

Streeter noted that there was a remote chance that there will be an additional hearing in the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee because the Chairman of that Committee, Senator Orrin Hatch, has expressed great concern that legal services funds have been used in connection with redistricting issues. He is currently looking into that to see what the funds have been used for.

Mr. Santarelli moved the adoption of a resolution entitled "Principles Guiding Governance and Reauthorization."

WHEREAS, the concept of equal access to justice distinguishes and augments a free society; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Services Corporation was created in 1974 to help achieve such access for poor individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Services Corporation's goal is to provide financial assistance to entities delivering high quality, professional legal services on an efficient, economical and effective basis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following principles guiding governance of the Legal Services Corporation and its reauthorization by Congress be adopted:

1. That the Corporation shall be kept free from the influence or use by it of political pressures.

2. That the Corporation shall ensure compliance by its recipients and their employees with the Legal Services Corporation Act, regulations, guidelines, instructions, policies and other directives issued thereunder.

3. That the Corporation shall not interfere with any attorney in carrying out his professional responsibilities but shall ensure that the attorney activities provided pursuant to the Act are carried out in a manner consistent with attorney professional responsibility.

4. That the independence of individual clients shall be preserved. In delivering legal services to eligible clients, an attorney's professional responsibility shall be to the individual client who has sought his representation.

5. That priorities for the types of legal services offered shall be articulated within the guidelines established by Congress and must be set at the local level through an appraisal of the needs of individual eligible clients.

6. That LSC-funded programs serving eligible clients shall treat each such client with dignity. Program attorneys serving eligible clients shall render professional advice based on the merits of any proposed legal action. The fact that the client will not personally bear the cost shall not be used to justify the persistent incitement of litigation.

7. That in order to ensure that legal services recipients are responsive to the needs of individual eligible clients, clients shall be included in the decision-making process of local legal services programs and of the Corporation.

8. That the Corporation shall have maximum flexibility to carry out the basic purpose of the Legal Services Corporation Act to provide financial support for legal assistance in non-criminal matters to persons financially unable to afford that assistance. In allocating the funds available for legal assistance, the Corporation shall ensure that its resources are distributed so that each eligible client will have reasonably equal access.

9. That the Board of Directors of the Corporation believes that it is in the best interests of all citizens that the Corporation, the authorization for which expired in 1980 and which has existed on year-to-year funding since that time, be reauthorized by Congress to continue its role in ensuring access to legal assistance to those unable to afford such assistance.

10. That such reauthorization should provide adequate safeguards and protections to preserve the independence and integrity of the Corporation, while allowing the Corporation to determine financial allocations based on an open, competitive bidding process designed to ensure economical and effective delivery of legal services.

11. That to the fullest extent possible, efforts should be made to secure additional resources by utilizing a variety of delivery structures and incorporating within those structures the services of private attorneys, paralegals, and law students in delivering legal assistance to aggrieved eligible clients.

Mr. Ferrara seconded the adoption of the resolution. It was adopted by the Board on a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Frankum seconded the motion, and Mr. McCarthy adjourned the meeting with the consensus of the Board.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the duly constituted Board of Directors meeting held on May 19, 1984. These Minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on July 9, 1984.

  
Secretary