

June 25, 1990  
Final Text

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION DISCOURAGING REPRESENTATION  
IN CERTAIN DRUG-RELATED EVICTION PROCEEDINGS  
(offered by Mr. Collins)

Whereas, the drug problem in our country has had a devastating effect on the poor, especially those who live in public housing; and,

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation is concerned about reports of the LSC grantees representing persons involved in drug-related activity in drug-related eviction and other housing proceedings involving publicly funded housing; and

Whereas, resources available to legal services programs to provide legal representation to the poor are limited, and should be used in the most effective manner and only for meritorious cases; and

Whereas, some legal services grantees have opposed recent actions by the Department of Housing and Urban Development aimed at evicting drug dealers despite government standards that housing authorities have proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the leaseholder committed at least 2 felony drug crimes and will face prosecution and despite the fact that the presence of drug dealers in public housing brings misery to many thousands of poor tenants.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation urges all legal services grantees to adopt immediately policies that discourage representation of persons involved in drug-related activity in drug-related eviction and other housing proceedings involving publicly funded housing;

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation urges all legal services grantees to assist eligible tenant organizations, resident management organizations, and individual clients in anti-drug activities; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation urges Congress to seek a legislative remedy which would prohibit LSC grantees from representing persons involved in drug-related activity in drug-related eviction and other housing proceedings involving publicly funded housing.

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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION CALLING  
FOR LEGISLATIVE REFORMS IN THE LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM  
(Offered by Ms. Pullen)

WHEREAS, the Board of the Legal Services Corporation has heard extensive testimony and been supplied with numerous documents concerning certain practices of some legal services grantees; and,

WHEREAS, the Honorable William McCollum and the Honorable Charles Stenholm, distinguished Members of the United States Congress, have appeared before the Board at their own request seeking our understanding and support for their legal services reform effort in the Congress; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to focusing the limited resources entrusted to it by the American people on the recognized needs of indigent clients; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is troubled by evidence presented to it that some programs receiving the support of the Corporation are involved in activities prohibited by Congress or disapproved of by this Board, including abortion activities, redistricting and other political activities, and the defense of drug dealers in poor neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that without legislated reform, some legal services programs receiving the support of the Corporation will continue to be involved in questionable activities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation supports in principle the proposals for reform, reserving judgment on the specific details of these proposals until such time as individual Board members have had an opportunity to understand the details fully; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Corporation's staff to provide technical assistance regarding reform to Members of Congress and Congressional staff upon their request. However, the Corporation's staff shall make clear to those it assists that the rendering of such technical assistance should not be construed as an endorsement of any particular reform measure on the part of the Legal Services Corporation or its Board of Directors.

(Note: This resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors on a 7-1 roll call vote. Board members Collins, Love, Wittgraf, Pullen, Guinot, Hall and Wolbeck voted in favor of the resolution; Mr. Dana voted in opposition to it).