

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF THE DIRECTORS
TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Monday, November 23, 2009

2:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Strickland, Chair
Jonann Chiles
Thomas Fuentes
Herbert Garten
Michael McKay
Thomas Meites
Laurie Mikva
Sarah Singleton

STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT:

Helaine Barnett, LSC President
Steve Barr, GRPA
Danilo A. Cardone, OCE
John Constance, GRPA
Sean Driscoll, GRPA
Charles Jeffress, LSC
Vic Fortuno, OLA
John Levi (by phone)
John Meyer
Karen Sarjeant, LSC
Jeffrey E. Schanz, OIG
Laurie Tarantowicz, OIG
Gloria Valencia-Weber (by phone)
Katherine Ward, OLA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Let's proceed. I will call to order a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for November 23, 2009, called pursuant to notice published in the Federal Register.

The first item to be considered is the approval of the agenda.

M O T I O N

CHAIR STRICKLAND: I would entertain a motion to approve the agenda. Is there a --

MR. FUENTES: Move the approval. Tom Fuentes.

MR. GARTEN: Second. Herb Garten.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Those in favor, please say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Adopted.

The main item of business today -- in fact, the only item -- is to consider and act on the Board of

Director's response to the inspector general's semi-annual Report to Congress for the period of April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.

I hope all of you have available, in printed form, the report from the office of the inspector general, which was sent either by mail or FedEx. But has everyone received that and had a chance to review it?

ALL: Yes, sir.

MR. MCKAY: And Mr. Chairman, for the record, Mike McKay, I'm on the call.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Okay. Thank you, Mike.
Welcome.

And, in addition, everyone should have received, in electronic form, the draft of management's -- a response. The most recent one came today, I believe, from John Constance, that included a few minor edits that I suggested.

In addition, in a stylistic matter, I asked John, when we do the final version of the letter, to put a header on each page -- if you don't mind, John.

MR. CONSTANCE: We will certainly do that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Thank you. All right, let's -- is there any discussion on the report and the response that will be sent by the board?

MR. MEITES: Frank, it's Tom Meites calling. What kind of schedule are we under?

CHAIR STRICKLAND: We're trying to do this -- you mean in terms of when we want to complete this action?

MR. MEITES: Yes, and is there a due date or something, where -- is there some deadline that we're working towards?

MR. CONSTANCE: We are working toward November --

CHAIR STRICKLAND: It may be November 30.

MR. CONSTANCE: Yes.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Someone could correct me if I'm wrong about that.

MR. CONSTANCE: This is John Constance, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

MR. MEITES: All right. Thank you very much.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Okay, so the idea is we do want to take care of this today, if possible.

Does anyone have any comments, then, on the draft?

MR. GARTEN: Yes.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Response?

MR. GARTEN: Herb Garten here.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Go ahead, Herb.

MR. GARTEN: I assume we are referring to what's labeled number four.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: That is correct.

MR. GARTEN: Thank you.

M O T I O N

MR. FUENTES: Mr. Chairman, Tom Fuentes. For purposes of discussion, I would move the approval of the letter submitted to us in final draft for purposes of approval for submission with the most minor of edit in the third-to-the-last paragraph where it's -- "It is more important than ever to increase both public and private funding for civil assistance," I should like to see that as -- in the order of, "both private and public," in opposite order.

But beyond that, I move approval of the submission by the management.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: All right. Is there second to that motion?

MR. GARTEN: Where is that appearing, Tom?

MR. FUENTES: It's the third-to-the-last paragraph. I think that makes it consistent with the second paragraph in which we express, "Congress entrusts the LSC with a dual mission: To promote equal justice," and then, "to provide quality legal assistance."

I think that, in the third-to-the-last paragraph, it is appropriate that we give focus to public -- our role is to broadly encourage, through all of our neighbors, assistance for the poor. And public funding is a secondary -- in that broader agenda.

MR. GARTEN: Well, the draft Tom is looking at in the third-to-the-last paragraph does refer to increasing both public and private funding.

MR. FUENTES: Yes, sir. And all I want to do, Herb, is to say "both private and public." All I want to do is reverse the order of those two words.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: All right. Was there a second to your motion, Tom?

MR. GARTEN: I will second it.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: All right, Herb. Is that acceptable to you, to change the sequence of those two words?

MR. GARTEN: Yes.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: All right. It's been moved and seconded. Now, is there any discussion on the draft, other than the slight change we just made in the text?

(No response.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: All right. Hearing no further discussion, then let's proceed to a vote on the motion. All those in favor of the motion, please say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: The ayes have it, and the motion is approved. And, therefore, the draft letter is approved. And with that manner of change in the text, we can go ahead and put that letter in final form and send it out.

The next item is public comment. Is there any public comment today?

(No response.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Hearing none, we will consider and act on other business. Is there any other business for today?

MR. FUENTES: Mr. Chairman, Tom Fuentes. I would just like to take an opportunity, as one director, to commend by the office of our inspector general and all the management team for a very fine professional effort in bringing us to this meeting tomorrow. Their work and effort is commendable. Thank you.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Thank you very much, Tom. Any other comments?

(No response.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: All right. I believe that concludes the business for the day.

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M O T I O N

CHAIR STRICKLAND: I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. FUENTES: So moved.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Is there a second?

MR. MEITES: Second.

CHAIR STRICKLAND: Those in favor, aye?

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: And those opposed, nay.

(No response.)

CHAIR STRICKLAND: The motion is approved, and we are adjourned. Thank you very much, everyone.

ALL: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 2:12, the meeting of the board of directors was adjourned.)