

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE  
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION

Friday, November 22, 2013

2:35 p.m.

Legal Services Corporation  
3333 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John G. Levi, Chairperson

Herbert S. Garten (Non-Director Member)

Frank B. Strickland (Non-Director Member)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Julie A. Reiskin

Gloria Valencia-Weber

STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT IN THE CORPORATION'S OFFICES:

Wendy Rhein, Chief Development Officer

Rebecca Fertig, Special Assistant to the President

Ronald S. Flagg, Vice President for Legal Affairs,  
General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary

Atitaya Rok, Staff Attorney, Office of Legal Affairs

Carl Rauscher, Director of Media Relations, Office of  
Government Relations and Public Affairs

Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General

Terry Brooks, American Bar Association Standing  
Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants  
(SCLAID)

C O N T E N T S

OPEN SESSION	PAGE
1. Approval of agenda	Not done
2. Approval of minutes of the Committee's open session meeting of October 1, 2013	Not done
3. Approval of minutes of the Committee's open session meeting of October 20, 2013	Not done
4. Update on development campaign	4
5. Public comment	16
6. Consider and act on other business	17
11. Consider and act on adjournment of meeting	17

Motions: None

P R O C E E D I N G S

(2:35 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Howdy, everybody. Herb?

MR. GARTEN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: I think Wendy does have a couple of updates, and I have a couple of things, and maybe you do. And Gloria and Julie, certainly anything you are interested in, we'll listen to, too.

But do you want to give the updates, and we'll talk about the year-end and that kind of thing?

MS. RHEIN: Sure. I have just a couple of followup items after our Pittsburgh meeting. I'm very happy to report that we are now officially registered in every state and the District where we need to be registered.

So all were fully approved and can do national fundraising now anywhere we want, which means that the online donation option that we have talked about will go live probably the week after Thanksgiving or the middle of the month, which is just in time for year-end, which is great.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: And so based on that, are we

having a year-end drive of any kind?

MS. RHEIN: We certainly can. For prospects that are approved, we're going to have things on the website. We're going to have a 40th anniversary site in particular to be able to drive donations as well.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Do we have a design of that that we could share with the Committee, or is that not --

MS. RHEIN: I don't have a design for you yet, but I could probably have one in two weeks.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: That would be great.

MS. RHEIN: Two weeks.

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Wendy, this is Gloria. Can you tell me under what name we have the registration?

MS. RHEIN: It's Legal Services Corporation.

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Just LSC? Okay.

MS. ROK: Who just joined the call?

MR. BROOKS: Terry Brooks, a member of the public.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Okay. That's fine.

MS. ROK: Hi, Terry.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: We were hoping you were a member of the Committee so you could be -- if you had said Robert Grey, then we would have a quorum, possibly.

MR. BROOKS: I wish I was as articulate and eloquent as Robert.

MS. REISKIN: Wendy, this is Julie. I have a question. When you say "registered," that's like the secretary of state level. In Colorado, there's a thing called Colorado Gives, and it's on December 6th, everything online. They don't take fees. We're not at that level. Right? Are we on that?

MS. RHEIN: We're not on individual state campaigns. What it means is that we are registered as an organization that is allowed to do fundraising in that state.

MS. REISKIN: Okay.

MS. RHEIN: But I did not register for any state campaigns or even the Combined Federal Campaign for this year because we just weren't there yet.

MS. REISKIN: No, that's fine. I just wanted to know because if you had, I might need to talk with

someone about potential conflict issues. But if we're not there, then it's not there.

MS. RHEIN: Yes. Sure. And we'll stay out of the individual state campaigns like that, Julie, to avoid competition with the local organizations.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: We're not --

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Okay. That answers the questions for me, too. Thank you for asking, Julie.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Anything else you want to report on, Wendy?

MS. RHEIN: John, did you want to discuss with the Committee the comments we received about the case statement and veterans?

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes. But I'm not sure that that needs to be a matter of open -- I don't think that's an open meeting.

What's on the agenda? Because actually, I don't seem to have received an agenda.

MS. ROK: We just have, for open session, "Update on development campaign," which we've largely -- just reporting that we're registered in all

50 states. And that's about it.

MS. RHEIN: For the open session. And then the approval of the minutes, which we can't do at this point. So those were the only other items for the open session, and public comment.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: And the closed session, we can't vote to close. So we'll have to defer it.

MS. ROK: Well, we already voted to close by notational vote.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Oh, I see. So we can have a closed session.

MS. ROK: But there's no quorum anyway, so we're probably better off pushing it off till the next telephonic meeting.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: I should say that -- I can say this in the open session here -- look. This is a moment in time. The legal profession -- this involves LSC, but it involves the legal community. As we have gone around, I've met -- I had some meetings with Wendy in New York. I thought they were very productive.

I encourage you guys on the phone, and the rest of our Board and our Committee, ultimately, the



situation in the American justice system right now, the number of pro se's flooding our courts, the number of grantees telling us that their financial issues are strained, and the opportunity that the 40th campaign presents to all of us to try to enhance at least some of the resources that might be available even though we are certainly not supporting or doing field work, and we're not competing with our grantees.

But another firm did step up to the 250 level, and so we now have officially raised 500. I would hope, by the end of the year, that every member of the Board will have committed something to the LSC, however small or large it is.

Then we're going to hope that some angel opens up and drops a lot of money into Wendy Rhein's lap, and that we're all in a position to better explain to the country what's happening, and also to support our programs around the country that are really hurting.

As we approach this Thanksgiving and holiday season, I have to say I think next year we need to really work together with our colleagues in the profession to let the country know what is happening in

the civil justice arena.

MS. RHEIN: Right.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: And so the 40th anniversary is an opportunity for that discussion, and the event that we're planning for September, hopefully we can have a high-level discussion at that time. But it costs money, and that's why all of your efforts and the case statement that we've put together -- which will be tweaked a little based on advice we received -- but is also being very well received.

I don't know whether -- has everybody on the phone seen it, on the Committee?

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: I saw a first draft, an earlier version. I haven't seen the one that got polished.

MS. RHEIN: You've all approved it at the board meeting in Pittsburgh.

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Right.

MS. RHEIN: That's the final version that I have.

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: All right. So I know what to do.

MS. REISKIN: John?

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Can you send it around to everybody again?

MS. RHEIN: Sure.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: It had the quotes on it?

MS. RHEIN: It didn't have the pretty quotes on it, no. I'll send down the version again to everybody.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes.

MS. REISKIN: John?

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes?

MS. REISKIN: This is Julie. Based on what you were saying, what are your thoughts of letters to the editor? I'd be happy to draft one locally and run it by Jim or you or whoever. I just heard yesterday, and I haven't verified with Jon Asher if this is true, but from the client community, the word is out that our legal aid isn't doing evictions any more, which means there is not one lawyer in Denver doing evictions, which is devastating. And it's because of funding cuts.

Again, I need to verify if that's true. But

clients are certainly hearing that, and so letters to the editor going over some of the real-life things, and then ending with, this is because of a lack of funding for civil legal aid.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, you have to be careful about what's perceived as lobbying.

MS. REISKIN: Right. Well, should we even try that, or would that be totally out of our realm?

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, I think that's outside the purview of this Committee. But I think certainly that Jon Asher -- if that's the case; these are local issues -- he's going to have to figure that out with the bar there. You can certainly be helpful. But we have to be very careful about our --

MS. REISKIN: So we shouldn't be drafting op-eds or letters to the editor, though?

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, I think you have to talk to -- if you're thinking of doing one, you talk to Carl Rauscher. He understands the boundaries, and he'll make sure you stay on the right side of whatever the lines are.

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: This is Gloria.

I'd like to continue on Julie's inquiry. Maybe at a regular board meeting we might have some orientation from Carl Rauscher about this because there are possible opportunities here also for op-ed pieces or something.

But I've not written any or engaged in anything close to that. And if we could get those guidances, that would help.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Okay, Gloria. So Gloria and Julie, this is an Institutional Advancement Committee --

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Right. I don't want to discuss it here. I'm saying let's schedule it for a Board discussion.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: No. I don't think we need it for a board meeting, either. I think it's the kind of thing where we have individual conversation with Carl as to what's being proposed. He can advise you as to what makes sense or doesn't.

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: All right.

MR. FLAGG: John, this is Ron. We actually have done pretty substantial thinking about the ability

of LSC as a corporation and its officers and directors to engage in lobbying on various topics.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes.

MR. FLAGG: So by all means, people should feel free to talk to Carl. But they also ought to feel free to talk to OLA.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes. Well, I think they should talk to both of you. And certainly I want to make sure that any op-eds or letters that we would be writing are -- we're certainly allowed to advocate for funding for LSC.

MR. FLAGG: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: That I do know.

MR. FLAGG: Right. For LSC.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: For LSC. But when you start doing -- it's the "grassroots" lobbying issue.

MS. REISKIN: No. I don't want to do anything that makes anything worse. I was just -- when you talked about getting the word out about how important this is --

CHAIRMAN LEVI: No. But I was referring to -- I'm sorry -- when you convene people and you have

panel discussions, that's a way of people understanding what's happening in the country. And they have to take it from there.

But it's our ability to convene our group, which we haven't been able to do since we've been in office. We've convened the local, when we're in a particular area and we get the regions.

But we haven't had a large gathering of the -- NLADA has some of it, where the board chairs and the executive directors come and we actually learn what is in fact happening. So that's what I'm talking about.

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Well, I understand this.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes. Herb and Frank, anything to report?

MR. GARTEN: I don't have --

MR. STRICKLAND: Nothing new here.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: All right. You should both expect Wendy Rhein to be calling you, and we would like to figure out how to work with you to maybe open a few doors.

MR. STRICKLAND: That'll be fine. We look forward to talking to Wendy.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Great.

MS. RHEIN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Thank you, everybody. I'm sorry we didn't have a quorum today, and we'll have to work on making sure that doesn't happen in the future because I know all of your time is valuable, and I appreciate your taking the time this afternoon.

MR. STRICKLAND: Glad to do it.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Thanks, everybody. Happy Thanksgiving. Anything else? Terry, you dialed in. Even though this is not a formal meeting because we don't have a quorum, I'll ask you if you have public comment, or anybody else on the line.

MR. BROOKS: I have no public comment. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: You did make a public comment --

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Oh, I have a short question.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: You made a public



comment -- sorry. Gloria?

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: On the donation that we're making as board members, we send it to the LSC office and it's simply made to LSC. Right?

MS. RHEIN: That's right, Gloria. And if you want, you could just put my name on it, Wendy Rhein. And then I'll make sure that it gets processed and we get you in the acknowledgment before year-end.

MR. FLAGG: On the check or the envelope?

MS. RHEIN: On the envelope, not the check. Don't put my name on the check.

(Laughter.)

PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: All right. We'll try and finish up before the end of the year here.

MS. RHEIN: Great. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Anything else for the good of the order? Anybody at LSC headquarters that has something they want to say?

MR. FLAGG: Happy holidays to one and all.

CHAIRMAN LEVI: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 2:51 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.)

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