I'm saying --

22 MS. FIFIELD: Organize it, then.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: They get help one for one, do you  
2 understand what I'm saying?

3 MR. FRY: Let me say this. There are groups that  
4 exist that have good relations with Legal Services; that is kind  
5 of rare. There are places where groups exist that have poor or  
6 no relations with Legal Services and there are places where  
7 there are no groups.

8 MS. PEOPLES: Yes.

9 MR. FRY: We are not saying, and don't believe, that  
10 Legal Services projects should create these groups or try to.

11 MS. PEOPLES: Right.

12 MR. FRY: It is not their bailiwick; it is not what  
13 they do; and, they are not the right group to do it.

14 MS. PEOPLES: Right.

15 MR. FRY: One of two things can happen. Either these  
16 groups are self-starters which is generally the way they begin,  
17 or it is conceivable that the Legal Services Corporation will  
18 take steps to generate self-help providers on the theory that it  
19 is a legitimate form of legal services, which we believe it is,  
20 and that it is a proper function of the Legal Services  
21 Corporation to support the creation of self-help providers. So,  
22 that would be the --

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BOZELL: So, that's the recommendation, that Legal  
2 Services --

3 MS. PEOPLES: He hasn't gotten to his recommendation.  
4 We were just discussing what he had there, right?

5 MS. BOZELL: That is a rather huge recommendation.

6 MR. FRY: That was in answer to a question. That was  
7 not a recommendation.

8 MS. NEWSOME: Mr. Fry, are you saying that Legal  
9 Services and housing should have a working understanding they  
10 are both for low income people?

11 MR. FRY: I am saying that -- no, what I am saying is  
12 that in the housing field, there is a particular important  
13 relationship because the housing field is complex and the laws  
14 are complex.

15 In order to do self help in housing, you have to know  
16 the law and the particular relationship that we think is  
17 important in the housing field -- and may be important in other  
18 fields, too, in a similar way -- is that Legal Services should  
19 provide the legal training to the self-help provider groups and  
20 to the self-help people, the clients.

21 So, an important part is training, which means telling  
22 people what the law is, what the regulation reads at the HUD

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 level, what happened to it when it went through Denver Regional  
2 Office, what happened to it when it hit Montana, and what did  
3 the Public Housing Authority put in its regs that differs that  
4 you may want to challenge. That is tricky stuff and you need  
5 the Legal Services program to do that.

6 The second thing you need is: There are occasions when  
7 a client is evicted and you go to the Public Housing Authority  
8 and they help themselves to the limit. A provider goes with  
9 them and they lose anyway. You may need litigation, individual  
10 case litigation. You would need Legal Services there for that.

11 The third thing is that you may need changes in the  
12 law. It may be that the Public Housing Authority modified the  
13 HUD regs in an illegal way and you need a reform, or it may be  
14 that there are state laws that don't help poor people, that hurt  
15 people.

16 An example we came up with is that in Montana, until  
17 the self-help providers got to work, you could shut off  
18 utilities in the winter and people could die. They got a law  
19 passed that changed that. I want to emphasize the point I made  
20 earlier: We think that's a legitimate function of a self-help  
21 provider.

22 You will notice that it goes beyond helping people

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 help themselves with their individual cases. What it does is  
2 help a whole bunch of people with their individual cases,  
3 namely, their utility problems.

4 So, instead of helping people individually when their  
5 power was shut off, which everybody would say is a perfectly  
6 standard self-help function, they helped a whole bunch of people  
7 all at once when their power was shut off; namely, it can't be  
8 shut off in the winter.

9 MS. PEOPLES: Can't you do both?

10 MR. FRY: Yes. What we are saying is you can do both  
11 and they are both within the definition of self help.

12 MS. MERRITT: You gave examples of what you were  
13 referring to. What part of your presentation are you  
14 recommending? Are you not recommending what you're saying?

15 (Laughter)

16 MS. MERRITT: You made some significant points, some  
17 things that make changes across the board. I'm trying to find  
18 out what part of it you want to recommend, because you said you  
19 are not recommending that.

20 MR. FRY: Let me put it this way. I am recommending  
21 that this group adopt that definition that I just gave of self  
22 help.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. MERRITT: Good. That's what I wanted to know.

2 MR. FRY: I am recommending that it adopt the  
3 proposition that there should be self-help providers in  
4 communities that are separate from Legal Services, that function  
5 on a par with Legal Services.

6 I am observing -- this is an observation, not a  
7 recommendation. I am observing that if that is the case, then  
8 the organizations will need each other, and that is a result  
9 that should be hoped for. As a result, they will need each  
10 other.

11 Legal Services will need the provider to handle all of  
12 the cases that it can't handle and shouldn't handle, because  
13 Legal Services does not do well on the individual case level  
14 because of funding and other reasons, and Legal Services is not  
15 in the empowerment business, and really never has been.

16 Empowerment is a concept that does not fit within  
17 Legal Services; it is a concept that fits within self help.  
18 What we are saying is that these two concepts should live side  
19 by side.

20 We are recommending that this message be transmitted  
21 to Legal Services programs around the country. We are  
22 recommending that the -- I'm going to be a little careful here.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 We are recommending that the Legal Services Corporation embrace  
2 the concept that self-help providers, as we have defined them,  
3 are deliverers of legal services; that it is a form of legal  
4 service and an effective form and it can stand on a par with the  
5 existing Legal Services programs.

6 MS. BOZELL: Is this it (indicating)?

7 MR. WEAR: We didn't make that recommendation, that  
8 they develop self-help providers.

9 MR. FRY: No, no. I'm sorry, I wasn't reading as you  
10 were writing. We did not recommend that; in fact, we  
11 recommended the opposite. Put "no" in there.

12 MS. BOZELL: I'm having a hard time. Tell me just  
13 what it is that you are recommending.

14 MR. WEAR: To train people.

15 MS. BOZELL: That Legal Services should train clients?

16 MR. WEAR: Train clients to help themselves.

17 MR. FRY: Let me try to clarify. We are mixing up the  
18 Legal Services Corporation, the national program, with its  
19 projects. We do not think Legal Services projects on the local  
20 community level should be the initiators of self-help programs.

21 We think there should be self-help providers on the  
22 community level and we would hope that they would be self-

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 generated, or the corporation could.

2 MR. DURANT: Maybe I am misunderstanding, but I think  
3 there are two distinctions we need either for clarification, or  
4 maybe to sufficiently clarify it.

5 I can see a situation where I think there is the  
6 distinction of the programs, there is the National Corporation,  
7 and self-help providers "A" and self-help providers "B". If you  
8 define self-help providers in the broader sense of organizing  
9 for changes that affect rules, regulations and whatever, I don't  
10 think you are going to find that Congress or even this Board is  
11 going to be able to be supportive of something that is really  
12 talking about political changes, changes in the rules by which  
13 we govern our community, our society, whatever. That's just  
14 flat-out reality.

15 Second, though, it seems to me that the empowerment of  
16 people to work within those rules and regulations and  
17 appropriately appeal, whether for new law or whatever, which is  
18 all appropriate, but I think if you cross the line, there is a  
19 significant difference between what so far has been talked about  
20 in public benefits, child support, and what you are suggesting  
21 in a certain part of what your recommendations are.

22 While I agree that self help, in the broadest context,

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 is more than the eighteen things that Rose and her group laid  
2 out, if that's possible, you are making the definition so broad,  
3 that you are effectively undermining the ability to do it.

4 MR. FRY: I think we are aware of that and we want to  
5 stay within the art of the possible. That's why I'm being  
6 careful about what I say and recommend.

7 MR. DURANT: You don't have to be careful about what  
8 you say. I think in terms of --

9 MR. FRY: I'm trying to be careful about the  
10 recommendations. You remember I said I was defining. I was  
11 defining.

12 MR. DURANT: As I say, you don't have to be careful in  
13 what you say. I don't want you to be careful.

14 MS. FIFIELD: I'm not going to be careful, I promise.

15 MR. DURANT: I don't want you to be careful.

16 MS. FIFIELD: What we were saying is, for instance, we  
17 were talking about what happened in Montana and how that works  
18 and complements Legal Services. They don't feel threatened by  
19 us. As a matter of fact, they seek our input.

20 MR. DURANT: What is the name of your organization?

21 MS. FIFIELD: I work with the Montana Low Income  
22 Groups Coalition. It is a coalition of groups from around

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Montana that includes peace groups, but mainly low income  
2 groups; that's our grass roots --

3 MR. DURANT: Network?

4 MS. FIFIELD: Yes. What we do, for instance, in  
5 housing is we work with organizations. We create groups like  
6 the Clients Council. We create groups that work with tenants  
7 that define what their needs are and then we look at a campaign,  
8 per se.

9 How do we accomplish what they need? What are their  
10 needs? Legal Services is part of that in training for  
11 tenant/landlord law, for instance, in getting information to us  
12 from what are the state's laws and how does that affect tenants?  
13 What can we do to change things?

14 It is a complement thing; one doesn't do without the  
15 other. As a matter of fact, what happens, because we work  
16 together so well, is we do broad sweeping changes, and that is  
17 what every Legal Services should do. Legal Services should be  
18 listening to the clients, should be encouraging groups to get  
19 together to make the sweeping changes, and should be helping  
20 them do that.

21 MS. PEOPLES: And that is what you are recommending  
22 that the Legal Services Corporation remove in Congress'

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 restrictions? We, as low income groups, can do anything we want  
2 to because we don't get money. So, we can work with the  
3 legislators, we can work with the housing boards.

4 But, to say to our Legal Services program, although we  
5 would like to see them be able to do that, the restrictions say  
6 they don't do that. If you are going to send that  
7 recommendation to the Corporation or the Board, you can forget  
8 it. They'll say they've already got rules.

9 MS. FIFIELD: Those rules need to be removed. That is  
10 just the bottom line. Those rules need to be removed.

11 MS. PEOPLES: That's what you'd better say, you know  
12 what I'm saying? That's why I wanted to clarify it from him.  
13 It's good stuff what you say and I support it. But I'm saying  
14 if we go back to the people who put the restrictions on there,  
15 the bottom line is you're saying self help, you have to have  
16 those restrictions removed. Is that right?

17 MR. FRY: It's not our recommendation. We are not  
18 recommending that.

19 MS. PEOPLES: No, no, but what you're describing, like  
20 what she just said --

21 MS. FIFIELD: For instance, Legal Services could--  
22 boy, is this going to hit the roof -- lobby, not lobby per se,

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 but being allowed to go to the legislature when one of the  
2 groups asks them to and say, "You know, this law is unfair.  
3 You've had twenty thousand cases or whatever. Please go and  
4 testify that this is unfair." They can't do that.

5 We had to go through this rigmarole, and it is a  
6 rigmarole, of finding a friendly legislator on the committee, to  
7 get the legislator primed to ask the questions so that we could  
8 get the information out there. To me, that's ridiculous. Why  
9 do we have to do all that?

10 Especially in a quick hearing, by the time that  
11 happens in sending notes back and forth to the legislators, the  
12 hearing is over, you know? So, that was one of them. The other  
13 one was changing laws. They should have input into how to  
14 change the laws.

15 A lot of things, we know what we want, but the little  
16 technicalities that get added in, they are added in by attorneys  
17 or attorney generals or whatever. We are not up enough on that  
18 to know what those technicalities mean. We need Legal Services  
19 to be there to do that.

20 MS. PEOPLES: You're saying you can't do that unless  
21 you have a lawyer.

22 MR. DURANT: One at a time. One at a time.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. FIFIELD: What I'm saying is that attorneys, we go  
2 through a progression and the attorneys are the last part of  
3 that progression. They are there as a safety net as far as for  
4 these little technicalities that you have or to be able to back  
5 up what we are saying, because they are dealing with some cases  
6 that were too complex for us.

7 I'm not saying that we can't do anything without  
8 attorneys. Baloney. We did a lot of things without attorney,  
9 but we also complement them and they complement us. We use  
10 their experience. We use their resources. We use what they  
11 have and we'll go in and say, "This, this and this. What's the  
12 law? Where can we find them" and those types of things. They  
13 are resources, and they should be, and they should be helping  
14 the clients do that, and that's why we want the restrictions  
15 removed.

16 MR. DURANT: Rose?

17 MS. NEWSOME: I have two questions. I'm not going to  
18 say the word that was used just now, but --

19 MR. DURANT: It wasn't a four-letter word.

20 MS. NEWSOME: I'm trying to understand now, aren't we  
21 doing just that now in educating? That's the best way to do  
22 what she just said. The more of that you get, the more you are

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 able to do what she said and know what you are doing in the best  
2 manner. Now, maybe I'm wrong, okay, because that's the word we  
3 use, "educate".

4 The next thing with Legal Services and housing are,  
5 I'm the president for the South Bending Housing Authority. I'm  
6 the second vice for the State Housing. I don't know how many  
7 people are aware of this but it's not low income anymore. It's  
8 middle. You can live in South Bend housing and pay up to eight  
9 hundred dollars a month.

10 They are going to have to do something, but I want  
11 everybody to be aware that it is not affiliated with it. It's  
12 now low income anymore. In the State of Indiana, housing  
13 despises Legal Services. When Housing seen me coming, they  
14 detest me. I live in South Bend housing and I'm proud to be  
15 there; it's a nice place to be with my family. I have a four  
16 bedroom and they can't charge me no more than thirty percent of  
17 that income, and I'm proud of that because they are nice homes.

18 I feel it's injust when Pat comes along and has to pay  
19 \$650 for the same thing that I'm paying \$182 for. There should  
20 be some other way. She can go someplace else, because there is  
21 somebody out there that is on welfare and can't get in because  
22 they are on welfare. That's the new ruling. They can't get

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 into South Bend housing if they are on welfare.

2           If you are already in there, they can't get you out,  
3 but they will not let you in. You've got to have another little  
4 old job at Burger King or someplace else, some little income.  
5 So, Legal Services stays on Housing and they win every case  
6 Housing gets. They can't evict anybody because Legal Services  
7 is right there and the clients are right there backing Legal  
8 Services.

9           So, that's why I was telling you, Mr. Fry, Legal  
10 Services and -- Housing don't like Legal Services, and I'm glad  
11 they don't, if it means that every case we get, we're going to  
12 win. When I say "we", I mean Legal Services. They don't like  
13 the idea because they are under pressure, if something happens  
14 to somebody's home, they have to have it fixed in five working  
15 days. They don't like that.

16           But, that's the point, as you say, to self help. Now,  
17 I would like to see the law changed, but now we have another  
18 problem. We can't do anything about it. Now, we are fixing to  
19 suffer again due to the fact of the HUD situation. They took  
20 our money back. They stopped payment on our checks that they  
21 had given us to fix up some of our homes. Somebody needs to  
22 tell me what we can do about that when I go back. Thank you.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. FRY: Let me try to summarize. I mean maybe there  
2 is going to be more debate. Maybe Maureen could actually get  
3 this part of it down because I'm going to try to summarize what  
4 it is we were trying to open for discussion here.

5 The first thing is that we would recommend that the  
6 Legal Services Corporation recognize that self help is an  
7 important part of the Legal Services delivery system and that  
8 self help cannot really exist without what I'm calling self-help  
9 providers.

10 MR. DURANT: Broader than pro se is what you mean.

11 MR. FRY: Yes. There needs to be organizations with  
12 the function of promoting self help and that they do training  
13 and support and encouragement and occasional legal  
14 representation, a whole spectrum of things. We talked about  
15 this yesterday, that basically people need help in handling  
16 their own legal problems.

17 What we are saying is that it follows that for self  
18 help to be effective, there must be a self-help provider, and  
19 that's the best term we can come up with.

20 MS. BOZELL: But are you saying that the Legal  
21 Services programs develop those self-help providers?

22 MR. FRY: No. We are saying, and this is number

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 three. I'm sorry. Number one is that -- you can put it this  
2 way. Self help equals Legal Services. What we are saying is  
3 that self help as a concept involves a valid form of the  
4 delivery of legal services.

5 The second thing we are saying is that there must be  
6 self help providers. It was everything that I think went  
7 through the room yesterday. There always needs to be some group  
8 there to provide the variety of help.

9 MS. BOZELL: That's really the same as number one.

10 MR. FRY: Yes, that number one.

11 (Simultaneous discussion.)

12 MR. DURANT: I'm sorry. One at a time. One at a  
13 time.

14 MR. FRY: I'll spare you the pain.

15 MS. FIFIELD: Maybe a better word than "recognize" is  
16 "coordinate" with self-help providers.

17 MR. FRY: Okay. The point we are making is, first of  
18 all, that self help is a form of legal service; that if there is  
19 a national Legal Services program, self help should be part of  
20 it. Okay?

21 The second thing we are saying is self help needs a  
22 provider of some kind. It can be the Housing Coalition in

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Montana. It can be the child support groups that are  
2 represented here. It can be the storefront operations, the  
3 independent paralegal, the forms provider, the typing service,  
4 whatever you call it. Those kinds of services have to be there  
5 for self help to work in any kind of systematic way.

6 I think we said it yesterday. Most people cannot do  
7 self help on their own, spontaneously, without some source of  
8 information and support, so what we are saying is that there  
9 have to be providers of self help.

10 The third thing is that the National Legal Services  
11 Program should support and encourage self help with money. I  
12 don't mean just in the abstract.

13 MR. DURANT: Why does everybody look at me?

14 MR. FRY: Support self help. Now, the problem I think  
15 and the confusion may have been that when you say "legal  
16 services", you sometimes mean the national program and sometimes  
17 you mean the projects. We do not say and we do not believe that  
18 LSPs, the projects, should be the source of self help, should  
19 provide self help, or should create self help organizations.  
20 It's not their function.

21 The fourth thing is: We think that self help and the  
22 Legal Services projects -- and when I say projects, I mean the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 field offices, the guys out there providing the service -- have  
2 a very important relationship and that they both need each  
3 other, and that the best relationship is if they are on a par,  
4 they are both viable, independent community organizations that  
5 talk to each other.

6 In part, the relationship could be that the LSP is the  
7 lawyer for the self-help provider client group. So, we are  
8 saying we think self-help providers and LSPs should relate as  
9 equals. One of the things that LSPs need to do for self-help  
10 providers is class actions, help them change the law. Help them  
11 get the utility law passed that says you can't shut it off in  
12 the winter.

13 Help get an interpretation that the Public Housing  
14 Authority has changed the HUD regulations in an illegal way.  
15 Help get an interpretation that the Public Housing Authority --  
16 and these were examples that came up in our discussion -- cannot  
17 refuse to admit single people into public housing when they have  
18 empty units.

19 Now, those are the kinds of things where you need  
20 legal services. These are not flamboyant, social revolutions.  
21 These are law reform. One of the frustrations is that in trying  
22 to prevent social change or revolution, the statute for the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 corporation has prevented this kind of thing. This is the sort  
2 of support that is needed from the LSPs for self help to work.

3 So, what we are recommending is that the LSPs be freed  
4 from some of the restrictions that prevent them from responding  
5 to the legitimate needs of the self-help providers.

6 MS. MURPHY: Let me see if I understand this  
7 correctly. I see it as self-help groups have the ability to  
8 lobby for changes. In exchange for them being able to have that  
9 freedom to lobby for things that would help the Legal Services,  
10 Legal Services exchanges by providing them with whatever means  
11 of legal services you have.

12 So, it is working together. We can do things you  
13 can't do and you can do things we can't do.

14 MR. FRY: There is a problem with lobbying and class  
15 actions.

16 (Simultaneous discussion.)

17 MS. PEOPLES: They can't dictate to the group but they  
18 can dictate to the Legal Services program what they can use the  
19 funds for and staff. If we give them that recommendation, the  
20 bottom line to me is unless they change the regulation, that is  
21 going to be ignored. Am I right?

22 I mean we have to be honest. I'm not paranoid about

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 discussing Legal Services, what you can do and can't do or what  
2 impact it is going to have on my program. If they are going to  
3 keep a Legal Services grant, the restrictions are going to  
4 apply. That is why I didn't want to get into the specifics.

5 I look at it in a broad category because I look at low  
6 income folks and poor folks and the services, they don't have  
7 the money and Legal Services don't fund them so they can't say  
8 we can't work for more change.

9 We have to figure out how we'd get some legal help to  
10 do that because unless they're going to change the restrictions,  
11 I don't see that happening. We have to figure out whether we  
12 still can do some self-help things that can take place as self  
13 help. I don't see no provider and I ain't got no money, anyway.

14 What I'm saying is we still have to get those things  
15 done and if we don't get them to deal with it and doing the  
16 change, then what's your recommendation? If your recommendation  
17 is dealing with it without taking any restrictions, then I don't  
18 think -- what can you do about that recommendation?

19 MS. JERMANY: In the model, point number one, that  
20 self help equals Legal Services and vice versa, that there  
21 should be self-help providers, this is all true. How it kind of  
22 works now when a Legal Services program has a relationship with

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 a self-help provider, a nontraditional self-help provider, they  
2 never get down to the lobby form, et cetera.

3 What happens is generally what is needed from a Legal  
4 Services program is case reviews and quasi-supervision for the  
5 nonlawyers that are operating, because it will be some time  
6 before they generate the kind of statistics and information  
7 necessary, except when the group is an organizing group, to have  
8 the information to go out and do law reform.

9 What they need immediately is some levels of  
10 supervision in case areas where it is clear that they could be  
11 doing an authorized practice; that would be a more practical  
12 thing that Legal Services projects could do, regular case  
13 reviews like they do with their staff.

14 There could be some mechanism set up and that could  
15 happen between steps three and five.

16 MR. FRY: We were pretty close to what you are saying,  
17 I think, because we said Legal Services projects should provide  
18 the training, the technical and legal information --

19 MS. JERMANY: I don't think they have the capacity to  
20 do training.

21 MR. FRY: -- and general support. We were careful to  
22 limit this to the housing area where there are complex

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 regulations and changes and you really need the lawyers who can  
2 track that stuff and who do. I'm not sure this is across the  
3 board, but --

4 MS. JERMANY: They should open up like their task  
5 force to those local providers. There are kind of mechanisms  
6 for learning that already. If those mechanisms could be opened  
7 up so that the providers could be involved in some of that  
8 learning experience, that would be helpful.

9 MR. DURANT: Earnest?

10 MR. WEAR: I'm confused about a couple of things. The  
11 support, I don't remember about support with money. We probably  
12 could support the self-help groups receiving money from other  
13 sources and that's a sore spot with me.

14 MR. FRY: Case support. The word "support" really  
15 gets twisted.

16 MS. PEOPLES: Clarify why you are paranoid about  
17 money. You don't think you could take money from a Legal  
18 Services program if some of those things are --

19 MR. WEAR: If any money is spent, yes. I mean, Legal  
20 Services are providing immediate help for people. I'm talking  
21 about entitlements. This is people's lives to me. It's not  
22 something that we can -- this is immediate needs.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           Housing is an immediate need. The reason why I don't  
2 think -- I mean, self-help things can be done to a certain  
3 point, but I don't think self-help people can do a lot with  
4 discrimination that comes out of housing. I don't think they  
5 can do other things.

6           I think it's atrocious that we have government  
7 regulations that are purposely destroying families. A man can't  
8 live with his wife. Neither one of them have got a job, but he  
9 and his wife can't receive benefits. They've got kids. People  
10 are divorcing each other so that they can get the benefits so  
11 that they can have someplace to stay and something to eat. I  
12 mean, we ought to be involved in that kind of stuff.

13           MS. PEOPLES: But when you say there should not be any  
14 money to attach to dealing with recommendations and stuff, I  
15 don't know why you're paranoid.

16           MR. WEAR: I am not saying I'm paranoid.

17           MS. PEOPLES: You said we should not be talking about  
18 money.

19           MR. WEAR: I said "support". What I mean is we  
20 already have a mechanism for self help.

21           MS. PEOPLES: It can be changed.

22           MR. WEAR: We need to train people, right? Don't the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 self-help people need training? Don't they get training? We  
2 have a mechanism for training people. Put the money in training  
3 if you're going to give some money away. Why give it to some  
4 contractor?

5 MS. PEOPLES: I want you to clarify why you're  
6 paranoid.

7 MR. FRY: There is no suggestion here about who or  
8 where about the money. All we are saying is that we think that  
9 Legal Services --

10 MR. WEAR: The money thing came up because it was  
11 said, support it with money. If you want to call me paranoid, I  
12 mean what can you do? I'm paranoid about money, then, but what  
13 I'm saying is --

14 MS. FIFIELD: We were not discussing the client  
15 participation in any of that. We were discussing -- what came  
16 into play is when he said to support the self-help groups with  
17 money. I don't remember discussing that, either.

18 What we had said was let's coordinate what we are  
19 doing and make it a stronger effort, to coordinate with Legal  
20 Services and use some of the resources. That doesn't  
21 necessarily mean that Legal Services is going to start paying  
22 money for --

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. MERRITT: I really like the approach of expanding  
2 what you have to make things happen, and that's what I see in  
3 your outline there. I see where we can take what we've got and  
4 be creative and think in terms of all the needs to make the  
5 impact that we want to happen to initiate it in a community.

6 I know myself that the relationship between the two  
7 programs is badly needed and when I make my report, you ought to  
8 know this. You all will know this. The only thing I can see  
9 that needs to be added to your bottom one there, number six, is  
10 that Legal Services and clients do training.

11 Now, I think that's because you've got a lot of self-  
12 help people who know how to train and if you put it together,  
13 then, you know, that's all I see wrong, but I like that. I like  
14 that one.

15 MR. FRY: I think that's there simply to suggest that  
16 Legal Services should do some of the training, instead of none.  
17 It's not that they should do all of that.

18 MS. MERRITT: If you do not put this into the  
19 procedure, when the time comes at your local area to allocate  
20 funds, to do certain things, you will be left out again.

21 MS. PEOPLES: That's right. That's why I'm clarifying  
22 it.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. MERRITT: You've got to do this, if it's not but  
2 one percent of the overall budget, it's there for you to be  
3 creative. Do you see what I'm saying?

4 MS. PEOPLES: If we give the recommendation to them  
5 and they've got their restrictions with whatever they've got to  
6 deal with, how are they going to address our recommendations and  
7 how are they going to deal with those restrictions?

8 MS. MERRITT: I support it.

9 MS. PEOPLES: I do, too.

10 MS. NEWSOME: Question. When HUD makes a ruling, does  
11 that apply to every housing in the United States?

12 MR. FRY: Sure, if they say it does.

13 MS. NEWSOME: Is there some way that the Bureau of  
14 Housing over HUD can make sure that some of those rules are  
15 enforced?

16 MR. FRY: Let's hold off on housing law, which I'm not  
17 -- you are sitting beside the expert, anyway. I would like to  
18 know one thing and that is, is the gist of this something that  
19 we are all comfortable with?

20 If it is, I think the language, you don't make  
21 recommendations in a form like that. I think this can be put in  
22 English if people generally like it. I will work with the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 committee to put this in sentences if it is generally okay with  
2 people. Is that a good --

3 MS. BARNES: That's cruel.

4 MR. FRY: Robert's Rules of Order, here.

5 MS. BARNES: We will deal with this this afternoon.  
6 We are going to be dealing with prioritizing everybody's report  
7 and we also have to break here at 11:50 to go back to the main  
8 hotel's restaurant for lunch for a group luncheon.

9 So, we would like to hear Doreatha's report on  
10 Divorce.

11 MS. MERRITT: I hate to follow all of that.

12 MS. BARNES: And then we'll all have a nice luncheon,  
13 and then we will come back and review the topics and prioritize  
14 from there. Is that all right, ladies and gentlemen?

15 Report of the Divorce Committee

16 MS. MERRITT: We had some very interesting people in  
17 our group and they had a lot to say. I think it was very  
18 important. We initially began by talking and discussing the  
19 problems that they were having, even though it was in existence.

20 As a result of discussing the problems, we came out  
21 with the needs. I would like to just read them out to you.  
22 Number one, we need a divorce clinic and an evaluation, an

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 assessment of the family needs. We need a divorce clinic and  
2 an evaluation.

3 MS. BOZELL: Divorce clinic for uncontested divorces,  
4 right?

5 MS. MERRITT: Yes, uncontested, and an evaluation of  
6 an assessment of family needs; that's all number one.

7 MS. BOZELL: That's part of number one?

8 MS. MERRITT: We can make it second, as long as you  
9 get it up there. Elimination of the backlog/cost effective  
10 cases.

11 MS. BOZELL: I don't know what that means.

12 MS. MERRITT: Elimination of backlog of cases, which  
13 is cost effective. That is number three, right? We need pro  
14 bono coordinators, bilingual interpreters, volunteerism,  
15 referral services. We need to establish a positive relationship  
16 with the community.

17 The last one is a followup session for this group and,  
18 under that, number one, define what projects will be  
19 recommended.

20 MS. BOZELL: What goes under this one? I'm sorry.

21 MS. MERRITT: Define what projects will be  
22 recommended; (b) invite proposals; and (c) that the proposals

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 that are funded be administered -- funded proposals  
2 administered. I'm talking about another statement. The next  
3 one is funded proposals be administered by community-based  
4 organization including client councils with track records.  
5 That's my last statement.

6 Okay, let's read this again. The proposals that are  
7 funded be administered by community-based organizations,  
8 including client councils with track records. That's all I've  
9 got.

10 MS. BARNES: Thank you. Until 11:45, we will take  
11 feedback on the presentations. We have about twenty minutes.

12 MS. MERRITT: To followup, I was talking about  
13 everybody here; I wasn't just talking about the divorce group.  
14 I mean, I understood that.

15 MS. BARNES: Okay. We have approximately 25 minutes  
16 before we break to go to lunch. Much of the activity that was  
17 to have taken place this afternoon has already kind of  
18 transpired.

19 MS. PEOPLES: I just have one thing to say before we  
20 get into our discussion. Catherine, you weren't in here this  
21 morning. Would you take a look at our public benefits thing and  
22 see if you could add something to our discussion, because I

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 assume we will further discuss it today.

2 MS. BARNES: Yes.

3 MS. PEOPLES: I'd like to see what your input would  
4 contribute to our group in terms of public benefits, so that we  
5 could see what you would add to our group. We were talking  
6 about things actually that people could do in terms of helping  
7 people to get their benefits and knowing their rights and  
8 responsibilities, as we addressed those things.

9 We dealt with AFDC, food stamps, Medicaid and stuff  
10 like that, that has regulations and things that people could get  
11 to work around, things we used to do in the old welfare rights  
12 days that we continue to do.

13 MS. JERMANY: Do you want me to do this right now or  
14 do you want me to do it when we come back?

15 MS. PEOPLES: That's fine. I just would like to have  
16 your input, as we had a discussion for the group purpose.

17 MS. JERMANY: Okay. I'd like to take the time to go  
18 over it and then maybe I'll have questions later.

19 MS. PEOPLES: Okay; that's fine.

20 MS. BARNES: Has everyone checked out? Clark, since  
21 no one has checked out and there is a check-out deadline of  
22 12:00 o'clock, suppose --

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. DURANT: Yes, we had better go and do that now.

2 MS. BARNES: -- we go do that and then assemble in the  
3 main restaurant at 12:00 sharp if you can.

4 MR. DURANT: We will be coming back right after lunch.

5 MS. BOZELL: For those of you who don't know, the  
6 lunch is going to be in the main restaurant.

7 (Whereupon, at 11:25 o'clock a.m., the luncheon recess  
8 was taken.)

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121



1 minute, but just to say that we all have a job in front of us.  
2 We came here to hear what people from around the LSC regions  
3 were talking about, what they felt like could be done around  
4 self help.

5 Then we came to try to pull it all together in a  
6 perspective, some way that we can wrap it up and put it in a  
7 package and give it to Maureen and Charlie to kind of put it in  
8 the form of a report. We'll get this report out to the LSC  
9 Board Members hopefully at their next Board Meeting.

10 Now, I stress the need for trying to come up with  
11 something that we think is realistic. We know that right now,  
12 all current LSC Board Members are not too much in favor of  
13 seeing the clients get out and do things, you know, a little on  
14 their own. We realize that.

15 Yes, ma'am?

16 MS. NEWSOME: Will the clients, the ones attending  
17 this session today, will they have a chance to read this report  
18 once it is finalized before it is presented to the LSC Board?

19 MS. BARNES: Possibly, yes. There is going to be a  
20 committee set up that will get the first draft of it. It will  
21 be distributed. I don't know. Our Court Reporter, for lack of  
22 a better word there, has been preparing the transcripts. From

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 those transcripts, Maureen and Charlie will pull out the essence  
2 of what has happened here.

3 We also know that realistically, the way that Board  
4 usually votes is six-to-five. The six-to-five is not always in  
5 favor. Am I right, Hortencia?

6 MS. BENAVIDEZ: Right.

7 MS. BARNES: We have to try to come up with a slate of  
8 recommendations, not taking a back seat on anything but just  
9 trying to be realistic so we think we can get that sixth person  
10 to be in favor of this recommendations.

11 As I see it, if we come up and we spend the two days  
12 here, two-and-a-half, whatever it has been, if we don't come up  
13 with some recommendations that we feel like will pass the Bar,  
14 so to speak, the only thing they're going to be saying is, "All  
15 they want to do is travel. They didn't really want to do  
16 anything. They just wanted to come to a hotel and ride a plane  
17 and this, that and the other."

18 We have to show these folks by way of action that we  
19 are for real, that we are committed. We want to put in  
20 perspective what we came for. We want to make sure that our  
21 recommendations express our feelings, but yet, they are so that  
22 we think they will stand a chance of being approved.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           Basically, that is what I'm trying to say this  
2 afternoon. The first -- let me see, it is 1:00 o'clock now.  
3 Suppose we spend the next hour and we will go over each of the  
4 groups and try to clarify the good that's in all of them.

5           The way I see it, this report will likely be in two  
6 forms. It will be the prioritization of what came out of the  
7 groups and then it will be the end result of the recommendations  
8 to the LSC Board. Does anybody have any problems if we should  
9 try to present it that way?

10           MS. NEWSOME: Would you say that again for me, please?

11           MS. BARNES: My suggestion would be that we would  
12 spend the next hour and go over what came out of the individual  
13 groups this morning as far as what they saw needed to be done,  
14 what was happening in their area and what their problems were.  
15 Then we will prioritize from that and that would be part one of  
16 the report.

17           The second part of the report will be our  
18 recommendations prioritized to the LSC Board. Does anyone have  
19 any problems with that?

20           MS. JERMANY: I don't have a problem.

21           MS. BARNES: Okay, do you have a comment?

22           MS. JERMANY: I have a comment. I hope it is possible

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
(202) 628-2121

1 for us to -- although some of them fit in the various areas, but  
2 to pull out some of the broad concepts and implications that  
3 these ideas reflect, because some of them go beyond, say, public  
4 benefits or beyond or beyond housing, so that we can come up  
5 with some kinds of recommendations or resolutions based on those  
6 concepts and not just the narrowly focused ones around public  
7 benefits.

8 Some of those things, like just take number three,  
9 simplified forms, that brings into a whole host of possibilities  
10 beyond public benefits.

11 MR. FRY: I agree.

12 MS. JERMANY: What I said was to look at each of these  
13 as a broad implication and I used number three as an example.  
14 Simplify forms, not just in public benefits, but in all areas.  
15 That raises the whole issue of "forgiveness" for pro se people.

16 What the problem is now is that pro se people can go  
17 into court or into a procedure and help themselves, but if  
18 something happened, they'd need an attorney if they file the  
19 forms late or misfile, there should be some forgiveness for pro  
20 se, in addition to the simplified form. It is a broad concept.

21 MS. BARNES: All right. Okay. The first --

22 MS. MERRITT: I hear what you said. I think that's a

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 point to address, to make sure you include everything that  
2 people are concerned about. I think one of the problems here is  
3 the interpretation of the individual who made the  
4 recommendation.

5 It is because of the process they continue to do in  
6 the communities that forces them to explain certain things that  
7 seem to be most important to their particular activity, so it  
8 may be possibly that in order to do it as a Board, a broad  
9 concept of the whole thing, but to simplify procedures, that is  
10 going to enhance whatever those people want to do. Everybody is  
11 talking at a different level.

12 MS. JERMANY: I'm saying the concept should have an  
13 example attached to it so that it will be totally and completely  
14 clear.

15 MS. MERRITT: I'm just trying to include everybody's  
16 ideas so I can be sure they are not being ruled out, although I  
17 know you are not, but it needs to be clear.

18 MS. JERMANY: Okay. I have no problem.

19 A PARTICIPANT: When we were addressing simplifying  
20 forms, just to clarify that as you weren't here for that, we  
21 didn't mean for the people using the forms for the help as much  
22 as the clients coming in who couldn't read or spoke a foreign

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 language.

2 MS. JERMANY: That's what I'm talking about. I meant  
3 forms ought to be simple and procedures ought to be simple, too,  
4 allowing for mistakes and for other things which are perfectly  
5 within the ability for not just public assistance but all kinds  
6 of areas to do.

7 I mean forms should be simple enough, and I mean there  
8 should be an opportunity in some cases to put in oral  
9 applications and requests, and I do mean simplifying the process  
10 of the forms and the procedures beyond public assistance; that's  
11 all, as an example.

12 MS. BENAVIDEZ: We need to have those forms in  
13 Spanish.

14 MS. BARNES: Mrs. Benavidez says that for the Spanish  
15 speaking communities, the forms need to be printed in Spanish  
16 because a language barrier can be very uncomfortable to a lot of  
17 people and it can take away from what we are trying to do and  
18 when they are trying to understand what is being said.

19 We said earlier that we were going to try to look at  
20 what each group has said and try to pull out of that group of  
21 findings what we think we could prioritize that would have  
22 impact, not necessarily for Virginia, not necessarily Michigan

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 or not necessarily Tennessee, but for all poor people  
2 everywhere. Betty?

3 MS. MURPHY: I was just going to say that a number of  
4 these things that we have listed here have been repeated  
5 throughout in one form or another, so it would probably be easy  
6 to simplify, by pulling out those that have been repeated.  
7 Would that seem reasonable?

8 MS. BARNES: The first one that has been identified  
9 here dealing with public benefits is an outreach program about  
10 available services. Now, outreach is something we could use on  
11 all of the things we are talking about.

12 As we go along prioritizing, we need to bear these  
13 things in mind.

14 MS. MERRITT: Question.

15 MS. BARNES: Yes, ma'am?

16 MS. MERRITT: Are you talking about it in terms of  
17 summarizing what each sheet says by one statement?

18 MS. BARNES: I think that as we look at it, we are  
19 going to find that we have the same. We are just going to  
20 prioritize number one, number two, number three. I think you  
21 are going to need to see everybody's things up together, so you  
22 can see how it is fitting into it.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BELLINO: It appears to me that the common  
2 denominator between all of these is an outreach program, a  
3 volunteer program and a training program. It appears to me that  
4 the common denominator between all of these issues, these four  
5 different groups, is the need for an outreach program, a  
6 training program and a volunteer program, where you are  
7 networking the volunteers to outreach and train.

8 MS. BOZELL: What you are recognizing is that there  
9 are groups, such as the ones that you all have, who are out  
10 there and you want the Legal Services programs to network with  
11 them.

12 MS. BELLINO: No. What I am saying is that between  
13 public benefits, child support, housing and divorce, all three  
14 of those subjects or recommendations came up in each one of  
15 these.

16 MS. JERMANY: Can you change the name "volunteers" to  
17 "self-help providers" because they are not all volunteers, and  
18 volunteers is a bad word to some people. It is an overworked  
19 word.

20 MS. BELLINO: I don't know. I just have a feeling,  
21 you know, from my background, I was a single parent with four  
22 children and I was separated. I lived on welfare for two years

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 before I got training to go into school to get on my feet, to  
2 become self sufficient.

3 Had I known that any of these things -- well, I did  
4 volunteer work, even when I had four small kids at home, even  
5 while I was collecting welfare, but --

6 MS. JERMANY: I'm just saying that all of the people  
7 who are either 501(c)(3)s or not, you know, are out there  
8 rendering services. They could be advocacy groups, they could  
9 be lobbying groups, they could be whatever they are, because  
10 "volunteers" sounds like United Way. It is sort of more limited  
11 than saying self-help providers, rather than volunteers, self-  
12 help providers; that's all I'm saying.

13 MS. BELLINO: I just never thought of volunteers and  
14 by that --

15 MS. JERMANY: It just sort of leads in the world out  
16 there to something other than providers who are set up and  
17 established just like volunteer associations and organizations.

18 MS. BELLINO: Well, whatever you want to call them,  
19 they are doing the same thing.

20 MS. JERMANY: Right, self-help providers. I'm just  
21 being difficult.

22 MR. MOSES: What we might suggest is there are an

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 awful lot of empty seats up here. Maybe some of you could come  
2 up here. It might be easier for you to see. We have 39 issues  
3 up there, so let's start labelling them one to 39 on how we want  
4 to prioritize. Is that a good way to go?

5 MS. BOZELL: Do you want to take into consideration  
6 what Beth just said? These are the three main things.

7 MS. BELLINO: Those are the three common denominators  
8 of all of them.

9 MS. JERMANY: I was just trying to change number three  
10 to self-help providers.

11 MS. MERRITT: Education should go in there.

12 MS. BOZELL: Training and how-to are the same thing?

13 MS. JERMANY: No, training is materials, like how-to-  
14 do-it materials.

15 MS. BOZELL: I mean, it is all self-help.

16 MS. JERMANY: Yes, that's true.

17 MR. MOSES: By training, do you mean materials for  
18 training?

19 MS. JERMANY: No, training is training and materials  
20 is separate from training.

21 MR. MOSES: Okay.

22 MS. MERRITT: Add another one to that, self-help.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BOZELL: This is all self-help.

2 MS. BELLINO: Maureen, they want to change the name of  
3 "volunteers" to "self-help providers".

4 MS. PHELPS: They want the term "self-help providers"  
5 instead of "volunteerism".

6 MS. BOZELL: Those are two separate things.

7 MS. JERMANY: No, it's not. Volunteerism is within  
8 there. You could be a self-help providers volunteer. That  
9 means that they are 501(c)(3) or that they are out there doing  
10 it.

11 MS. MERRITT: Or you can do your own self-help  
12 yourself.

13 MR. PHELPS: Maybe you could have self-help  
14 providers/volunteer.

15 MR. MOSES: Anything else?

16 MS. FIFIELD: We talked about taking out some of the  
17 regulations that --

18 MS. BELLINO: Clinics and workshops.

19 MS. PHELPS: That goes under training.

20 MS. SPEIR: Not necessarily.

21 MS. BELLINO: Not if you are training an individual  
22 rather than doing a whole group workshop.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. FIFIELD: I would still like to see regulations  
2 that are so confining be changed. I would still like to see,  
3 when we talked about taking some of those regulations out which  
4 would loosen up the ability of Legal Services to do more. Legal  
5 Services Corporation is there for the low income clients.

6 MS. JERMANY: Legal Services Corporation is there  
7 because Congress has decided that they want the programs  
8 watched, okay? So, you have to understand that. So, I'm saying  
9 if you have something out there that Legal Services wants to  
10 promote and to assist, they will find a way to do it.

11 MS. FIFIELD: That's true.

12 MS. JERMANY: You see, every time you talk about  
13 legislation, we raise a red flag. Those folks on 400 Virginia  
14 Avenue or wherever it is, they get very upset because we are  
15 talking about changing things. They don't like to change  
16 things. The programs can get done what needs to be done, okay?

17 We have been doing it since the inception of Legal  
18 Services projects and we are experts at being able to do that,  
19 and that's all I'm saying. If you push legislation too hard,  
20 they will take that as a side issue and not do any of the other  
21 things you want to get done. That's all.

22 It will be like a straw man over there on the side.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 They will spend all their energy fighting on that issue and not  
2 dealing with what it is you really want to accomplish; that's  
3 all I am saying. I hate to get off on something that ultimately  
4 can or cannot have -- it doesn't make any difference, anyway;  
5 that's all I'm saying.

6 MS. NEWSOME: When you say it cannot happen, are you  
7 saying it cannot happen through Legal Services because it can  
8 happen.

9 MS. JERMANY: No, I'm saying it can do what it wants  
10 to do when it wants to do it.

11 MS. PEOPLES: She is saying this will be a report,  
12 like I raised this morning, that we believe there are these  
13 restrictions that hamper things to happen. We continue to  
14 believe that but the Corporation continues to support it.

15 If they convince Congress that, in fact, that is what  
16 it should be, in another setting, we are going to have to deal  
17 with how do we get the restrictions dealt with, because they are  
18 not going to take the leadership and remove them. Do you  
19 understand what I'm saying?

20 They are not going to take their leadership to get  
21 them removed, although we believe that the --

22 MS. FIFIELD: I guess I want to go on the record

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 saying that, because I represent a lot of low income people, and  
2 that's one thing that they wanted, so I wanted to go on record  
3 with that. They want Legal Services to have the flexibility to  
4 be able to change, do law reform.

5 MS. PEOPLES: I just need to clarify something.

6 MS. NEWSOME: Mr. Clark is not here.

7 MS. PEOPLES: Part of the recommendations have to do  
8 with -- this is my personal feeling and opinions, if it is not  
9 part of the group process, it won't have any difference, it  
10 won't make any difference.

11 I still continue to believe that with the changes, it  
12 will hamper the program from getting done what things they used  
13 to do. Do you understand what I'm saying? We ain't changed  
14 from that.

15 MS. NEWSOME: I'm asking one question. I have asked  
16 it all the morning. I am asking it again. Mr. Clark is not  
17 here.

18 MS. BARNES: Mr. Durant has caught a 1:55 plane.

19 MS. NEWSOME: Was he going to do the same thing he did  
20 in the first place when he recommended 1612 to the LSC Board?  
21 Was he going to go back and recommend that it be removed, that  
22 clients not have any funds be given from Legal Services to train

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 clients? Now, he said he was going to look at it that afternoon  
2 and tell me something, but he didn't. Now, I understand he is  
3 on the plane.

4 MS. BARNES: He didn't say he was going to give an  
5 answer. He was going to address it yesterday.

6 MS. NEWSOME: No, I asked him twice. He said, "Well,  
7 I'm just reading this right now, but I will finish reading it  
8 and will let you know something."

9 MS. PEOPLES: Rosie, you know Clark Durant. He is not  
10 going to give us an opinion here. He has got to go back and  
11 discuss it with the folks who help support that.

12 MS. NEWSOME: He didn't have to go back and ask him  
13 what he was going to say.

14 MS. PEOPLES: He's not going to make the  
15 interpretation here.

16 MS. MERRITT: I just wanted to sum up some comments.  
17 I just want to sum up some comments that have just happened that  
18 may focus us back to the same kind of thing. You know, many of  
19 you who have dealt with Legal Services know that there is  
20 constant rumor about the fact that the directors and the lawyers  
21 were doing all this stuff and the clients were not aware of it.

22 This is a direction here to give you an opportunity to

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 say what you think should be going on so we can get it on the  
2 wall, so they can't say the program is dominated, you know. We  
3 don't have no program director here, nobody here but you.  
4 You've heard it. This is nothing new.

5 You've heard us say this all the time. That's why  
6 they changed all those regulations and we tried to stop them.

7 MS. BELLINO: Back to that, it seems to me like the  
8 next thing would be referral services.

9 MS. MERRITT: Yes, it's a need everywhere you go.

10 MS. BELLINO: It's up there twice. Six over there is  
11 community education.

12 MR. MOSES: I've got it.

13 MS. PHELPS: Number six would be referral service.

14 MS. BARNES: I think we dealt with simplified forms  
15 under what, Maureen?

16 MS. JERMANY: That was done under materials and how-  
17 to. We need to ask the maker of that if that satisfies what  
18 their needs were.

19 MS. PHELPS: Yes, I think so.

20 MS. BARNES: Number four under benefits, sliding scale  
21 fee, clinic for medical, drugs, et cetera.

22 MS. MERRITT: Can we go back to referral service,

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 please? I want a clarification. What I was thinking in terms  
2 of referral service when we made our presentation was to make  
3 sure there was a relationship going on between different  
4 organizations as well as Legal Services.

5 Instead of saying, "We can't help you", refer them to  
6 a source.

7 MS. BELLINO: That's what we said.

8 MS. MERRITT: Is that what you all said?

9 MS. PHELPS: Referral and networking.

10 MS. BELLINO: Service coordination.

11 MS. JERMANY: That's different from referral service.  
12 Put referral service up there.

13 MS. MERRITT: It's just an alliance.

14 MS. JERMANY: Service coordination is a whole animal  
15 by itself.

16 MS. MERRITT: That's a position. Make it as a number;  
17 that's all. Service coordination is a number.

18 MS. BELLINO: I thought that was what you meant by  
19 referral, networking.

20 MS. MERRITT: That's two different things. Number  
21 seven --

22 MS. PHELPS: That would be somebody who would assist

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 with the self-help.

2 MS. BARNES: I think we had better put benefit  
3 coordinator instead of coordination. Coordinator and  
4 coordination?

5 MS. PHELPS: Yes, coordinator.

6 MS. NEWSOME: Coordinator.

7 MS. BARNES: Are we ready to move on? Number four, we  
8 are back to this. It came from public benefits, a sliding scale  
9 fee, clinic for medical, drugs, et cetera, and problems.

10 A PARTICIPANT: That would cover a sliding scale fee  
11 for divorce, for custody, for anything that is involving a  
12 service if the client doesn't have the money to pay for it.  
13 There would be a sliding scale fee, which would then address  
14 what Ms. Jermany said about even fifty cents, it makes you feel  
15 like somebody because you pay for the service, for the  
16 information.

17 MS. BOZELL: In other words, you don't get it all  
18 free. You pay for some of it.

19 MS. BARNES: Let us take out the "medical".

20 MS. PEOPLES: The reason we put that there is because  
21 we were just giving an illustration where there is no help for  
22 some people, but they set up these clinics through the city

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 where you can go there and you might get a prescription that  
2 costs ten dollars and you only pay fifty cents, or you need some  
3 other help. That's where people can't get no services at all.

4 MR. WARE: I'd like to clarify that, please.

5 MS. BELLINO: Aren't we talking about people who are  
6 above the Legal Services level but below the limit or the level  
7 of being able to provide for this themselves by hiring an  
8 attorney? We've got to get those people who are between Legal  
9 Services and those people who can afford to pay.

10 MS. BOZELL: Well, Legal Services can't do anything  
11 about that, though.

12 MS. PEOPLES: That's the reason we were addressing  
13 public benefits programs when we dealt with that sliding fee  
14 scale. We are talking about medical services.

15 MS. NEWSOME: We cannot talk about the private sector  
16 because they are out of the guidelines.

17 MS. BARNES: I would like to address it for our  
18 visitors who have not been affiliated with the Legal Services  
19 programs and who are part of this conference are kind of in the  
20 dark when we talk about client eligibility, who is eligible to  
21 be a client, what makes them a client, what services can they  
22 get if they are a client, what happens when they are above the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 borderline of being an eligible client. Would you like to  
2 address that?

3 (Mr. Moses and Ms. Benavidez conferring.)

4 MS. BARNES: Our Board Member has asked for all of us  
5 participants who are not clients, will they please raise their  
6 hands?

7 (Show of hands.)

8 MS. MERRITT: I'm not a client but I work for the  
9 client.

10 MS. BOZELL: Have you all never been a client?

11 MS. PHELPS: They wouldn't accept me as a client. I  
12 fell above the guidelines. They didn't handle child support and  
13 divorce.

14 MS. BARNES: Now, the persons who are not clients have  
15 been identified because they raised their hands. They said,  
16 "Oh, why are we being singled out?"

17 MS. JERMANY: Nobody said that.

18 MS. BARNES: Because our Board Member was uncertain as  
19 to who of you were, although I know that many of you are  
20 representing your own self-help organizations, it is possible  
21 that you could be clients or have been clients.

22 Then you would have a little bit of knowledge of what

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 we are talking about when we talk about client eligibility, when  
2 we talk about Legal Services services and restrictions and we  
3 know that they are not going away. This just didn't come from  
4 yesterday's knowledge, you know.

5 We know that there are certain things on the books and  
6 we know that we don't agree with them all the time, but we know  
7 that we have a Board that controls the Corporation from the  
8 national level on down. We know that they set, with our help,  
9 the clients, we have eligible clients who sit on the Board. Ms.  
10 Benavidez --

11 A PARTICIPANT: What makes you eligible?

12 MR. MOSES: In a simplified nature, basically there  
13 are two types of eligibility that you need to look at. The most  
14 important is, of course, income eligibility for Legal Services.  
15 The National Legal Services Corporation sets, by regulations, an  
16 income level above which you cannot be to be eligible for Legal  
17 Services.

18 Currently, I'm not sure of the number. I think it is  
19 1614, but it is set at 125 percent of the poverty population and  
20 then it is adopted. Normally, it is the HHS poverty population  
21 that the Corporation goes by. That does not mean, however,  
22 that a local program cannot adopt a lower standard.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           In some instances, local programs have opted to use a  
2 standard of income eligibility that is, in fact, lower than that  
3 that is used by the National as a national maximum.

4           MS. PEOPLES: There are some that use higher like the  
5 185 percent that is used by a program, and it has other  
6 circumstances that go along with that that qualifies that  
7 person.

8           MR. MOSES: At that point, just for a general rule, we  
9 generally say 125 percent, generally. The other general thing  
10 that goes toward eligibility has more to do with specific types  
11 of some cases or some types of clients. There are very, very  
12 few of those, but one, for example, that is written into our  
13 regulations by Congress, written into our Act, has to do with  
14 all those cases that deal with abortion.

15           We are not supposed to fund anything dealing with  
16 abortion. Another one is we are not supposed to assist illegal  
17 aliens. There is obviously some question about at one point an  
18 individual moves from one status of alien to another status of  
19 alien, and their eligibility for our services depends upon where  
20 they are in that spectrum.

21           Those specific types of restrictions are usually very  
22 minimal. There are not a whole lot of restrictions of that

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 nature. Does that give you some idea of -- I'm sorry, Gladys.

2 MS. BARNES: It's quite all right, quite all right.  
3 We want to -- we are recommending that this issue be changed to  
4 a sliding scale fee for all of the clinics, right, for all of  
5 the services?

6 MS. PEOPLES: That is not what our discussion was.

7 MS. MERRITT: Did that have anything to do with the  
8 persons who cannot be served directly through the Legal Services  
9 but contracted out, things like pro bono or volunteer services?  
10 Do they have sliding scales of expenses? They pay something  
11 like 25 percent, don't they? Aren't there some things like fee  
12 generating cases that cannot be used by Legal Services?

13 MR. MOSES: Sliding scale? I was in the public  
14 benefits group and I don't think we were talking about it that  
15 way.

16 MS. PEOPLES: We didn't deal with paying for an  
17 attorney.

18 MS. JERMANY: Are you talking about a sliding scale  
19 for Legal Services programs or for outside programs?

20 MR. MOSES: If I can say what I thought sliding scale  
21 meant when we were talking about it in our group, I think that  
22 what we were talking about was that there are other--

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 recognizing that sometimes not all of your services are going to  
2 be offered. In that instance, it was a hospital, I think, or  
3 prescriptions we were talking about, wasn't it, Shirley?

4 MS. PEOPLES: Yes, prescriptions and health services.

5 MR. MOSES: Recognizing that not everything is  
6 offered, sometimes there are other supplemental sources that can  
7 provide low-cost service in the additional areas that might do  
8 it on a sliding scale.

9 We need to be able to maximize to make sure that  
10 people know if, for example, they are turned away by a Legal  
11 Services provider, that the community group or client would need  
12 to be able to direct them to other low cost providers of the  
13 services that they need at the time.

14 MS. JERMANY: That's a sliding scale. That relates to  
15 outside programs and not to Legal Services, so you are not  
16 talking about --

17 MR. MOSES: I thought that's what they were talking  
18 about, a sliding fee scale.

19 MS. JERMANY: So, you are not entertaining the notion  
20 that Legal Services ought to institute a sliding scale?

21 MR. WARE: I don't think it should be included as a  
22 recommendation.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BOZELL: Legal Services cannot say to this  
2 community group outside, "Listen, we want you to have --

3 MS. PEOPLES: I didn't say that. We didn't discuss it  
4 in that context, because it could come under referral. Legal  
5 Services can't provide this service and they do now refer people  
6 to someplace else.

7 MS. BOZELL: Okay, we've got that up there.

8 MS. PEOPLES: We can take that out.

9 MS. BOZELL: We can get rid of it altogether, okay.

10 MS. JERMANY: I don't know. That might be something  
11 they ought to put in.

12 MS. BARNES: All right. Right to appeal, I think, is  
13 under community education. Does anybody have any problem with  
14 that?

15 MS. PEOPLES: The right to appeal, you say that's  
16 under community education that you tell people that?

17 MS. BOZELL: You teach them.

18 MR. MOSES: You teach them how to do it.

19 MS. PEOPLES: Okay.

20 MS. BOZELL: Do you want to put the subgroups?

21 MS. JERMANY: Let's get the big ones up there and then  
22 take the subs, because this could take all day.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BARNES: Is there any dissension about putting  
2 "right to appeal" under community education?

3 MS. JERMANY: It's there.

4 MS. BOZELL: It's information. It's education.

5 MS. BARNES: Thank you. Okay. We need to prioritize,  
6 I would think, where these are going to fit in.

7 MS. JERMANY: Are we finished with all of these?

8 MS. PEOPLES: Are we going down the list to see if  
9 these things are covered or if there is additional stuff that  
10 needs to go up there?

11 MS. BARNES: Let's go with child support.

12 MS. BELLINO: I think we need to move over to  
13 recommendations on the third sheet.

14 MS. PHELPS: Training, that is already up.

15 MS. BELLINO: Number two is covered by materials.

16 MS. MERRITT: Number three is covered.

17 MS. NEWSOME: Obtain state handbooks.

18 MS. PHELPS: That's materials. We have a Legal  
19 Services coordinator.

20 MS. MERRITT: That is your service coordinator.

21 MS. BARNES: Offer materials in Spanish. We have  
22 "bilingual".

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. MERRITT: Is bilingual up there?

2 MS. BARNES: It's supposed to be.

3 MS. PEOPLES: Put "materials/bilingual".

4 MS. JERMANY: It should be multilingual.

5 MS. BARNES: Do you have additional comments on this?

6 MR. FRY: Yes.

7 MS. BARNES: After we finish this, we'll pass those  
8 around.

9 MR. FRY: Okay.

10 MS. BARNES: I think this is self help equals Legal  
11 Services.

12 MR. FRY: That's what it stands for. I don't know if  
13 it fits into a priority list; it's a thought.

14 MS. MERRITT: It needs to go somewhere. If it's not,  
15 we are in trouble.

16 MR. FRY: It is a basic thought.

17 MS. BOZELL: We've got this one, the last of these --

18 MS. MERRITT: That's different. You said Legal  
19 Services and client need training. You said training.

20 MS. BOZELL: You defined it. Put it up there, if  
21 that's what you want.

22 MS. MERRITT: Okay.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. JERMANY: You've got to write "training" smaller.  
2 I'll take it down and put it up smaller.

3 MS. MERRITT: I'm going to have a fit.

4 MS. JERMANY: Training slash what?

5 MS. NEWSOME: Training/clients.

6 MS. BARNES: Clients/LSC.

7 MS. JERMANY: Clients, plural?

8 MS. PEOPLES: You are talking about who does the  
9 training; that's different.

10 MS. JERMANY: Are you talking about providers of the  
11 training or are you talking about training, period?

12 MS. PEOPLES: I think we are addressing it to the  
13 providers.

14 MR. FRY: I think the thought of that, it was kind of  
15 understood that the clients would do training.

16 MS. BELLINO: They have to be trained first.

17 MR. FRY: It wasn't so clear that the Legal Services  
18 project would be available to do training in self-help.

19 MS. SPEIR: Wait a minute. On child support, that's  
20 not going to work because you are not going to have clients.  
21 They may know their narrow case but they are not going to --

22 MS. PEOPLES: You keep saying that and I take issue

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 with it, although I don't to the magnitude you address as  
2 organized things. I'm saying they can and I'm saying they know  
3 how to help someone to do that. You have not had that  
4 experience.

5 I need you to come to Columbus. I can't let you say  
6 that the folks cannot do that. I say they can do it.

7 MS. SPEIR: I'm saying they need to be trained.

8 MS. PEOPLES: Training.

9 MS. JERMANY: Training by trainers who are qualified  
10 to train, okay?

11 MS. PEOPLES: That's right.

12 MS. BARNES: Let's hear one person at a time. Let's  
13 hear Shirley, Catherine, Doreatha and Susan, in that order,  
14 please.

15 MS. JERMANY: All I said was that training should be  
16 provided by qualified trainers, whoever or whatever they are,  
17 okay? Now, that ought to cover it. That takes care of  
18 everybody.

19 MS. BARNES: To include clients?

20 MS. JERMANY: Well, yes. No, not to include clients.  
21 If the client is the best trainer for "X", then the client will  
22 be the trainer for "X".

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BARNES: We don't want a misunderstanding.

2 MS. JERMANY: It is not a misunderstanding.

3 MS. BARNES: We want them to know up front that we  
4 want clients to be part of this trainers' package.

5 MS. MERRITT: What is going up there, Moses?

6 MR. MOSES: You tell me what you want to put up there.

7 MS. MERRITT: How about trainers and trainees?

8 MS. JERMANY: Training presented by qualified  
9 trainers.

10 MS. MERRITT: What's the word qualified got to get in  
11 there for?

12 MS. JERMANY: The trainers have to have the ability to  
13 provide the training.

14 MS. MERRITT: I thought you were going to train the  
15 trainers, the trainers that are trainees.

16 MS. JERMANY: Do you understand that? In order to be  
17 a trainer, you have to be trained as a trainer in the training.  
18 The trainee is whoever the victim of this trainer is.

19 A PARTICIPANT: Who is going to designate whether or  
20 not the trainer is qualified to train the trainees?

21 MS. MERRITT: I keep going back to this man over here  
22 because he has said something and I keep trying to make sure

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 it's very clear in my mind when I started interpreting this  
2 thing.

3 Now, I want to say something and I also want to put it  
4 in perspective. What we want to do is enhance the private  
5 sector, the client, the Legal Services program, to provide  
6 training to enhance our self-help project because we have a  
7 mixture of people here that we need to -- we need to start here  
8 to get it together; that's what I'm really saying.

9 We need to start right here and not put it up here  
10 where it appears that you are talking about a specific group of  
11 people. Do you see what I'm saying? Everybody has the  
12 capability. You can train someone to do what you want them to  
13 do.

14 You have some reason for wanting to train this person  
15 that has some capabilities, you know.

16 A PARTICIPANT: Plus you could learn more and train  
17 them more, constantly keep working in training.

18 MR. FRY: I would put it a slightly different way. I  
19 think that, first of all, you have the client with the problem.  
20 This is the ultimate recipient. The beneficiary of all this  
21 talk is the person with the problem who gets the problem solved.  
22 That person is trained to solve the problem themselves as much as

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 they can.

2 They are trained by a provider. The provider is the  
3 self-help group of the kind that we have sitting around the  
4 room. The providers are typically, although there is no rule,  
5 but they are typically clients or former clients. So, the  
6 training by its nature is going to be client training client.

7 However, there is a third layer and this is where the  
8 terminology gets complicated. Somebody may have to come in at  
9 the beginning and train the providers. Catherine is saying let  
10 that be the best trainer there is.

11 MS. BRIGGS: But we have clients who are experienced  
12 who have gone through it already and are probably fully  
13 qualified.

14 MR. FRY: And could be.

15 MS. JERMANY: You don't want experts doing training  
16 because they can't train in most instances.

17 MS. MERRITT: I hear what you are saying, Catherine,  
18 but I think these people are saying something else.

19 MS. PEOPLES: It seems to me that if you are going to  
20 say trainers --

21 MS. SPEIR: Let us say what we think we are saying.

22 MS. BARNES: I am going to call on Beth next, but just

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 let me share something with you, please. If we have to stay  
2 here tonight until 6:30 or 7:00 o'clock, so be it. We are going  
3 to leave here hopefully united, with something together;  
4 otherwise, we can forget ever getting anything from the  
5 Corporation.

6 The first thing they are going to say is, "We provided  
7 you with the means to come together and you blew it." Now,  
8 that's just as plain as that so if we have anything that's  
9 bothering us, why we can't sit down here and talk together and  
10 come up with a unified solution, let's say it.

11 MS. BELLINO: Would it not be beneficial to all the  
12 clients and to Legal Services and to the entire community to  
13 have someone who is experienced in the field of whatever,  
14 whether it be child support, divorce, custody, housing, Indian  
15 relations or public assistance or farming, to come in, do a  
16 training seminar or a training workshop to train several Legal  
17 Services clients or personnel in order to allow them to gain the  
18 knowledge that they need to turn around and take that back to  
19 their homes.

20 MS. PEOPLES: But do you make the assumption that the  
21 Legal Services client is not a trainer? Are you making that  
22 assumption?

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BELLINO: Yes, I'm making that assumption.

2 MS. PEOPLES: That's wrong. That's wrong.

3 MS. BELLINO: Wait a minute. Let me finish. Eleven  
4 years ago when I first got separated and divorced, I could not  
5 have done my child support case without somebody telling me what  
6 to do, without somebody showing me what book to read, what forms  
7 to fill out and what agency to go to.

8 MS. PEOPLES: I've been doing welfare hearing and  
9 welfare work. I'm a client. I've been doing it since '69. Ask  
10 Catherine, because she was a trainer then.

11 MS. MERRITT: I just want to share a thought. I just  
12 want to share a thought; I don't want to debate. You know and  
13 everybody hear knows that I think I'm good and I think I'm  
14 capable, but everybody knows that you have to -- there is a  
15 certain way to do anything when it comes down to trying to train  
16 people.

17 That's why they have this plan called training of  
18 trainers. You can know it better than I do and I think I know  
19 housing real well, but I need someone to come in and show me how  
20 to present it to train some other people. I mean, this is  
21 important.

22 You can get out there and say, "You can train someone.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 You do your job real well" and you fail when you get amongst a  
2 lot of people, so there are programs that do do training for  
3 trainers; that's all I want to say, it's not debatable.

4 MS. JERMANY: She said most of what I'm going to say.  
5 Because a person is knowledgeable and an expert in an area, and  
6 I've got an example and I am sure this person won't mind, but I  
7 won't mention her name. She is one of the top lawyers at Legal  
8 Services at one time we brought in as a trainer, which made me  
9 decide that if you didn't know how to train, I don't care how  
10 much knowledge and expertise and information you had.

11 If you did not know how to present information to  
12 clients and people who don't have the legal background that you  
13 have, then you cannot train them. We run a regular training of  
14 trainers, teach training techniques, adult learning theory and  
15 all the things you need to know about training.

16 What we have put out for all the Legal Services in the  
17 country is how to conduct a local Legal Services training  
18 program, telling them how to do it if you don't know anything  
19 about training. You are not a trainer regardless of how much  
20 knowledge you have of the subject matter, because the subject  
21 matter is dead until it is presented in a way that makes it  
22 usable by the learner.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 I mean, there is a certain amount of learning and  
2 environmental things you have to do with these other things that  
3 are essential. We will be glad to take experts and turn them  
4 into trainers but there cannot be an assumption because you are  
5 an expert that you are a trainer.

6 Many clients have much better instinctive training  
7 skills than the experts. What we have been able to do is go  
8 both ways, take the expertise and the information and transfer  
9 that to the skills that the clients have, and they can present  
10 the material a lot better, a lot more often, than taking the  
11 legal expert, or whatever area expert that is, and have them  
12 make a presentation, because they may have been locked in to  
13 some other problem in the system and not know how to make a  
14 presentation. You have to learn how to be a trainer; that's  
15 all.

16 MS. BARNES: Susan, Betty and Julia.

17 MS. SPEIR: What I am concerned about are the people  
18 who are going to be giving the information. A couple people  
19 have said, you know, we have clients that have had child support  
20 problems and, therefore, they know the system. No, they don't.

21 They know what happened to them. For instance, you  
22 may have had a woman who went in, she knew where her ex-husband

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 was. She knew that he was working. It was a matter of getting  
2 the DA's office or herself to do a wage assignment. That woman  
3 is not qualified to speak on how to get a bank levy, how to do a  
4 property loan. What happens when the guy moves out of state?  
5 Is he working? Is he not working? Were they married?

6 There are tons of questions, tons of areas, that the  
7 average person who has had one child support case in one  
8 particular area is not going to know. That's the same thing.  
9 You can relate that into any area.

10 In housing, you may have one person in housing who has  
11 done a particular thing in the housing field; that doesn't make  
12 him have the knowledge to do a training in the field of housing.

13 MS. PEOPLES: Being an expert and knowing all the  
14 rules and regulations doesn't make you a trainer.

15 MS. SPEIR: We are not saying that.

16 MS. PEOPLES: I can know a lot of things but I still  
17 may not have the capability of doing a training; that's why you  
18 have to have the distinction. Just knowing about it, knowing  
19 how to present it and knowing how to do that requires some  
20 training in the field.

21 MS. SPEIR: Well, that's what I'm saying, but --

22 MS. PEOPLES: So, lots of folks don't have that.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. SPEIR: Okay, but what I am hearing is you want,  
2 just because someone has had one child support case --

3 MS. PEOPLES: I'm not saying that. I did not say  
4 that.

5 MS. BRIGGS: No, I said possibly someone has gone  
6 through that. I'm not just saying just gone through a divorce;  
7 I'm not saying just gone through a -- I've been with Legal  
8 Services for eleven years. I'm saying what makes a person so  
9 high above everybody just because they're really knowledgeable.

10 MS. SPEIR: It's not a matter of high above. Our  
11 concern is that they get the information that they need. It's  
12 not high above; that has nothing to do with it.

13 MS. BRIGGS: There are a lot more qualifications than  
14 just knowledge that you have to have to become a good trainer.  
15 You have to have emotions, feelings, consideration, you have to  
16 have all of that.

17 MS. MURPHY: I just want to say that what both sides  
18 are saying you have to meld into one. Under our national  
19 organization we have groups in every state. If someone calls me  
20 from California and starts asking me about her case, no way  
21 would I assume to tell her exactly what the California State  
22 laws are or how their state program works because I don't know

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 that.

2 If I referred her to a regional expert, I would refer  
3 her to Sue, because Sue handles that in that state; in  
4 Tennessee, it's Beth. So, even if you had a training  
5 coordinator, then --

6 MS. JERMANY: I think the point here is that the  
7 person who provides the service that you are talking about has  
8 to be trained some kind of way in what she is saying. Doing  
9 your own divorce does not make you qualified to run a divorce  
10 center; that's what we are saying.

11 But, doing a number of divorces, going through a  
12 divorce training, learning how to do that, that is presented by  
13 professional trainers -- let's call it qualified, whatever you  
14 want to call it, these trainers who can give you that  
15 information. Then, you go back and you practice and you have  
16 supervision.

17 You have assistance and hand-holding until you become,  
18 quote, an expert in delivering divorce services, okay?  
19 Everybody who operates a WAVE center, as an example, a divorce  
20 center, all those people were trained. They were trained for 48  
21 hours in eight-hour sessions, plus they all were watched for the  
22 first three months and all of their papers are checked.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           Anybody that opens up a bankruptcy center, all of  
2 their first papers get FAXed to us so we can make sure that they  
3 are doing the stuff right, even though they have done twenty or  
4 thirty bankruptcies before. We need to know that they are doing  
5 it right, but they are trained and it doesn't work if you are  
6 not trained.

7           MS. MERRITT: I think we are moving from one stage to  
8 another and not really focusing on what is happening here,  
9 because I think this has been a breakdown in some of the  
10 concerns of clients and to the programs where constantly, they  
11 will say, "We want you to transfer that information to groups of  
12 people that they can do themselves."

13           The self-help training, I think, tends to address that  
14 because of the inability of that person when they enter into  
15 your office for services does not mean that person is qualified.  
16 Now, we need to start trying to promote one particular thing and  
17 talk about how we are going to impact the decision that you made  
18 when you decided that it must be a self-help activity going on.

19           It keeps filtering back to what you are really saying,  
20 that everybody is capable until you find out different, so why  
21 don't you give that person some leverage so you can justify what  
22 you are going to do with that person other than assist them with

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 their particular problem, their immediate problem? That's what  
2 it is, an immediate problem.

3 It is almost like you call it a stopgap, because if  
4 you did not leave anything with that person, then that person is  
5 going to be back there for something else and that is an  
6 experience.

7 MS. BARNES: I agree with Doreatha that in all of  
8 these self-help programs, in order for them to satisfy what we  
9 are talking about, an impact on a whole nation of people, they  
10 need to be able, when they leave these clinics, they need to be  
11 going out training someone else.

12 MS. PHELPS: What you want is self-help provider  
13 training.

14 MS. MERRITT: Self-help training.

15 MS. JERMANY: Every self-help provider cannot train  
16 someone else to do that.

17 MS. MERRITT: That is not what we are saying. That is  
18 not what we're saying. We don't want to leave people out there  
19 on a limb because we are saying they are not capable.

20 MS. BARNES: I recognize Rosie and Bill.

21 MS. NEWSOME: I would just like to point out one thing  
22 and I want everybody to hear it, and listen good and listen.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 This is my right hand; this is my left hand. Legal Services has  
2 all kinds of attorneys. Some attorneys go to school to be just  
3 a farm/migrant attorney. Some go for divorce. Some go for  
4 other things.

5 You cannot walk in to the average private attorney's  
6 office and get him to take your case for Social Security or food  
7 stamps because they don't know what you're talking about. They  
8 don't know what you're talking about.

9 Now, what I'm trying to say is when you come in to  
10 here to train a lot of clients from all walks of life, you've  
11 got a problem unless you have let your feelings down, you have  
12 dealt with the client, and you know what they are going. That's  
13 impossible, to know where they are going because they don't  
14 know.

15 Now, what I'm saying is you've got to come down on a  
16 level so that they won't say that you're talking to them on a  
17 professional scale. You heard what he said, "He's a lawyer and  
18 that's why he can say what he thinks." That's what they're  
19 going to say, "That's a lawyer talking to me."

20 But, if one of these ladies walks in and talk to a  
21 client, they'll say, "Well, she knows what she's talking about  
22 because she's coming right along with me or she's been here."

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Germany knows what is happening; she's been with Legal Services;  
2 she's been a welfare recipient.

3 Now, I'm saying that because these clients here are  
4 looking at you self-help support independent people have pulled  
5 up on your own strings, and I admire you for that. But they are  
6 looking at the fact that you don't know the meaning of client  
7 eligible. You've never been down there.

8 MS. BELLINO: Untrue.

9 MS. NEWSOME: You said you weren't client eligible.  
10 I'm not going to say you didn't need; I'm not going to say you  
11 didn't need.

12 MS. SEIDEL: I was on welfare.

13 MS. BELLINO: I was on welfare for about three years.

14 MS. PEOPLES: This is not open confessions.

15 MS. BELLINO: We can all sing together.

16 MS. NEWSOME: I respect you and I want you to do that  
17 for me. When you were saying support and you couldn't live  
18 without that support, that didn't hit us because, even with  
19 support, we get welfare. We don't get enough money that welfare  
20 is not due us, because as a rule, our man is not making enough  
21 money out there.

22 When we get twenty dollars or \$25 for a child, we are

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 doing good. We're doing good.

2 MS. BELLINO: How about fifteen for a child?

3 MS. NEWSOME: Fifteen is more. You are still eligible  
4 for welfare.

5 MS. BELLINO: That's what I get.

6 MS. NEWSOME: I can understand that and I'm saying  
7 that. But what I'm saying is: I understand what you are  
8 saying, too, when you go out and say you can't live. This is  
9 what Rose had said yesterday in one of her statements. She  
10 couldn't make it. This is what made her -- or was it you, Sue,  
11 that got out and pulled up on their own because they couldn't  
12 make it.

13 See, I realize I have friends that's getting support  
14 and they are getting five hundred dollars a week for one child.  
15 Well, see, that's money; that's money. We don't get that kind  
16 of money for five months, so do you understand what I'm saying?  
17 We've still got to stand in that welfare line.

18 It is the same thing I was telling you, Rose. It  
19 don't matter to some of these mothers that's poor if the welfare  
20 never find that man because they ain't gonna get none of that  
21 money no way. The welfare is going to keep it, so that's what  
22 I'm trying to get you all to understand.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           It is not the fact that a client here has anything  
2 against what you are saying in self help but they are feeling  
3 looked down on, as some said, because you're saying clients  
4 can't do it, because clients can do anything.

5           MS. SPEIR: We didn't say they couldn't do it. We  
6 said they need to be trained.

7           MS. NEWSOME: But this is what they said to you. This  
8 is what someone was saying to you, so I'm trying to explain to  
9 you why it was said and how a client feels; that's all, because  
10 clients feel they can do anything.

11           If they feel they can change Legal Services, you know,  
12 then they feel they can change you; that's all I'm saying. You  
13 are one person, honey.

14           MR. FRY: I haven't heard any disagreement about what  
15 I think the substance is around the table about self-help and  
16 clients training. What I am hearing is that people who aren't  
17 in Legal Services are using the word "client" with a different  
18 meaning than you are. I think that's the whole source of the  
19 problem.

20           All Susan is saying is that if a person walks into her  
21 shop and gets a divorce, that person is not immediately capable  
22 of being a self-help provider. I think everybody would agree on

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 that. The trouble is, she uses the word client. She means a  
2 person who walks in, gets a service and walks out.

3 In Legal Services, the word "client" refers to a class  
4 of people and that class of people does not want to hear anybody  
5 say that there is something they can't do.

6 MS. PEOPLES: You're right.

7 MR. FRY: But you are using the term in two different  
8 ways. Susan is not saying that people who are Legal Services  
9 clients as a class are not capable people. I think that's what  
10 is being heard erroneously and it is the source of the problem.  
11 If you remove that, I think everybody sees it the same way.

12 MS. PEOPLES: Well, that's the only thing I ask, that  
13 you use the term you mean and mean what you are saying, and  
14 everybody can understand each other.

15 MR. FRY: I'll bet Susan has never heard the word  
16 "client" used the way those of us who have been around Legal  
17 Services hear it all the time.

18 MS. PEOPLES: That's what I'm saying.

19 MR. FRY: It means something different.

20 MS. PEOPLES: That's what I'm saying. They are not up  
21 with Legal Services.

22 MS. BARNES: Moving right along --

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. FRY: Getting back to the priority list up there.

2 MS. BARNES: Moving right along, can we leave this and  
3 then I want you to pass out or let Maureen or someone pass out  
4 what you had, Bill?

5 MS. JERMANY: Let's call them customers.

6 MS. BARNES: Excuse me. We'll finish the list. We'll  
7 take about a five-minute stretch break and come back and try to  
8 complete our program.

9 I believe we stopped at number two, self-help needs a  
10 provider.

11 MR. FRY: I think that is inherent in what is up  
12 there. What is on the board assumes the provider, so it is  
13 there already. I think the others are there, as referral and  
14 network, so I would say that that list is taken care of.

15 MR. WARE: Wait. They don't even have it up there.  
16 We did have the recommendation about freeing some of the  
17 restrictions because it came out of our committee that we should  
18 still include it.

19 MR. FRY: I am corrected. I think that is right.

20 MR. WARE: Out of our committee, one of the  
21 recommendations was to free Legal Services by --

22 MR. FRY: It is there, I'm sorry; number five is it.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. WARE: Yes, we said support self-help. That  
2 doesn't necessarily say --

3 MR. FRY: Freed up is what it meant in shorthand. The  
4 point of that was that the Legal Services program --

5 MR. WARE: Reduce the restrictions on Legal Services  
6 for clients.

7 MR. FRY: Yes.

8 MS. BOZELL: So does that mean we are back to 1612?

9 MR. WARE: We are at 1612, et al. It could be applied  
10 to a lot of different things, yes. That's not on their board  
11 and that was a recommendation. You can shoot it down if you  
12 want to, but I'd like for it to be in the record that that was  
13 one of the recommendations from our committee.

14 MS. MERRITT: Is this assumed (indicating)?

15 MR. FRY: I think it is assumed in this.

16 MR. WARE: Where? Please show me.

17 MR. FRY: We are defining the priorities of self-help  
18 on the basic assumption that that first provision is true; that  
19 self-help is Legal Services, referral and networking.

20 MS. MERRITT: That's a big assumption. I hope it  
21 works. Sometimes, you have to be redundant.

22 MR. FRY: There is something else we are going to look

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 at that I think may make that more clear.

2 MS. JERMANY: I said that Legal Services projects are  
3 currently free to make and develop relationships between any  
4 groups that they want to as long as there is no exchange of  
5 resources and money.

6 Any group can go to Legal Services and get all kinds  
7 of assistance, support, et cetera, as long as it is not money,  
8 okay? Legal Services cannot do that, so that means that groups  
9 are free to work with Legal Services, establish those kinds of  
10 relationships, and we don't need to change any regulations as  
11 long as it does not involve taking Legal Services money and  
12 transferring that to local groups.

13 MR. WARE: We are not talking about the relationship  
14 with self-help groups.

15 MS. JERMANY: I'm saying yes, they have relationships.

16 MR. WARE: We are not talking about that.

17 MS. JERMANY: What are you talking about?

18 MR. WARE: We're talking about class actions.

19 MS. JERMANY: You said "support". What does that  
20 mean?

21 MR. FRY: That's a shorthand and I'm sorry it's  
22 confusing, but the idea was that 1612 puts restrictions on the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 corporation and there are other restrictions.

2 MS. JERMANY: I'm saying I don't know of any Legal  
3 Services program in the country that doesn't have additional  
4 money from another source, okay? Okay, that's first; let's be  
5 totally honest about that. It's first. They have resources  
6 from other sources.

7 Secondly, they are all free human beings within that  
8 program and they don't work 24 hours a day for Legal Services  
9 and there are all kinds of relationships in between other kinds  
10 of support groups out there that Legal Services can establish,  
11 networking, training and all of the things we have listed up  
12 there, as long as there is not a transfer of money, okay?

13 They can represent their clients in class actions  
14 because all they have to do is get their class to be eligible.  
15 There are all kinds of ways. They do it with welfare rights  
16 organizations every single day. They do it with tenant groups  
17 every single day and any other group the Legal Services program  
18 chooses to do.

19 MS. PEOPLES: Catherine, there is another new reg that  
20 says that you cannot do other funds and do what we say you  
21 cannot do. There used to be a thing --

22 MS. JERMANY: Has that ever stopped anybody yet?

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. FIFIELD: Why not change the regulation if it's  
2 out there? My God.

3 MS. JERMANY: No, wait a minute. The reason I said  
4 that, you do not ask the fox to return the chicken.

5 MS. FIFIELD: No, we can kill the fox; let's do it.

6 MS. JERMANY: No, there is a vehicle by which you do  
7 that if you want to do that. I'm saying you do not ask the fox  
8 to return the chickens. You go to the owner of the farm; that's  
9 all.

10 MS. NEWSOME: Ladies, ladies, we can't do anything  
11 about changing the reg. Let's do this today because I would  
12 like to go home and I would like to know what is happening.

13 MS. MERRITT: As a result of all of this discussion,  
14 we have got some things up here that we are asking to happen, to  
15 formalize an alliance in the community, yet we spend a lot of  
16 time talking about what we can do and what we can't do. We are  
17 defeating our own purpose in many ways here.

18 The statement there on number seven says service  
19 coordination. You are talking about Legal Services programs and  
20 other programs, and that is how you start talking about  
21 interdependency and how you can network and formulate the  
22 alliance that is so badly needed to help so many people, because

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 there are so many people here who are doing things that we are  
2 unaware of.

3 We need that network badly to show that there are  
4 things going on out here to show that could be of some benefit  
5 to some people that they are not aware of. Now, you either want  
6 it or you don't want it. Which one do you want to debate? Do  
7 you want to debate what you can get from one side or what you  
8 can get collectively as a group? That's my concern.

9 MS. BARNES: Collectively, as a group, I would hope.  
10 Susan?

11 MS. FIFIELD: I guess I would like something broader  
12 than the service coordinator.

13 MS. JERMANY: Service coordination.

14 MS. FIFIELD: I would like to have a statement of  
15 Legal Services coordinating with community groups and making  
16 that not just -- I guess I want it tighter.

17 MS. JERMANY: You want to have something mandatory?

18 MS. FIFIELD: Must coordinate with community  
19 organizations.

20 MS. JERMANY: You want a mandate to do it; is that  
21 what you are saying?

22 MS. FIFIELD: I have heard, in this group, I have

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 heard about Legal Services in other places, programs who do not  
2 coordinate with client groups, who do not coordinate with  
3 clients themselves, who do not take into consideration the  
4 clients' needs. I do not understand that because it doesn't  
5 happen to ours.

6 MS. MERRITT: There are some programs -- as you know,  
7 my program is Legal Services of North Carolina and I am funded  
8 for coordination of programs and organizations that can help the  
9 clients, may it be Legal Services or whomever, Human Services.

10 I have to attend Human Services meetings and  
11 everything to find out what is going on so I can get this  
12 information out. I publicize a newsletter talking about these  
13 things quarterly.

14 That coordinator, they are not going to have any  
15 attorney or any staff member going out and coordinating  
16 activities in the community. This is something the clients  
17 decided that that is what they wanted to do. They wanted a  
18 coordinated effort so that they could identify these resources.

19 Even though we are a client council, we have an  
20 affiliated organization. Every time there is an organization  
21 that says they want to benefit from the services that are coming  
22 from Legal Services, we have a mechanism in place to send it out

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 into the community. It may not be as large as it should be, but  
2 that is a beginning.

3 You have to think in terms of how valuable service  
4 coordination is, because there are so many people out there that  
5 never know anything about Legal Services, never know anything  
6 about child support programs and divorce clinics or nothing  
7 else. I myself have learned some things, myself, that I was  
8 unaware of, so I know that there is a need for communication, a  
9 definite need for coordination.

10 There are so many people doing great things that can  
11 benefit the people that we are concerned about, that we are  
12 certainly concerned about.

13 MR. FRY: Let me ask a point of information. Our  
14 group did have a concern that there are restrictions on what  
15 Legal Services programs can do, which prevent them from  
16 providing certain kinds of help to community groups that we  
17 think they ought to be able to do.

18 I want to ask Maureen, if you know, what are the terms  
19 that limit the LSPs from law reform cases, and that has the  
20 effect of prohibiting them from doing law reform when?

21 MS. BOZELL: I'm sorry?

22 MR. FRY: When are they prohibited from doing law

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 reform?

2 MS. BOZELL: Law reform?

3 MR. FRY: Reform.

4 MR. MOSES: Let me ask what you mean by law reform.

5 MR. FRY: It is a very loose term, but the gist of law  
6 reform is when you are trying to change the fundamental law, you  
7 want the law that you don't like to be declared  
8 unconstitutional; that's one kind of law reform. You want a  
9 legal action which overthrows the laws you don't like.

10 The Legal Services projects got in a lot of trouble  
11 for that and, historically, the Reagan Administration wanted to  
12 stop them from doing that. The reason was, they said, the  
13 lawyers are dreaming up those things for their own  
14 gratification.

15 MS. MERRITT: I think I heard somebody say something  
16 like that this morning. I don't think the coordination does  
17 that, do you?

18 MR. MOSES: Just to clarify a little bit of what you  
19 are talking about as law reform is perfectly acceptable. Class  
20 action suits, for example, are frequently used for law reform  
21 and they are perfectly permissible.

22 There is an entire regulation about how to do a class

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 action suit, saying that you have eligible clients and you've  
2 gone through the steps that a director of a program would have  
3 to do.

4 MR. FRY: Class action, I know, is okay.

5 MR. MOSES: That's perfectly fine. If by law reform  
6 you meant class action suits to try and force changes, which is  
7 done all the time --

8 MR. FRY: No, I don't.

9 MR. MOSES: By law reform, then, do you mean lobbying?

10 MR. FRY: Lobbying is prohibited.

11 MR. MOSES: Lobbying is prohibited by 1612.

12 MR. FRY: My understanding -- and this is why I asked  
13 Maureen. My understanding is that there are also in the  
14 regulations some other restrictions on what is called law  
15 reform, which is changing the law through litigation. Do you  
16 know of any?

17 MR. MOSES: I don't know of any like that.

18 MS. MERRITT: Changing the law through litigation?

19 MR. MOSES: That's what a class action suit basically  
20 seeks to do.

21 MR. FRY: A class action suit is really where you are  
22 suing on behalf of a large number of people, called a class.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. MOSES: Right, in order to try and change the  
2 interpretation of a law or change the law.

3 MR. FRY: No, you don't have to be.

4 MR. MOSES: You don't have to be, but that is  
5 frequently the way it's done.

6 MR. FRY: A class action can be the same as a private  
7 action.

8 MR. MOSES: That's true.

9 MR. FRY: A private action can try to change the law,  
10 too. I'm wondering whether or not there are any restrictions on  
11 law reform, litigation to change the law.

12 MR. MOSES: Do you mean if there are restrictions on  
13 the types of litigation that a local Legal Services office can  
14 do?

15 MS. JERMANY: They can't do abortions.

16 MS. MERRITT: Say I was a client and say I had  
17 something affecting me, and then if they find twenty other  
18 people in my area, maybe fifty or a hundred other people had the  
19 same problem and I signed a retainer for Legal Services to  
20 represent my interests.

21 They, in turn, feel that this can affect a lot of  
22 people because of the number of people inquiring of it. Would

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 that be changing a law, to improve the community, by having a  
2 client changing -- or changing the law because the attorney  
3 thinks is needs to be changed? Which is it?

4 MR. MOSES: Do you mean -- I think what you meant was  
5 that that attorney went to court over your case?

6 MS. MERRITT: No, a client went to the attorney on  
7 account of a problem that they had and find that there were  
8 other people who had the same problem.

9 MR. MOSES: Okay.

10 MS. MERRITT: Therefore, there are a number of people  
11 it affects. So, that is what, impact litigation or what if it  
12 is a lot of people?

13 MR. MOSES: If it is a lot of people, it could be  
14 possible that a class action could be filed.

15 MS. MERRITT: You are changing the law, then, aren't  
16 you?

17 MR. FRY: Maybe I could redirect the question, then.

18 MS. JERMANY: The original intent is not to change the  
19 law; it's to take care of the eligible client.

20 MS. MERRITT: No, they don't take care of individual  
21 clients.

22 MS. JERMANY: For the eligible group of clients.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
(202) 628-2121

1 MR. FRY: Let me ask Susan. She was the one that had  
2 this feeling and maybe Susan could clarify.

3 MS. FIFIELD: There are a lot more hoops to go through  
4 if you want to do a class action suit, especially if it is  
5 concerning a referendum or, gosh, what was the other?

6 MR. MOSES: I am not saying there aren't hoops to go  
7 through. There is an entire regulation on doing class actions.  
8 There are certain determinations that have to be made by an  
9 executive director.

10 MS. FIFIELD: Don't they even have to be approved?

11 MR. MOSES: Not by the Corporation but there is  
12 certain reporting. It has to be approved by the local program  
13 and there are certain reporting requirements on class actions  
14 that you don't have --

15 MS. FIFIELD: Does the Corporation encourage class  
16 actions?

17 MR. MOSES: Well, I mean, there is a regulation saying  
18 what we have to do to do it, so to the extent that, you know --

19 MS. FIFIELD: I just thought I understood that at one  
20 point, something with class actions --

21 MS. MERRITT: The trouble with class actions is it  
22 means that a lot has come into this, Moses, that is badly needed

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 to be trained or educated or brought to the client community;  
2 that's clear.

3 MS. JERMANY: I have one more thing to say and then  
4 I'll be finished. As I said earlier, Legal Services programs  
5 have the flexibility -- I don't think you want to listen -- to  
6 do what they want to do, okay?

7 They can assist any local group to do whatever that  
8 local group wants to do because they are created, okay? Am I  
9 getting the message through?

10 MS. PEOPLES: That's not true.

11 MS. JERMANY: It is true.

12 MS. PEOPLES: That is not true.

13 MS. JERMANY: Okay.

14 MS. PEOPLES: The reason they don't do it is because  
15 the 1612 tells them there are limitations on what they can do.  
16 We have to have a procedure at the program level of how you do  
17 class actions.

18 MS. JERMANY: They go through the procedure if it is  
19 in their self-interest to do so. They will go through whatever  
20 changes are necessary once they decide it is within their self  
21 interest to do so.

22 MS. PHELPS: What you are saying, Catherine, is each

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 individual program reads into 1612 what they so desire to read?

2 MS. JERMANY: No, I am saying they find ways, like  
3 you, to get around things you want to get around. I am telling  
4 you that they are able to work with community groups and help  
5 those groups do what they need to do.

6 MS. PEOPLES: They have to certify that the community  
7 group is an eligible client and they have to give a community  
8 group what it is they say they can do, what their program can  
9 and cannot do. It is not like it used to be.

10 MS. FIFIELD: Why don't we discuss this on break?

11 MS. BARNES: Let's finish this and we can take a  
12 break. Okay. Enter divorce. The team on divorce said divorce  
13 clinics for uncontested divorces are needed. Do you still feel  
14 like that?

15 MS. MERRITT: But we added something to it.

16 MS. BARNES: We said with the evaluation of the  
17 family, look into the family needs, incorporate it with that.  
18 They may be out of a house and you might want to refer them to  
19 your local housing project. They may qualify for some community  
20 program.

21 MS. MERRITT: The only thing for putting that in there  
22 is there has been maybe some documentation, a brochure, a

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 package. I know that there is some information on divorce  
2 clinics and forms that Legal Services used to use in the past  
3 and it is always important to research what has taken place.  
4 That's why I put the word "evaluation" in along with the needs  
5 of a family.

6 If they did need to go to uncontested clinics, I mean,  
7 if they did need to go to a divorce clinic for uncontested  
8 divorces, certainly, if they need a divorce, there are other  
9 problems and needs. You need to remember that there are always  
10 statistics on different activities that have gone on in the  
11 past; you need to refer back to them.

12 MS. BARNES: Mr. Ware?

13 MR. WARE: I just wonder if the recommendation is to  
14 say that the divorce clinics are needed. I mean, who are you  
15 talking about, Legal Services divorce clinics?

16 MS. BARNES: We are talking about divorce clinics,  
17 period.

18 MR. WARE: We have them, and I know all programs  
19 don't. I am wondering who is this recommendation going to?

20 MS. MERRITT: It needs support.

21 MR. WARE: Who is it going to?

22 MS. BARNES: It is going to the LSC Corporation.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MR. WARE: Is that what we are trying to tell the  
2 Corporation, that divorce clinics are needed, right? Thank you.

3 MS. BARNES: I want to include this, Maureen.

4 MS. PHELPS: Wouldn't that go under referrals, the  
5 evaluation of family needs?

6 MS. BARNES: Not necessarily, I don't think.

7 MS. MERRITT: Because if you are doing an intake on  
8 the family, you're going to have all that in there.

9 MS. BARNES: Okay, moving right along here now, our  
10 team said that if we had this divorce clinic and that if we  
11 performed certain services or made certain projections when we  
12 talked to these families, it would cause an elimination of the  
13 backlog of cases that Legal Services has that are stacked up.  
14 They haven't had anybody available to do it. This, of course,  
15 would mean that it was cost effectiveness.

16 Do you still agree with that, ladies and gentlemen?

17 MR. WARE: Is that necessarily a recommendation or the  
18 effect of having a divorce clinic?

19 MS. MERRITT: There has been some debate about that  
20 whole thing.

21 MR. WARE: I'm only asking a question. That is, in  
22 effect, what is going to happen if you have a divorce clinic,

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 right? I just wonder if it's necessary to say that. I'm not  
2 saying don't say it.

3 MS. BARNES: We are not trying to put in a whole lot  
4 of dialogue, but we want to know in the recommendation package  
5 that whoever has the fortune or unfortune to go to present it,  
6 that they will have a pretty solid foundation.

7 MS. NEWSOME: Madam Chair, I think we need to have  
8 divorce clinics because in a lot of states, Legal Services don't  
9 even do divorces unless --

10 MS. BOZELL: But if Earnest is saying you get your  
11 divorce clinic and that's immediately taken care of, so we are  
12 being redundant if we put it up there. We can just cover this  
13 one up, too, because in effect we are saying that.

14 MS. BARNES: Bilingual language, will need  
15 interpreters; that should be self-explanatory. Establish  
16 positive relationship with community, I think that should go--

17 MR. WARE: Number one; that should be number one.

18 MS. BOZELL: If you do referral, if you do assessment,  
19 if you do outreach, that's all in there.

20 MS. BARNES: Followup session for the group. Now,  
21 this had been suggested by our group but looking at the size, I  
22 place myself in the position if I was sitting up there where Ms.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Benavidez is and you know we've got to try to get six votes out  
2 of this thing before we can get it carried off, and there's  
3 eleven members on the board.

4 I think I would probably say, after researching my own  
5 thoughts on this, I would probably be thinking like Ms.  
6 Benavidez would be thinking, that we need to not go so far out  
7 that we can't pull in that other vote, because we can't get  
8 nothing to pass unless we get six people up there on that Board  
9 to vote for us, right?

10 Right now, I am only sharing this with you, for those  
11 of you who are not Legal Services clients. For a long, long  
12 time, it's been the saying going around, that all clients want  
13 to do is travel, you know, get on the airplane, get a ticket, go  
14 to fine hotels and eat good food.

15 We have got to turn this around. We came here for a  
16 purpose and we want to try to end up with a purpose. So,  
17 thinking along those lines, before Clark left and you might say,  
18 those of you who haven't really worked all the time with us in  
19 trying to pull this together, why are we leaning towards what  
20 Clark might say versus a number of other Board Members.

21 We know that to get certain things done, we've got to  
22 have certain people to help lobby other folks to get them to

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 come along on our side. So, before he left, he asked that I  
2 appoint a committee to review the first draft of what goes out  
3 of this meeting that Maureen and Charlie are going to put  
4 together.

5 Out of that draft, all of this, we will be looking at  
6 and in a few minutes, I will name those persons. Then the  
7 package will be sent to all the participants who are here today  
8 and this will be -- you know, we will check off what we  
9 recommend that we see as solid that maybe we can work with, and  
10 we will proceed from there.

11 We want to do what is right, what is best to impact a  
12 whole nation of people, you know. I said yesterday morning in  
13 opening that we wanted this to be so that we would be taking the  
14 interests of those persons whom we serve. All of us, in one way  
15 or another, serve people.

16 Rose over there serves people in seeing that they get  
17 the help that she has; so does Beth; so does Susan; so does  
18 Susan over here; so does Julia; so do we, and Betty, Pat and all  
19 of us, but we've just got to put it in one lump sum and try to  
20 come together.

21 For that reason, I retract the followup. We will do  
22 it by some type of survey. Will you accept that?

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 (No response.)

2 MS. BARNES: I'm asking a question. Now, don't wait  
3 and leave here and say, "Gladys didn't allow me to say  
4 anything."

5 MS. JERMANY: I think it's a good idea.

6 MS. BRIGGS: I do, too.

7 MS. JERMANY: I think you will get people to sit down  
8 and think about it, and they can write it down.

9 MS. BARNES: Let me tell you, I didn't agree with it  
10 at first and, you know, most of you, except maybe Susan and  
11 Beth, and Rose has talked to me and Julia and Susan here and  
12 Betty and Pat, you know if I really am committed to something  
13 and say something, I'm going to fight for it until the end.

14 There are times that I turn around and look at it and  
15 say, well, maybe this isn't the best road to take. Maybe we  
16 need to turn around and look at it a little more, so this is  
17 what we are doing today. We are turning around and looking at  
18 it. Since I was the one who came up with this, would you delete  
19 it, please? I guess the maker has the authority to delete it.

20 All these other things that we had talked about, the  
21 projects and invite proposals and all like that, I feel like  
22 this will be dealt with by this committee and, if you'll hold on

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 just a minute, I'll tell you who you are.

2 Then, Charlie, will you get the information that Bill  
3 has and share it with the group before we close out?

4 MR. FRY: Maybe I should explain what this is that is  
5 coming around. Last night, being that I live in town and have  
6 access to my own word processor, I thought I could put some  
7 things down. My big thought after yesterday was that the people  
8 in the room were probably in agreement on a whole bunch of basic  
9 things that they might want to communicate to the Legal Services  
10 Board.

11 It would also probably be very difficult for the group  
12 to come up with the wording of the things that people basically  
13 agreed upon and I thought that maybe it would be helpful if I  
14 drafted up something which represented what I guess was the  
15 feeling of the group that we could use as a recommendation and a  
16 report to the report and, by drafting it, make it easier to get  
17 something together before we leave.

18 I think it is very desirable for the group to appear  
19 to have agreed on some basic things, so that was the purpose of  
20 drawing this up and I think it goes without saying that if  
21 anybody has problems or -- I've talked to a couple of people who  
22 have additional thoughts, and there is no problem with adding

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 stuff to it.

2 MS. BARNES: I see no point that it couldn't be a  
3 continuation after they go through it and look at it, but right  
4 now, we are going to take a stretch break for five minutes.

5 (A brief recess was taken.)

6 MS. BARNES: Closing session. May we come back  
7 together, please? Okay. The committee who has been selected to  
8 review the report of this conference of the drafting material  
9 that will be provided by Maureen and Charlie, I think they will  
10 probably try to get it to us in about three weeks, Maureen.

11 Do you have any projected date you might get the  
12 report out to us?

13 MS. BOZELL: The transcript isn't due back to us for  
14 ten days. Then I would give us a couple of weeks at least.

15 MS. BARNES: I'd say in three to four weeks, you can  
16 expect it and then after it is reviewed by the committee, we  
17 will, in turn, send out some comments so it can go out to the  
18 full participating body.

19 For those persons who are on this committee, I'd like  
20 to ask that you exchange telephone numbers while you are here,  
21 because after you get the draft, you may want to talk to  
22 someone. Of course, Ms. Miller and Ms. Benavidez, Ms. Catherine

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Jermany, Ms. Doreatha Merritt, Mrs. Rose Palmer Phelps, Mrs.  
2 Dorothy Byrd and, yours truly, Gladys Barnes.

3 That's Catherine Jermany, Doreatha Merritt, Dorothy  
4 Byrd, Rose Palmer Phelps, Gladys Barnes, LSC Board Members  
5 Lorain Miller, Hortencia Benavidez, okay?

6 MS. BENAVIDEZ: Who made this selection?

7 MS. BARNES: Clark Durant.

8 MS. NEWSOME: There aren't any clients on there.

9 MS. BARNES: Yes, there are. Ms. Byrd, are you not a  
10 client?

11 (Ms. Byrd shakes head.)

12 MS. BOZELL: Excuse me. Does anybody mind having  
13 theirs given out? If not, I'll give it to everybody.

14 MS. BARNES: One thing we have to realize, ladies and  
15 gentlemen. We are all grown folks, right? We invited some  
16 people here to share with us their ideas. It would be totally  
17 wrong -- it would not only be unfair; it would be totally wrong  
18 if we did not include them in the finalization of the package.

19 If you all want to come, you are welcome. But that's  
20 the way I see it.

21 MS. NEWSOME: There's no point. You are right. We  
22 are respecting our visitors and we feel they should know the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 outcome.

2 MS. BARNES: Right, and they should have a part in it.

3 MS. NEWSOME: I'm speaking because I feel Mr. Clark  
4 should have talked to everybody in selecting his committee;  
5 that's what we are talking about. We know you can't do anything  
6 about it now, because he's gone. As you said, he selected that  
7 committee.

8 MS. BARNES: If I were selecting it, I would probably  
9 have chosen the same people. I certainly would not have not  
10 included any of our people.

11 MS. NEWSOME: We are saying not to include them, but  
12 we are saying more areas in clients should have been selected,  
13 the same as they were selected in coming here. Regions should  
14 have been dealt with in the selecting of the committee.

15 MS. PEOPLES: It's only a draft. If you get the  
16 report and you don't like it, tear it up. That's all you've got  
17 to do. Don't worry about it. When you've got somebody out  
18 there and they are going to review something for you, you've got  
19 a right still to discuss it. Don't worry about that. I mean,  
20 that always happens.

21 MS. JERMANY: It ain't no big thing.

22 MS. PEOPLES: There are going to be so many processes

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 that it is going to have to go through along with our program  
2 today, don't even think about it.

3 MS. JERMANY: It doesn't even get to touch the real  
4 nitty gritty which ultimately makes the decision way down the  
5 line at the program level. We'll have a telephone conversation.

6 MS. BARNES: We can probably pull together a  
7 conference call. Clark is good about helping to get things like  
8 that together, so let's don't down everything and throw it out  
9 to begin with. Let's look into it.

10 MS. NEWSOME: I don't think it is "downing" because  
11 you speak your feelings. I don't think you can go away from  
12 here knowing how I felt if I keep it inside, so I'm going to  
13 tell you so that you'll know.

14 MS. BARNES: Well, I appreciate you telling me.

15 MS. JERMANY: One more phone call ain't going to break  
16 the Corporation.

17 MS. BARNES: Are all minds clear on the committee?  
18 Are all minds clear on the committee? Evidently, it is. I  
19 don't hear any more response. Charlie, would you do some more  
20 writing for me, please?

21 Today, we have Larry with us, who is with PAG, Project  
22 Advisory Group. Yesterday, we had Martha, who is the Director

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 of PAG. I believe we have some PAG board members here with us.  
2 I'm not positive, but I think we do have, and when Martha made  
3 her remarks on yesterday, she added three little statements that  
4 she would love to be included in the recommendation package.

5 The first thing Martha's recommendation was around the  
6 1612 regulation, that it be looked into, that it would be looked  
7 into so that local programs would have more flexibility in  
8 helping clients do certain types of training and work.

9 The second part was that the LSC Board would deal with  
10 or recognize that there are unmet needs and the third one is  
11 contingent upon the second and that is that once the Board has  
12 acknowledged that there are unmet needs out in the client  
13 community, that they would lobby Congress or seek additional  
14 funding to provide that those needs be met.

15 MS. MERRITT: What was the third?

16 MS. BARNES: To find some funding.

17 MS. MERRITT: Okay. He got it.

18 MS. BARNES: Now, in front of you, somewhere among  
19 your papers, just before we went on a break, we passed out  
20 another set of recommendations which you may or may not want to  
21 see incorporated in this package.

22 Please bear in mind that I am only trying to present

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 these things to you and preside over the meeting. I did not  
2 write them, I do not have any jurisdiction on whether you accept  
3 them or not but I just have the privilege of putting them before  
4 you.

5 If you will look at the first statement, and if you  
6 find anything wrong with that being included as written, please,  
7 let us know.

8 MS. JERMANY: Then you will take additional ones after  
9 that?

10 MS. BARNES: I don't guess we need to put too long a  
11 list.

12 MS. JERMANY: Because I've got one.

13 MS. PEOPLES: You are saying if there are additional  
14 ones, can they be listed?

15 MS. BARNES: I would think so.

16 MS. JERMANY: Because I have one of my own.

17 MS. FIFIELD: I just have a suggestion. We have spent  
18 all this time going through all this stuff. Can we just read  
19 through this and see if it isn't already up there? Then, if  
20 there is something that is not up there, then we can discuss it  
21 and see if there is a priority that we want up there?

22 MS. BARNES: Whatever is the most effective way for

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 you.

2 MR. FRY: Let me just say that the idea here wasn't  
3 priorities. The thought was to communicate from this group a  
4 basic feeling to the Board of the Corporation with the purpose  
5 of convincing them that self-help was important and that they  
6 ought to include it in programs that get funded. That was the  
7 whole purpose of this.

8 So, it isn't really priorities at all. It is kind of  
9 a single statement about self-help.

10 MS. PEOPLES: Can I ask whoever wrote this a question  
11 for some interpretation?

12 MR. FRY: Yes?

13 MS. PEOPLES: Could you clarify for me on number seven  
14 that last sentence, what that means?

15 MR. FRY: Well, one of the things that has been talked  
16 about a lot in self-help is the possibility that a self-help  
17 program which offers housing help or divorce help or child  
18 custody help could serve people who are over income for a fee,  
19 as a way to become self sustaining.

20 Since that is not the way that Legal Services is  
21 normally funded, in other words, the standard grant to a project  
22 is you can only serve one class of people and not another, I

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 thought it should be expressed that it could be done  
2 differently. It is not a recommendation; it simply opens the  
3 door.

4 I won't say this came from Durant, but it was  
5 something that I know he has talked about. He said he thought  
6 the Board might be interested in self-help if that idea was in  
7 there.

8 MS. JERMANY: Do you mean helping the Legal Services  
9 programs become more self sufficient by increasing their revenue  
10 through payment by otherwise ineligible clients? Is that what  
11 you are saying?

12 MR. FRY: Yes, yes.

13 MR. WARE: Wouldn't that come within competing with  
14 the private Bar?

15 MS. PHELPS: I think that's what we were talking  
16 about, in a gray area. They can't afford private legal counsel  
17 and if you would make a sliding scale according to their income,  
18 they can afford to pay something but not what they could pay for  
19 a private attorney who charges, minimally, \$125 to \$275 an hour.

20 If you are feeding so many kids and you are trying to  
21 keep a house going, where in heaven's name are you going to get  
22 that money to provide private counsel? Yet, Legal Services

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 doesn't help you.

2 MS. PEOPLES: My reaction to that would be if they  
3 look at, you know, dealing with self help and if they permit  
4 this to happen under the new look, how does that impact the  
5 program, which says we can't take you because of the 125 percent  
6 thing? You've got these other folks out there saying, "If they  
7 are going to open it up and they aren't able to give us all of  
8 the services, how do we deal with that?"

9 MS. BARNES: Do you want to ask people who are  
10 directly involved with Legal Services to respond to this,  
11 please? I think it might be a little clearer.

12 MS. JERMANY: Who is that?

13 MS. PEOPLES: Could you react to that? What would be  
14 your response in terms of the programs now and of the new  
15 program, if it is taken into consideration, you know, dealing  
16 with the self help. How would that impact where people now are  
17 told that we can only service so many because of the dollars?

18 How does that impact, if you are going to open it up,  
19 then?

20 MS. JERMANY: My question, before you ask that, is:  
21 How do you get to there from where he came from? I don't see  
22 the real connection there.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: Because I see the connection is that the  
2 Corporation is being asked to not limit it to just the amount of  
3 people that they say --

4 MS. BOZELL: Can I make a suggestion? This is a  
5 client conference, a Legal Services client conference. I would  
6 limit it to the Legal Services client and maybe strike out that  
7 one sentence, because anything that goes beyond the Legal  
8 Services Corporation in this sense is just -- you are getting  
9 out of bounds, kind of. I'm agreeing with you. I think it is-

10 -

11 MS. MERRITT: It this number six?

12 MS. BOZELL: If that is going to be brought up, let it  
13 be brought up by someone else, but that's not what really you  
14 all are trying to do.

15 MS. BRIGGS: I want to find out who wrote this.

16 MS. BOZELL: Mr. Fry wrote it. He was trying to put  
17 together what was being spoken about yesterday. I think he said  
18 he wrote it last night.

19 MS. PEOPLES: I don't think this was said by us.

20 MR. FRY: I mentioned that this idea is under  
21 discussion about the possibility of fees. It was something  
22 Clark Durant mentioned.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: Definitely, that's not one thing I would  
2 like to consider. That is one thing I would like to strike, but  
3 I'm not so sure I would agree with all of the other parts.

4 MS. BRIGGS: Could I ask you to explain it to me  
5 again, please, because I couldn't hear it.

6 MR. FRY: I beg your pardon?

7 MS. BRIGGS: Would you explain the part again, please,  
8 that Mr. Durant asked you to write?

9 MR. FRY: It is the last sentence of the last  
10 paragraph which says, "An experiment might also serve above-  
11 income consumers." The idea was that if you had a self-help  
12 clinic financed by Legal Services serving income-eligible  
13 clients, that there are other people in the community who are  
14 above the poverty line but too poor for other services who might  
15 be charged a fee and be allowed to also use this for a divorce.

16 The theory behind it is that the program could become  
17 self sustaining and not dependent upon the government, so it is  
18 an antidependence provision, was really the idea behind it.

19 MS. JERMANY: Let's bring it down to practicality. If  
20 you had a demonstration project, the LSC would start it, is that  
21 what you are saying, and then the program would serve LSC  
22 clients and non-LSC clients, and the non-LSC clients would pay,

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 so that at some point in time, you would reach a break-even  
2 point, as in business, where the clients would be served for  
3 nothing because the paying clients would take care of the Legal  
4 Services.

5 The Legal Services project that was already operating  
6 would not be affected because they wouldn't have a decrease in  
7 funds at all, because that would meet Earnest's need as well as  
8 the need of the new group, which was the experiment. Is that  
9 it?

10 MR. FRY: That's basically the idea.

11 MS. PEOPLES: This report is already together. These  
12 recommendations, why didn't we discuss them in the context of  
13 our committees? I feel that I came to a meeting where somebody  
14 had their agenda.

15 Let me tell you something. I like to be a part of the  
16 working process and all of our collective thoughts. I have got  
17 some real concerns about what does this paper mean. Why did we  
18 go through all of that exercise up there? What did we go  
19 through all of that for?

20 MS. JERMANY: You can throw it in the trashcan if  
21 that's what you want to do.

22 MS. BARNES: I think it should be looked at openly

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 before you scratch it.

2 MS. PEOPLES: We all were looking at it.

3 MS. BRIGGS: These were the things that we discussed  
4 yesterday. It was either in our group or on the floor. You  
5 said if we had a program helping paying people and low income  
6 people, eventually, the paid people would overload and the low  
7 income people still wouldn't be helped. Isn't that what was  
8 done on the board yesterday? That's what Sue said.

9 MS. SEIDEL: I'm trying to understand what is going on  
10 here, but it seems to me, just as a generalization, you are all  
11 getting off the point. You didn't listen to Gladys when she  
12 said there was a paper and you were welcome to comment, okay?  
13 Nobody said the paper is the Bible, but I think we are wasting  
14 time.

15 We are not utilizing our time correctly right now. We  
16 are running out of time. We are not coming back, okay? There  
17 is a committee and I think you are wasting valuable time.

18 MS. PEOPLES: I don't think so, because if I came to  
19 work through a process, I am working through the process. I  
20 don't care who presented the paper. I don't have to accept it.  
21 That's what I'm speaking to about the paper. When you say I'm  
22 wasting time, I ain't wasting my time; I'm wasting my time if I

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 don't have input on this paper and have my say-so about it.

2 MR. MOSES: I think that's what we're asking for now.

3 MS. PHELPS: Isn't most of what is in here what is up  
4 on the board?

5 MS. BARNES: I suggested that you take it paragraph  
6 and paragraph and analyze it.

7 MS. JERMANY: Maybe that's what should happen because  
8 we started with the last sentence. If people don't want to do  
9 that, they do not have to.

10 MS. BARNES: Someone had said we would read it and if  
11 we had any questions, we'd bring them up, but I suggested -- you  
12 know, I can be wrong, just like anybody else can be wrong. But,  
13 I felt like there was going to be a discussion around it, so I  
14 suggested that we take it paragraph by paragraph.

15 I did not say that we would delete anything that we  
16 had already worked to accomplish. I said this would be an  
17 addition. So, we are running out of time. We are getting  
18 pushed. If you don't mind, let us take it paragraph by  
19 paragraph and start with number one.

20 If you speak to it one time, each person who wants to  
21 speak will speak to it one time and we'll move right along.

22 MS. NEWSOME: Okay, Madam Chair, I just have one

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 question.

2 MS. BARNES: Would you all like to take a five-minute  
3 break and just read it?y

4 MS. NEWSOME: I'd just like to ask one question. I  
5 have read mine. I'd like to ask one question before they break.  
6 Why would we come here and work on this when they could have  
7 given us this and say, "Work with this".

8 MS. BARNES: That's not your input, though, Rosie. As  
9 somebody said, Mr. Durant asked him to -- well, we are taking a  
10 five-minute break to read this paper.

11 (A brief recess was taken.)

12 MS. BARNES: I realize that when we gave out the  
13 recommendation that came from PAG, our participants did not say  
14 that they approved, that these were good recommendations. Do  
15 you want to include them in the package of recommendations or  
16 not? How do you feel about number one, that the Board look at  
17 the 1612 to see if it could be moderated so that programs could  
18 go ahead and provide training for LSC clients without all the  
19 restrictions.

20 Number two was that the LSC Board would take immediate  
21 steps to recognize and acknowledge that there are unmet needs  
22 out in the client community and number three was that the Board,

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 having looked at and recognized the fact that there are unmet  
2 needs in the client community, that they would seek funding,  
3 either governmental or ungovernmental, to meet these needs.

4 How do you all feel about these recommendations?  
5 Should they be included in the recommendation package?

6 MR. FRY: My feeling is the 612 sounds good because if  
7 it is interpreted the way they said it is, it's a problem. It  
8 says that funds can't be spent on training.

9 MR. MOSES: May I make a suggestion? Do you want to  
10 be specific? We said yesterday point-nine.

11 MR. FRY: Yes, on the other ones, I mean, they are  
12 good social issues and I suppose that everyone thinks that it is  
13 a good idea in general. My only concern would be whether this  
14 group, in a self-help conference, wants to be making basic  
15 recommendations of that kind.

16 MS. PEOPLES: Could we be clear as to what Martha is  
17 saying? Martha's comments were that the things that we were  
18 deliberating around and discussing, the reasons that they were  
19 not being offered now to Legal Services was because of changes  
20 that the Corporation made.

21 In order for us to deal with some of this discussion  
22 that she was hearing, there needed to be additional resources.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 There needed to be the restriction removed and all of that. She  
2 talks about it in the context of what we had already discussed  
3 and what we were discussing today.

4 In order for Legal Services to do that, I mean, that's  
5 why she said "additional resources". What I would think she was  
6 talking about was she was talking to us in the context of what  
7 she heard our discussion around, that wasn't coming from Legal  
8 Services program. That's what she was discussing.

9 She did not discuss those things just in a vacuum.  
10 She heard our discussions and said, "It sounds like you are  
11 beating up on Legal Services but this is the reason." When she  
12 talks about additional resources, she's talking about those  
13 things we've got on this paper right here. Give it to us,  
14 right? She didn't talk about it in a vacuum.

15 MR. WARE: That's what I've said for two days.

16 MS. PEOPLES: We are all sitting around here  
17 deliberating. If you all want us to do what needs to be done,  
18 we need more money. We need the restrictions taken away. To  
19 me, I believe she would look at the list of things that we're  
20 talking about up there and say, "Well, give us the money and  
21 we'll do that, too." Okay?

22 MS. FIFIELD: Who?

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: Do you know that Martha who gave her  
2 comments? She was saying all of you, me, what we are saying, we  
3 can do it if you give us the money; we can do it if you remove  
4 1612. So, when she says her recommendations, she was just  
5 addressing what we were saying in this room.

6 MS. JERMANY: About what projects could, in fact, do  
7 all that, if they so chose.

8 MS. PEOPLES: She was reacting to what she was  
9 hearing. So, if you go on this, you have to look at this.  
10 She's not talking about something new. She's talking about if  
11 you want it done at Legal Services, you have got to do this.

12 MS. BOZELL: So, you agree?

13 MS. JERMANY: Agree to what?

14 MS. BOZELL: Do you want it on?

15 MS. PEOPLES: Why not?

16 MR. WARE: Yes. Yes, that should be included.

17 MS. BARNES: Charlie is going to talk to you about  
18 this number seven article on the hand-out. Mr. Ware?

19 MR. WARE: I don't want to dump on Martha, either,  
20 because that is exactly the same thing that I said. I know that  
21 there seems to be a lot of bickering among organizations and all  
22 that kind of stuff, and that's exactly what I was saying, so I

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 don't want people to leave here attacking PAG or whatever  
2 because of that recommendation.

3 MS. MERRITT: Because of which recommendation?

4 MR. WARE: Those recommendations. If you can  
5 remember, yesterday, those are the same things we were talking  
6 about with Legal Services, there was already a mechanism  
7 established yesterday and all that stuff, because of the  
8 politics that goes on here that you all know happens.

9 I want it to be on the record that those were  
10 discussed and it was not initiated by Martha.

11 MS. BARNES: Martha was a participant at this meeting  
12 so, certainly, she had every right to give her opinion.

13 MR. WARE: Do you know what I'm saying?

14 MS. MERRITT: I understand.

15 MS. JERMANY: If she doesn't do that, she ain't on her  
16 J-O-B, so all of you all are supposed to be on your J-O-B, too.  
17 That is a recommendation.

18 MS. MERRITT: A warning?

19 MS. JERMANY: No, that is a recommendation.

20 MR. MOSES: There has been a recommendation. Julie  
21 came up to me and several other people have come up to me,  
22 asking me questions about article number seven on your list that

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Bill had submitted to you this morning. I explained what I  
2 envisioned this meaning to Julie, at which point I think she  
3 understood it.

4 She asked if I could let you know what I had told her,  
5 so I said I would do that. Basically, I think the way I  
6 interpret number seven -- and I'm sure that Bill will have no  
7 qualms in correcting me if I'm wrong.

8 The way I interpret what he has said in number seven  
9 is that what this would do is recognize that we have one group  
10 of people that we all need to be concerned about that are the  
11 quote/unquote poor, who are below our eligibility guidelines.

12 At the same time, it recognizes that there is another  
13 group of people, almost a group that falls between the cracks,  
14 the people that might be a dollar over the eligibility  
15 guidelines but, frankly, in today's legal field, cannot afford  
16 to go out and get the help either from a lawyer or -- well, they  
17 could afford a self-help group, but they might not know about a  
18 self-help group.

19 What this is designed to do is to make that self-help  
20 group available to those people who might fall outside, but the  
21 way that you do it is I think that it envisions some type of  
22 sliding scale, not for people who are eligible for services

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 because those people would receive any services that a self-help  
2 organization could give, free of charge, because that's what  
3 Legal Services is for, but for those people who are slightly  
4 above the eligibility.

5 We still have to recognize that they need the service,  
6 in some instances, the self-help service, they need your help as  
7 much as that person who is a dollar below. What we would have  
8 is a sliding scale adjusted for the amount that they are over  
9 the eligibility to allow them to have you help them.

10 Then you take those fees or that money that the self-  
11 help organization would receive or that your self-help client  
12 group would receive. You take those sliding fee scales and you  
13 put that money back into the organization so that you can use  
14 that money to help the eligible clients that much more.

15 It is a method --

16 MS. PEOPLES: That is an assumption that when there is  
17 money that comes into the program that you're going to get  
18 additional funding. Most of the time, it goes to giving  
19 salaries.

20 MR. MOSES: What I'm saying is this is to go into the  
21 self help.

22 MS. JERMANY: If that's the case, then this

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 recommendation about additional resources wouldn't do any good,  
2 either.

3 MS. PEOPLES: Anybody who receives money that offers  
4 some services, there has to be some priorities. Whether it goes  
5 to services versus salaries is another question.

6 MR. MOSES: As I'm saying, this is designed -- my  
7 understanding of what they are doing is a couple of things.  
8 They are trying to help those people with self-help who fall  
9 just outside the guidelines. They are also trying to help use  
10 that money to support the self-help units.

11 I can see what you are saying, Shirley, but to me, it  
12 is inconsistent to say that this money that would support client  
13 self-help would not do anything, and then to say that we want  
14 more money here because we have no more guarantee that money up  
15 here (indicating) is going to help, than we have a guarantee  
16 that this money -- money is money; green is green; it's money.

17 MS. PEOPLES: I'm not disputing you on that because if  
18 you give it to the programs and there isn't somebody that makes  
19 the choices and sets the priorities, what are they used for is  
20 the question.

21 MR. MOSES: The good news -- it would be funneling the  
22 money to the self-help client councils.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: There is nothing about clients in there.

2 MS. BRIGGS: I just wanted to share with him what I  
3 had told you, that in Casper, we've already got that covered.  
4 I'm sure I have read about it in a lot of other literatures, not  
5 just locally in Casper, in Wyoming.

6 We have what you call a pro bono program and that  
7 covers all the people that do not qualify. When they come to  
8 our office, if they are two dollars above what the  
9 qualifications are, we get them a lawyer. We find them a pro  
10 bono lawyer and they handle the case.

11 I handle it every day of the week and if you don't  
12 believe me, call my project director.

13 MS. PEOPLES: They have pro bono programs.

14 MS. JERMANY: That is a different matter. That is not  
15 a self-help matter.

16 MS. BOZELL: Excuse me. We have to go one at a time.  
17 Wait until you are recognized.

18 MR. MOSES: It would be a pro bono model for the  
19 delivery of legal services as we know it now, pro bono models or  
20 reduced fee panel models, these types of things that are all  
21 over the country currently try to take care of the legal  
22 problem.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           What this number eight is trying to recognize is that  
2 self help and legal assistance by a traditional attorney are two  
3 different things. We are trying to recognize that we need to  
4 have a mechanism like the reduced fee or like the pro bono panel  
5 that also helps with self help to help those clients who might  
6 not need an attorney, for whom it would be pointless to use that  
7 pro bono referral or that reduced fee referral when you could  
8 use self-help referral.

9           MS. PEOPLES: What is your feeling about the paper?

10          MS. BENAVIDEZ: Well, you know, I'm puzzled. Are they  
11 going to have a different office for that self-help? Where is  
12 the money coming from for the self help? Where is the money  
13 coming from?

14          MS. JERMANY: It's coming from the same place right  
15 now where it comes from. There are self-generated, self-funded  
16 organizations that provide services to LSC clients and they do  
17 it already.

18          MS. FIFIELD: I'm sorry, but I'm getting a little  
19 confused.

20          MS. JERMANY: These organizations provide self-help  
21 assistance and will provide it and will grow regardless of  
22 whether or not LSC is connected or disconnected. I assume this

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 is an attempt to connect that service by having LSC programs  
2 have an opportunity to participate in a self-help movement that  
3 is going to happen regardless of where LSC is and LSPs are.

4 MS. FIFIELD: They should complement each other.

5 MS. NEWSOME: Charlie, I'm confused right now. It is  
6 my understanding from your, and when I say "your", I mean LSC  
7 by-laws, Legal Services cannot refer anybody that's not client  
8 eligible, not even to a pro bono. They can refer you if you are  
9 client eligible.

10 I am talking about from the guidelines, it is if you  
11 are client eligible and it is a case that they don't handle,  
12 then they can refer you to a pro bono, but if you are over the  
13 guideline, Legal Services is not supposed to touch you, even  
14 with a referral.

15 MS. BARNES: Julie, go ahead and talk and then we'll  
16 recognize Rose.

17 MS. NEWSOME: I'm saying from the guideline. I'm not  
18 saying from medical reasons or if you were classified under  
19 hardship because even if you are under hardship, you still meet  
20 the guidelines.

21 MS. PEOPLES: The initial thrust of getting the Legal  
22 Services Corporation to look at client training and self-help

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 stuff, as far as the clients' perspective and the Board Members,  
2 they dealt with how the client groups, client councils, whatever  
3 you want, will be able to impact the Legal Services dollars.

4 This does not speak to none of that, of why the  
5 recommendation from the Board and the Task Force is going to be  
6 done. The whole focus has changed.

7 MS. BOZELL: It hasn't changed. What is being  
8 proposed is one of --

9 MS. PEOPLES: I'm not talking about this paper.

10 MS. BOZELL: What is being proposed here is just a  
11 different way to fund a self-help group. It is a different way.  
12 There are all sorts of ways. You can do it through the  
13 Corporation; you can do it through government funds; you can do  
14 it through private funds; you can do it through helping people  
15 who are just above the guidelines.

16 MS. PEOPLES: I'm talking about what the task force  
17 was created for, what the client members have requested, so if  
18 this is the focus, then we just need to talk about dealing with  
19 it but that's not the reason. The request came from the task  
20 force. This has no clients' perspective of what you do, except  
21 that you are only training, right?

22 MS. BARNES: Are you talking about the client board

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 training package the Corporation adopted or are you talking  
2 about this conference?

3 MS. PEOPLES: I'm talking about the conference, what  
4 kind of self-help stuff we're dealing with.

5 MS. PHELPS: May I say something? I am listening to  
6 all of the services that your Legal Services provides to your  
7 clients. To my clients in Allegheny County in the State of  
8 Pennsylvania, the only people served are protection from abuses,  
9 a few bankruptcies and they may do some housing/tenant. They do  
10 not do child support. They do not do divorce. They are  
11 supposed to do parental kidnapping and, as I stated, over the  
12 fourth of July, they told the woman, "Come back in four weeks."  
13 She was eligible for NLS services, but nobody was there to help  
14 her.

15 Over eighty percent of the clients that come to my  
16 office are referrals from NLS, eighty percent. I get calls  
17 every day. Who referred you? Neighborhood Legal Services.  
18 They are eligible clients.

19 MS. PEOPLES: There is no client from Legal Services  
20 here to dispute you. Why don't you all service divorces? Why  
21 don't you all do it? There is no reason why the programs don't  
22 do it. They don't set it in their priorities. They don't do

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 it. That's a different story. The clients from Legal Services  
2 are not here to say why they don't do it.

3 MS. NEWSOME: Shirley, yes, there is. There is a  
4 Board Member here to say why they don't do it. It started from  
5 your advisory council, the priorities. We feel there are more  
6 people out there in desperate need of other things other than  
7 divorce. The clients set that priority and the Board has  
8 accepted it. That's what all of them have to work on, priority.

9 MS. PEOPLES: See, where you may spend a lot of time,  
10 say, in divorces, is a high priority. If you came to Columbus,  
11 I'll tell you what, there's a high priority.

12 MS. BARNES: May I interrupt, please? Some people  
13 have some flights that will be departing pretty soon. In order  
14 that we may really get our prioritization in and vote on a  
15 package of recommendations, suppose we do that and then if we  
16 have any time left, we will come back to you.

17 I would like to see that we vote to prioritize what we  
18 have here and we also consider the recommendations here as an  
19 addendum. It will go right along with this recommendation  
20 package, but let us begin to prioritize.

21 We have thirteen issues on the board that have been  
22 identified for recommendations. These recommendations will go

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 forward to LSC but we need to put them in order, how we feel  
2 they should be taken. Rosie?

3 MS. NEWSOME: Madam Chair, I so move that we accept  
4 the thirteen recommendations on the board as a whole.

5 A PARTICIPANT: Second.

6 MS. FIFIELD: I object to his writing on there.

7 MS. BARNES: He is writing "funded proposals". LSC at  
8 some point in time says yes, you all have a good idea, we think  
9 you've done some homework and we're going to fund the proposal.

10 MS. FIFIELD: When did we put 13 up there?

11 MS. BARNES: It was on the board when we went over it.

12 MS. BOZELL: The one that Charlie is writing is the  
13 one we spoke about earlier, that funded proposals be  
14 administered by community-based organizations including client  
15 councils with proven records. Then he added the three from  
16 yesterday and that made it thirteen.

17 MS. NEWSOME: We voted on those three. There is a  
18 second on the floor, Madam Chair.

19 MS. BARNES: There is a second on the floor.

20 MS. PEOPLES: I second it.

21 MS. BARNES: The motion was made by Mrs. Rosie Newsome  
22 and seconded by Ms. Dorothy Byrd.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: Shirley Peoples.

2 MS. BARNES: Oh, pardon me, please, by Ms. Shirley  
3 Peoples, that this group would accept the recommendations as  
4 seen on the board, as the package that will go to LSC.

5 MS. FIFIELD: Question. I don't agree with this.  
6 That last one that was just put up there, when did we agree?  
7 When did we discuss that and what does that mean?

8 Does that mean that self-help groups that are here can  
9 be funded with Legal Services money?

10 MS. BARNES: You are a community-based organization,  
11 are you not?

12 MS. FIFIELD: I get my own money outside of Legal  
13 Services. I don't need the money from Legal Services. I think  
14 we complement each other and Legal Services doesn't have enough  
15 money now. My God, what are we going to do, take every cent?

16 MS. MERRITT: Now, I don't want to get into this.

17 MS. PEOPLES: If you just sent a paper like that to  
18 LSC, to me, it ain't going to mean nothing because it has no  
19 substance or nothing, so if that's what you all want to agree  
20 to, I'll second it. I'm just saying if you send that paper to  
21 LSC like that, what does that mean? Maureen, what would it  
22 mean?

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. MERRITT: Which one are you referring to? Which  
2 one are they referring to?

3 MS. NEWSOME: There is a motion on the floor. We are  
4 going to be putting out the report. This is not going to appear  
5 tomorrow off of a Xerox machine to the Board. There is a report  
6 that goes with this. When there is a missing word like "funded  
7 proposals" or "may administer"; that word is missing. We know  
8 what we're talking about. I just read it.

9 We are not going to sweep it away from under you, but  
10 you know what we are talking about.

11 MS. BARNES: If you remember earlier this afternoon,  
12 when we came back, I said we would divide this thing into two  
13 parts. The first was going to be the report that Charlie and  
14 Maureen are going to get out to go into the Corporation. Then  
15 the second part of the report would contain the recommendations.

16 Everybody agreed with what I said when I said it, so I  
17 proceeded.

18 MS. NEWSOME: There is a motion on the floor. I call  
19 the question.

20 MS. BARNES: All those in favor of the slate?

21 (Chorus of ayes.)

22 MS. NEWSOME: Show of hands.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 (A show of hands.)

2 MS. BARNES: Six -- it seems as if the motion has  
3 carried.

4 MS. FIFIELD: Madam Chairman, we should be able to  
5 vote as "no" and be recognized.

6 MS. BARNES: All opposed?

7 (A show of hands.)

8 MS. BARNES: Five.

9 MS. MERRITT: Don't you think you should let them put  
10 a recommendation on the floor, too? That was just one. They  
11 may have another one.

12 MR. MOSES: If you are opposed, tell us which ones you  
13 are opposed to, so we'll have --

14 MS. FIFIELD: Okay. I'm putting it out on the table.  
15 We've danced all around it. In my opinion, in watching what has  
16 gone on this weekend, and I think I've got it down, we are  
17 looking at taking money from Legal Services or adding additional  
18 monies somehow and funneling it into self-help groups, a lot of  
19 the self-help groups that are here today. Am I correct in that?

20 MS. MERRITT: No.

21 MR. WARE: If that's the way she feels, if you want to  
22 make this part of the record, is it okay if we document that and

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 we move on? Thank you.

2 MS. BOZELL: It's going to be on the record, but I  
3 think there is a great misconception here. There are people  
4 here who have businesses and there are people here who think  
5 that those people want funding from the Corporation. This is  
6 not true.

7 They are here -- I'm not saying they would turn it  
8 down if we were offering it to them tomorrow.

9 MS. JERMANY: I might. I won't want it. I'll lay it  
10 on the line right now. I wouldn't take a dime from you all  
11 because of your all crazy regulations. That can go on the  
12 record, okay?

13 MS. BOZELL: Catherine, please, there are people here  
14 who do not have a business. There are people here who do. The  
15 people here who do have businesses have self-help businesses.  
16 They have information and experience that some of the rest of  
17 us, including me, do not.

18 They were invited to this conference so that they  
19 could give us this information. Those fact books you have, they  
20 were made up a lot from their information and it is offered to  
21 you. You will never hear from them again if you do not want to  
22 and if you do, you've got their names.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 Don't cross them off or think that they are here to--  
2 they are coming here to help.

3 MS. FIFIELD: I'm not crossing them off. This is  
4 client board representation.

5 MS. BOZELL: It's ill-founded; it's misconceived.

6 MS. FIFIELD: If this is going to National Legal  
7 Services Corporation as client recommendations, client board  
8 recommendations, well, then, it should be client board  
9 recommendations. If it's going as a task force, then okay.

10 MS. BARNES: Let me address that, if you will, please.  
11 We are not saying this is a recommendation from clients. We are  
12 not saying it is a recommendation from client board members. We  
13 are not saying it is a recommendation from our self-help persons  
14 who are here visiting with us. We are saying it is a  
15 recommendation of this conference.

16 MS. FIFIELD: Which is all of us.

17 MS. PEOPLES: You have to go through a process when it  
18 goes to the Corporation, they're going to take this stuff and go  
19 back to the Board and discuss it if they decide to make a choice  
20 about it. Then we can still go to the next level and speak to  
21 it from that.

22 MR. FRY: The question was asked. The people who

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 voted against it, they have a particular problem and I would  
2 like to say what mine is. I have a lot of trouble with number  
3 thirteen. That is the only one.

4 I would like to say what I think it is because I think  
5 it is important to this conference. I mentioned this yesterday  
6 when I learned that there was the possibility that a funding  
7 proposal would be considered. My sense is that it diminishes  
8 all the effort of the people who are here and diminishes the  
9 impact of any report we issue.

10 If it seems to point to a specific limited recipient  
11 of grant funding, everybody who wants funds would love to be  
12 able to force the funding source to make sure they are the only  
13 ones who can get it. When that is done, it diminishes  
14 everything else that is said because everything else that is  
15 said, I think, appears to be colored with self-interest.

16 My concern is that all the good things that have  
17 happened here can be greatly diminished by a provision which  
18 says, after having said all these good things, here's who we  
19 want you to fund, and I --

20 MS. PEOPLES: You must have some information I don't  
21 have. If you do, I need to see it.

22 MS. FRY: I do not have any information. There was a

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 funding proposal to be considered.

2 MS. PEOPLES: That was done before me, then. Do you  
3 have the proposal?

4 MR. FRY: Yes, I'll send it out to everybody.

5 MS. PEOPLES: Will somebody give me the proposal? I  
6 still want the proposal if you have it. I had to react to that,  
7 because I didn't know that.

8 MR. FRY: I figured everybody did. In any event,  
9 that's my trouble.

10 MS. PEOPLES: Well, this will just not sell their  
11 proposal, whomever it is. This says community-based  
12 organizations, which means self-help groups.

13 MR. FRY: I don't know what that means.

14 MS. PEOPLES: Clarify that for me, then. It does not  
15 say that there's a particular proposal that I know of. I didn't  
16 know there was one and I didn't get it.

17 MS. MERRITT: Since all this has come out, I am really  
18 concerned about this sheet right here now because, see, I know  
19 myself that when I think in terms of something or someone says  
20 something, I try to think in terms of how it is going to benefit  
21 both sides.

22 Also, I was concerned about the fact that there are a

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 lot of people here who are being creative and who are using  
2 other resources; they are not really the focus of our effort on  
3 Legal Services. Our Legal Services don't have anything.

4 I cannot possibly support something like this -- and I  
5 was supportive one time -- that clearly states to me that it  
6 needs to be in a non-Legal Services lawyer-based services that  
7 implicates that one is against the other. See, I thought  
8 everybody was working for everybody else.

9 When they made that statement, I thought it was for  
10 everybody because it was identified there for people. I won't  
11 support it.

12 MS. BOZELL: There was never any intention that this  
13 conference should be about a proposal. Look at your agenda.  
14 Have you your agenda in front of you?

15 MS. MERRITT: I've seen it.

16 MS. BOZELL: The second to the last thing, it says  
17 "region six proposal to address self-help needs" and then "other  
18 proposals". That is there on the last page.

19 MS. MERRITT: I've seen that. I know what you are  
20 talking about. I don't have my paper, but I've seen it.

21 MS. BOZELL: These proposals have been before the  
22 Board for a couple of months. The Region Six one, it's not a

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 secret. There is no secret agenda.

2 MS. MERRITT: Are you saying there is a secret on  
3 something? What were you saying? I didn't get it.

4 MS. BOZELL: What I'm saying is that proposal is  
5 something that has been before the Board for a couple of months.  
6 It is nothing new.

7 MS. MERRITT: That is not what we're talking about.

8 MS. BOZELL: What we are trying to do at this  
9 conference is what Gladys has been trying and you all have been  
10 trying for two days to do, which is get recommendations to give  
11 to the Board and you've got them.

12 MS. MERRITT: How does that fit into that?

13 MS. BOZELL: The proposal is out of the picture,  
14 because you've got your recommendations right there.

15 MS. MERRITT: Why are people talking about the  
16 proposal then?

17 MS. BOZELL: I don't know. That's why I'm saying that

18 --

19 MS. MERRITT: I thought this last number seven we  
20 weren't dealing with, but when he said what he said, I had to go  
21 with this because I knew that when that statement went up on the  
22 board, number thirteen, it had a concern with everybody in this

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 group here who are doing something around self-help. You know,  
2 that's how I saw it.

3 Now, you are talking about a proposal. You are  
4 talking about getting money from Legal Services, money that  
5 exists. We talked about creativity. We talked about a lot of  
6 self-help things that you are already doing.

7 I am very disturbed by this here right now because of  
8 the statement that has been made. I am very disturbed. I  
9 really am.

10 MS. BOZELL: Let's go back to these. Let's take that  
11 one later.

12 MS. NEWSOME: Why are we going back? The majority has  
13 accepted this, the motion and the second and the vote has been  
14 carried. There is nothing that can be done about this unless I  
15 rescind my motion and I will not.

16 MS. BOZELL: Nobody is rescinding anything. Charlie  
17 suggested that those who were opposed put it on the record, the  
18 reason for their opposition; that's all, it's just going on the  
19 record. Sue got hers on the record. Bill got his. Would  
20 anybody else like to get their opposition -- Hortencia  
21 Benavidez, please?

22 MS. BENAVIDEZ: I am against this one, especially -- I

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 don't like number thirteen. I didn't understand thirteen. It  
2 wasn't explained.

3 MS. NEWSOME: Will you do something for me, please?  
4 Will you read the whole thing that was said that we had already  
5 discussed before when we were just putting them up on the board  
6 and eliminating things that were already duplicated? That is  
7 what it is. We had discussed it. It's just been duplicated.

8 MR. WARE: Before we move on, can I quantify my reason  
9 for voting "no" in two words or three words? It is my right.

10 MS. BRIGGS: I want mine to say I'm protecting my  
11 program. No, because I'm protecting my program.

12 MS. BOZELL: Is there anybody else who has an  
13 opposition that they would like to record, because that's all  
14 we're doing?

15 MR. WARE: I did mine. You didn't hear it?

16 MS. BOZELL: Anybody else who voted no, do you have  
17 something to say? Is everyone who voted "no" taken care of?

18 MR. WARE: I don't want to do another one because I  
19 already said that it was my right to vote "no" without  
20 explanation. It is my right. Since I've got the floor, I think  
21 it's crazy to even vote on -- I can understand voting on the  
22 report, but some outline with no explanation is crazy. Let the

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 record show that I said that.

2 MS. BOZELL: You're going to get it back.

3 MR. WARE: I understand. When you guys write the  
4 report and I look at that and I look at that report, I mean,  
5 this --

6 MS. BOZELL: This is the basis of your report and you  
7 are going to get it back.

8 MR. WARE: How are you going to define all this stuff?  
9 I don't know what you're going to write on that.

10 MS. BOZELL: It's all in the record.

11 MR. MOSES: We are making the record, Earnest. It is  
12 everything you are saying here.

13 MR. WARE: I have voted. Everybody has voted on it.  
14 What's next?

15 MS. MERRITT: I've always said to each his own but I  
16 thought that was the recommendation.

17 MS. JERMANY: I wasn't here. I was in the bathroom  
18 when you all voted. I thought this was a recommendation, too.

19 MS. BARNES: It is, but it has never been voted on. I  
20 made a suggestion that we would attach it to an addendum.

21 MS. MERRITT: I thought they all were recommendations  
22 until I got down here and read number seven and it gave an

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 explanation with an introduction, gave a recommendation and  
2 established a policy of recommendation.

3           You see, I thought these people, everybody, was  
4 included by saying -- when you were saying self-help was the  
5 whole theme of the conference.

6           MS. BRIGGS: I thought we were going to help self-help  
7 grow, we were going to grass roots self-help.

8           MS. BARNES: Charlie has told me and I think he's  
9 probably told you or you've heard it said that before this last  
10 paragraph could be deemed controversial by the Corporation,  
11 inasmuch as it is something that hasn't been done before, that  
12 it could be presented in the package that we are going to  
13 review, they would have to get a classification from the general  
14 counsel; am I correct?

15           MR. MOSES: As with anything that the Corporation  
16 does, obviously, we have to go back and then put it through  
17 procedures. For example, you recommend revision of Part 1612.9  
18 and obviously, that has to go to our General Counsel to  
19 determine if the interpretation that you are upset about is, in  
20 fact, the interpretation that they have of that regulation and  
21 whether, therefore, according to this conference, we need to  
22 recommend that there is a change.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1           If they interpret that regulation does not do what  
2 people here think, then there might not be the need for the  
3 change. Now, all of that, of course, would be looked at later.  
4 That is only one thing. The other thing I had mentioned to  
5 Gladys was obviously under number seven here.

6           We are talking about experimental programs that would  
7 help not only the poor but the near poor and we would have to  
8 make sure from talking with our General Counsel that the  
9 Corporation can, if it were to ever put funds in anything  
10 concerning self help and, at this point, I think you've  
11 recommended that the Corporation should consider self-help even  
12 though four people voted against it.

13           We would obviously have a General Counsel opinion to  
14 make sure that we could do whatever it is that you recommend  
15 that we do before we do it. If we cannot do it, we certainly  
16 still appreciate your recommendation that we should consider it  
17 but there might be some things that, frankly, we just can't do.

18           MS. BOZELL: If Congress says we can't do it, your  
19 recommendation is not going to change it and nor is mine.

20           MS. MERRITT: Someone said something about taking  
21 those funds. I want you to clear this up before I leave.

22           MS. BOZELL: Excuse me. We have only twenty minutes

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 to go. We really have to hurry things up.

2 MR. MOSES: What about taking the funds?

3 MS. MERRITT: Someone made a statement about this  
4 whole thing we put together, it was taking the funds from the  
5 program. I don't understand.

6 MR. MOSES: I don't think that that would happen, no.

7 MS. MERRITT: That one statement made, then --

8 MR. MOSES: Programs have set funding levels. We  
9 cannot take funds because we have something we want to fund. We  
10 can't just take funds away from any program.

11 MS. MERRITT: I just wanted you to say that.

12 MR. MOSES: I'm sorry. We definitely couldn't do  
13 that.

14 MS. MERRITT: Thank you.

15 MS. BARNES: Let me ask this. I know the vote has  
16 been taken.

17 MR. MOSES: Maybe I am belaboring the point, but I was  
18 just trying to find out why the five of you who voted against  
19 it, did you vote against all thirteen or are there portions of  
20 this that you would vote for and portions that you would not  
21 vote for?

22 MR. FRY: I vote for everything but thirteen.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. BENAVIDEZ: Yes.

2 MR. WARE: Take it out.

3 MS. NEWSOME: If you can't take it out, I would have  
4 to rescind my vote.

5 MS. PEOPLES: I'll withdraw my second.

6 MR. MOSES: Someone who voted for it can call for a  
7 reconsideration of the vote. What up there don't you want?

8 MS. BARNES: I am standing in front of thirteen. Give  
9 me a retraction, somebody. Did you, Julie?

10 MS. BRIGGS: Yes.

11 MS. BARNES: Hortencia, if we took off thirteen, would  
12 you vote for it?

13 MS. BENAVIDEZ: Yes.

14 MS. FIFIELD: I would go with it if you went with it.

15 MR. WARE: I'm not changing.

16 MS. BOZELL: Bill?

17 MS. FRY: (Shaking head.)

18 MS. BYRD: May I offer a friendly amendment that we  
19 delete thirteen and vote on the twelve?

20 MS. JERMANY: Is there any way we can convince you so  
21 that it will become unanimous?

22 MR. WARE: No way.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. JERMANY: I'd like to know what your objections  
2 are.

3 MR. WARE: It don't matter; it don't matter.

4 MR. MOSES: Earnest, you might have some insight into  
5 something up there that we are missing.

6 MS. BARNES: Okay. We have been hearing this  
7 afternoon, you know, that we should have had more clients, we  
8 should have done this and this. We made some errors. Now we  
9 have a slate that we say we are ready to send to the  
10 Corporation, the recommendations coming out of these minds here,  
11 these two days.

12 Now, we have a client who is opposed to our slate.  
13 Now, how do you view that that LSC Board is going to look at  
14 that, ladies and gentlemen?

15 MS. JERMANY: We want to know what his reasons are, if  
16 he can give us some insight.

17 MS. BARNES: Well, we have to go with one dissenting  
18 vote. I hate to.

19 MOTION

20 MS. NEWSOME: Madam Chair, I will rescind the first  
21 motion and move that twelve -- outline, self-help portions be  
22 recommended to the LSC board from this body.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 MS. PEOPLES: What did you say?

2 MS. FIFIELD: She moved that we accept these twelve.

3 MS. BRIGGS: I second it.

4 MS. BARNES: A new motion is on the floor. It has  
5 been moved by Mrs. Rosie Newsome and seconded by Ms. Julie  
6 Briggs, that the twelve issues that you see, the twelve  
7 recommendations that you see in front of you, will go to the LSC  
8 Board.

9 May I hear your approval or disapproval by a show of  
10 hands, please?

11 (A show of hands.)

12 MS. JERMANY: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,  
13 eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve. Twelve for the twelve. Now,  
14 call the other question so I can count the no and get them on  
15 the record.

16 MS. BARNES: All those voting no, please raise your  
17 hand?

18 MR. WARE: I will abstain.

19 MS. JERMANY: There is zero no and there is one  
20 abstention.

21 MS. BARNES: All right. I've got one more little  
22 thing yet.

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
(202) 628-2121

1 MR. FRY: Madam Chairman, as the author, although this  
2 is not under a motion yet, since there is so much uncertainty  
3 about the meaning of that last sentence, I would be happy to  
4 have it deleted from paragraph seven.

5 MOTION

6 MS. FIFIELD: I move we just strike that whole paper.  
7 We just did these twelve recommendations and I'm comfortable  
8 with those twelve. I move that we strike this whole paper.

9 MS. NEWSOME: I second that motion.

10 MS. BARNES: There is a motion on the floor that this  
11 recommendation coming from one of our invited guests will be  
12 stricken in its entirety.

13 MR. MOSES: If this is up for discussion, can I say  
14 something?

15 MS. PEOPLES: No, you can't influence us.

16 MS. JERMANY: You can do whatever you want to do.

17 MR. MOSES: Isn't it seconded for discussion?

18 MS. NEWSOME: No, not until your Chairman opens it.

19 MS. BARNES: It is now open for discussion.

20 MR. MOSES: What I might suggest, I think that quite  
21 frankly, if you look at what is on this sheet that has been  
22 given to you, I think you probably would find that if you looked

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 at it and didn't realize what it was or where it came from, that  
2 you would all agree with it, possibly with the exception of the  
3 one clause that has been withdrawn that everyone has discussed.

4 I haven't heard anyone say that they disagree.

5 MS. FIFIELD: It is all up there anyway, so why do we  
6 need to do this? We worked on this together as a group. We  
7 came up with those recommendations. Why are we doing this?

8 MR. MOSES: Let me ask you this question. If it is  
9 all up there, where does it say, for example, where up here does  
10 it say that client self-help is an important tool for access to  
11 justice? This is not a policy statement.

12 MS. FIFIELD: What do you mean, it's not up there?  
13 It's all up there. That's the "Self-help training is  
14 important." That's the whole thing.

15 MR. MOSES: This is the broad-based strokes that this  
16 fills in, I think.

17 MS. FIFIELD: We are going to vote on this after you  
18 guys work it up, anyway. I think we should strike this and go  
19 with what we have up there.

20 MR. MOSES: I'm not talking about that. That's  
21 settled.

22 MS. FIFIELD: Let's just vote for this. I call for

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 the question because Rosie has got to leave and I think we need  
2 to vote on it.

3 MS. BARNES: Is there any further discussion on this  
4 second set of the added set of recommendations as an amendment  
5 to that?

6 MS. PHELPS: And delete that last sentence off seven?

7 MS. BARNES: Deleting number seven. Okay, we are  
8 going to go ahead and put a motion in effect.

9 MS. NEWSOME: There is a motion and a second on the  
10 floor to delete the whole thing.

11 MS. BARNES: There is a motion on the floor and the  
12 motion states -- I did restate it -- that this set of  
13 recommendations would not be a part of our recommendation  
14 package. The motion was made by Ms. Susan Fifield and seconded  
15 by Ms. Julie Briggs.

16 MS. NEWSOME: It was seconded by me, by Rosie Newsome.

17 MS. BRIGGS: I seconded it, too.

18 MS. BARNES: Are you ready to vote? Okay, let's see a  
19 show of hands for those who concur with the motion. The motion  
20 is that this be struck down.

21 (A show of hands.)

22 MS. BARNES: One, two, three, four, five. There are

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 five yes votes. Okay, let's see a show of hands for those who  
2 disagreed with this motion.

3 (A show of hands.)

4 MS. BARNES: One, two, three, four, five. Five and  
5 five and the Chairman breaks the tie. I vote to vote against  
6 the motion so this becomes an addendum.

7 MS. FIFIELD: But it does go on the record that we  
8 five oppose it.

9 MR. MOSES: Of course, yes.

10 MS. BARNES: I realize you've got your flights to  
11 catch. I would just like to thank everyone on behalf of Mrs.  
12 Benavidez, Mrs. Miller and Clark and Mr. Uddo and LSC staff and  
13 myself for being a part of this meeting.

14 I thank you for sharing your information. I'm sorry  
15 that some things probably didn't work exactly like we would have  
16 liked to have seen them work, but sometimes, you have to take a  
17 bad situation that we don't entirely agree with and try to make  
18 it work for the benefit of those people who we serve.

19 We had one other thing on the agenda. I think it was  
20 on there at one time. We were going to look at who we would  
21 like to see out of this group go to the LSC Board Meeting and  
22 make this presentation whenever that time comes. Does anyone

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 have a recommendation that we would like to send to the  
2 Corporation to ask them to look at -- I'm talking about possibly  
3 a client, I would think.

4 MS. MERRITT: I recommend you go, Gladys.

5 MS. BARNES: That's one recommendation.

6 MS. BENAVIDEZ: Second.

7 MOTION

8 MS. MERRITT: I make a motion that Gladys Barnes go to  
9 the Corporation Board on behalf of the body.

10 Ms. BENAVIDEZ: Second.

11 MS. BARNES: The motion on the floor is when this  
12 package resulting from this conference is presented to the LSC  
13 Board of Directors that Gladys Barnes would be the person to go.  
14 Of course, we have to figure out where the funding is coming  
15 from, but we'll cross that bridge. At least, we know who was  
16 selected to come.

17 I'm going to ask, Charlie, would you carry this  
18 motion? I can't carry a motion by myself.

19 MR. MOSES: Sure. What did you want me to do? I'm  
20 sorry. Yes, I'll take the vote. All those in favor of  
21 selecting Gladys Barnes to be the representative of this group  
22 after you have had an opportunity to look at what she would be

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121

1 taking, all those in favor of having Gladys Barnes go to the LSC  
2 Board Meeting to present it on your behalf, please vote aye?

3 (Chorus of ayes.)

4 MR. MOSES: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. MOSES: The ayes carry it.

7 MS. BARNES: Thanks to everyone that came from  
8 everywhere and we'll be talking to you.

9 (Whereupon, at 4:50 o'clock p.m., the conference was  
10 adjourned.)

11 \* \* \* \* \*

**Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.**

1511 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 547

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 628-2121