LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TELEPHONIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

5:03 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John G. Levi, Chairman Martha L. Minow, Vice Chair Sharon L. Browne Robert J. Grey, Jr. Harry J.F. Korrell III Charles N.W. Keckler Victor B. Maddox Laurie Mikva Father Pius Pietrzyk, O.P. Julie Reiskin Gloria Valencia-Weber STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT AT THE CORPORATION'S OFFICES:

James J. Sandman, President Richard L. Sloane, Special Assistant to the President Kathleen McNamara, Executive Assistant to the President Victor M. Fortuno, Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary Mattie Cohan, Senior Assistant General Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs Katherine Ward, Executive Assistant, Office of Legal Affairs David L. Richardson, Comptroller and Treasurer, Office of Financial and Administrative Services Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General Joel Gallay, Special Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General David Maddox, Assistant Inspector General for Management and Evaluation, Office of the Inspector General John Constance, Director, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs (by telephone) Stephen Barr, Communications Director, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs Linda Perle, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) Don Saunders, National Legal Aid and Defenders Association (NLADA) Terry Brooks, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID)

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1	4 PROCEEDINGS
2	(5:03 p.m.)
3	CHAIRMAN LEVI: In view of the lateness of the
4	hour in the East, I'll ask if we could call the meeting
5	to order. And do we have a motion to approve the agenda?
6	MOTION
7	DEAN MINOW: So moved.
8	FATHER PIUS: Second.
9	CHAIRMAN LEVI: All in favor?
10	(A chorus of ayes.)
11	CHAIRMAN LEVI: And who just moved? Martha?
12	DEAN MINOW: Yes.
13	CHAIRMAN LEVI: Welcome. Okay.
14	So this is really a report from your committee,
15	Charles. So maybe I should turn this over to you for a
16	minute and ask you to present the resolution.
17	PROFESSOR KECKLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18	The committee met last Friday to consider the
19	conforming changes to our bylaws reflected in the
20	resolution that all Board members should have now
21	received. If you haven't, please tell me and then we can
22	get that resolution to you by email.

1 As I said, the committee met, considered these 2 changes, which are prompted by changes in our underlying 3 act in D.C., the D.C. Nonprofit Corporation Act, and 4 after considering them, we have recommended them for adoption. 5 6 So management or I will be happy to take any 7 questions. 8 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Do you want to just give the 9 high points for a second, Charles? 10 PROFESSOR KECKLER: Okay. Basically, the memo 11 described some things that we're not doing today and are 12 not in the resolution, changes that we may consider 13 later. 14 What the resolution actually reflects and what 15 we've recommended are a set of minor typographical corrections, but in substance, mainly the notice 16 17 provisions, the notices that go out to us. The 18 requirements for notice were changed in the act, and so 19 we're changing them in our bylaws. And that's pretty 20 much it. 21 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Any questions from members of

22 the Board about this? And let me say I'm grateful to the

1 Board for (inaudible, bad telephone connection) itself 2 today so that we could do this. We did have a year-end 3 deadline, and I don't think we were fully aware until not 4 very long ago that we needed to make these changes by year-end. 5 6 So with that, I don't think -- I think the 7 resolution is out there. I don't think it has to be 8 moved, does it? 9 PROFESSOR KECKLER: It may have to be moved by 10 one individual. 11 CHAIRMAN LEVI: All right. Well, why don't 12 you --13 ΜΟΤΙΟΝ 14 PROFESSOR KECKLER: I so move it, then. 15 BOARD MEMBER: Second. 16 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Okay. And any questions, then, 17 from the Board? 18 (No response.) 19 CHAIRMAN LEVI: All in favor of the resolution? 20 (A chorus of ayes.) 21 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Any opposition? 22 (No response.)

2 (No response.)

22

3 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Okay. Now, on item number 3, 4 considering and acting on ratification of LSC'S 5 solicitation of contribution from Friends of Legal 6 Services and a planning grant from the Public Welfare 7 Foundation in 2011, Jim, do you want to speak to this for 8 a second, or Vic? 9 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Yes. I'll start off and 10 then hand it over to Vic. This is Jim Sandman. 11 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Hello? This is 12 Gloria Valencia-Weber. 13 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Good, Gloria. Welcome. 14 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: This is Jim Sandman. 15 During 2011, the Corporation has solicited one donation 16 and one grant, the donation from the Friends of the Legal 17 Services Corporation and the grant from the Public 18 Welfare Function that are described in the materials 19 you've received. 20 Pursuant to a Board protocol adopted in 2008, we should have sought Board approval for the solicitation 21

of the donation and possibly for the solicitation of the

1 grant before proceeding. I'd like to turn it over to Vic 2 to explain the protocol, how we got to where we are, and 3 what we need to do to be in compliance with it.

4 MR. FORTUNO: Yes. For the record, this is Vic 5 Fortuno. And we're talking about the contribution from 6 the Friends of the Legal Services and a grant from the 7 Public Welfare Foundation.

8 The protocol was first adopted back in 2008, 9 and then it was modified last year. And it previous for 10 the Board to be consulted and to obtain the -- it 11 requires Board approval for solicitation of private 12 contributions. It's unclear whether that extends to 13 grants, but we are treating grants for these purposes as 14 coming within the scope of that term.

15 In any event, when the contribution from 16 Friends of the Legal Services Corporation was solicited, 17 while the Board was kept apprised of progress of thinking 18 on that -- I think that the Chair and Vice Chair 19 reported that we might be doing that -- we never sought the formal consent of the Board. I did not call that to 20 anyone's attention, so it was never done. And we did 21 22 solicit the contribution and did receive it. It was a

fairly modest contribution which was earmarked to funding
 the report done by the American Bar Foundation.

3 When the grant from the Foundation, the Public 4 Welfare Foundation, was discussed, there was again some 5 question as to whether grants come within the scope of 6 the protocol which goes to contributions. And no prior 7 consent was requested, but we think that, again, it's 8 best to get consent. 9 So those two items -- that is, the grant from 10 the Public Welfare Foundation and the earlier contribution from Friends of the Legal Services 11 12 Corporation -- we're asking for the Board to ratify those 13 two, to consent, and to take up the anticipated grant 14 that would be submitted to the Public Welfare Foundation, 15 to approve that one in advance. 16 So there are three separate and distinct 17 actions, two that have been taken, one that is proposed. 18 What we're requesting is to have ratification of the two

19 that have been taken and to get prior approval of the 20 action that is proposed.

And you have a memo which is dated December
19th. You should all have that with all of the

1 attachments, both the original version of the resolution -- that is, the protocol on soliciting contributions --2 and then the revisions to that in 2011, along with the 3 4 memorandum of understanding with Friends of the Legal 5 Services Corporation and the documents relating to the 6 grant, the initial grant, from the Public Welfare 7 Foundation. 8 And if you have any questions, I'd be happy to 9 address those for you. 10 CHAIRMAN LEVI: I have an observation and a question. This is John Levi. It occurred to me after I 11 12 saw these, Vic and Jim, I after all asked the DLA Piper 13 firm to donate its people, services, and I suppose some 14 funds to the Pro Bono Task Force. It never occurred to 15 me that that request, which they granted and they've stepped up and they're fully supporting all of the 16 17 subcommittees, maybe it, too, runs afoul of this 18 protocol. 19 MR. FORTUNO: That is a non-monetary 20 contribution, pro bono services? 21 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes. But I can't tell you how 22 it's done. I don't know what --

DEAN MINOW: How about the Fiscal Task Force? 1 Is there a similar in-kind contribution? 2 3 CHAIRMAN LEVI: No. There weren't on that. 4 But in the pro bono one, there certainly is in kind, and 5 not insignificant. 6 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: This is --7 CHAIRMAN LEVI: So I guess there's something 8 else that I want to say about this. Number one, I don't 9 want to be in a situation when an institutional 10 advancement committee, which is working to articulate places where it believes it can do some funds 11 12 solicitation, it needs to every single time. That would 13 just make it almost impossible to solicit funds. 14 So once that committee comes up with some idea 15 as to what it thinks might be appropriate, I think that 16 it ought to make a report. But then it ought not be 17 hamstrung by this. And therefore, I think this protocol 18 needs to be revisited. So that's number one. 19 Number two, none of us in any position -- I may 20 be sounding a little bit perturbed here; it is because I am -- I've never served on a board in which, 21 22 retroactively, I'm being told that I tripped on a

1 protocol.

I want to know from the general counsel and internally, what other Board protocols are there that we apparently don't know? Now, we were given them in the orientation, but I'm sorry, I didn't memorize all of them.

But I think that from now on, and as a favor to any incoming board, whatever board protocols there are ought to be put in front of the new board in plain English so that this kind of thing doesn't happen again; and also that that board be given an opportunity to say yea or nay as to whether it wishes to be bound by such a protocol prospectively because it may not wish to be.

14 And so this Chairman, at least, wants that 15 protocol, the one that we're talking about here, referred 16 to the Ops & Regs Committee for revising so that we can 17 have a protocol that works going forward; and secondly, 18 wants a review of all protocols that relate to our Board 19 so that we don't have the "gotcha" moments like this one. 20 I don't like it, it's not good governance, and I don't want it to happen again. 21

22 MR. FORTUNO: We are compiling a book or a

1 manual of all such --

2	CHAIRMAN LEVI: No. I don't want a book or a			
3	manual because we're not in the business of being able to			
4	memorize. I want a summary that is an executive summary			
5	that is in English and understandable, Vic.			
6	MR. FORTUNO: No, no. We			
7	DEAN MINOW: You know, I have to say this is			
8	Martha. I just			
9	CHAIRMAN LEVI: If			
10	DEAN MINOW: This is Martha, and I just have to			
11	say, I am baffled by this because, Vic, we talked with			
12	you every single step of the way. You were involved in			
13	every step of the conversation. And to be told now that			
14	we violated a guideline is utterly baffling.			
15	We are new to this. You're our advisor. You			
16	are the lawyer. So I'm baffled. I think that John is			
17	being very gentle here, and we'll figure out a			
18	prospective solution. But it is utterly baffling.			
19	MR. MADDOX: Can I jump in, Martha, just to			
20	pile on a little bit?			
21	CHAIRMAN LEVI: Who is it? Vic?			
22	MR. MADDOX: It's Vic Maddox. And I'm sort of			

wearing my Audit Committee hat right now because I guess
 this is a question to Vic Fortuno or maybe David
 Richardson if he's there.

One of the attachments to the memo that you did, Vic, indicated that there was to be a segregated account for any funds received pursuant to any grants or contributions. And I gathered from your memo that we did receive one grant.

9 So did we set up a separate, segregated account 10 and have we accounted for it as the 2008 protocol 11 contemplated? Or was that overlooked as well?

12 MR. RICHARDSON: This is David Richardson. 13 Yes, sir, that was set up as a temporarily restricted 14 fund. And you'll see that in the financial statements. 15 And that is the money --

MR. MADDOX: So when the money came in, then, the controller's office was aware of the protocol and handled the money according to the way the Board resolution or protocol called for?

20 MR. RICHARDSON: That is correct, sir. 21 MR. MADDOX: Okay. So we just didn't have 22 communication between your office and other offices in

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the management structure?

2 MR. RICHARDSON: Not knowing all of the approvals that were provided for this, I would have to 3 4 say yes at this point. MS. REISKIN: Mr. Chairman, this is Julie. 5 6 Whenever it's appropriate, I have something to say. 7 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Go right ahead. 8 MS. REISKIN: I quess, and maybe it's different 9 out here or maybe there's something that I don't 10 understand, but I know that typically in nonprofits these 11 days there's a gift acceptance policy, and the board does 12 that. And I don't know if that might be the Governance 13 Committee. 14 But the board comes up with the gift acceptance 15 policy so that the board doesn't have to vote every time 16 you're accepting something. And then the CEO reports to the board on anything that is obtained or anything that 17 18 you're going after. 19 And so that won't solve this. But in terms of 20 going forward, that might be a more -- that might be 21 something that we want to consider, is doing it that way. 22 That's just a suggestion or an idea.

1 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, Julie, it's John. Ι 2 think that's a great observation. The problem here is 3 it's almost -- it's on the front end. It's even on the 4 request for financial support of any kind. 5 MS. REISKIN: Yes. I understand. I mean, I 6 know it won't solve this problem today. But I'd be happy 7 to work with it because I've just gone through this and 8 gotten consultation on it for my organization. So I'd be 9 happy to share that. 10 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, it's also clear that the protocol itself, I don't think, is that well written so 11 12 that it's not fully understandable. And so we're going 13 -- it may be overboard, again, with respect to the Public 14 Welfare grant here today. 15 But I just want to -- I think we all want to 16 make sure we're operating as appropriately as we should 17 be and can be. And then we'll take care of this going 18 forward. 19 PROFESSOR KECKLER: Mr. Chairman, this is 20 Charles. I completely agree with your comments about the protocol, and the Ops & Regs Committee can take this up 21 22 forthwith. And I think one of the things that we'll want

1 to do is to clarify as well as to simplify the protocol 2 and make it more workable for us to clarify the relationship it has to seeking grants, which I think are 3 4 -- that's quite a different thing, as well as issues of 5 non-monetary contributions. 6 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes. Thank you, Charles. 7 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: This is --8 CHAIRMAN LEVI: And I think, also, as long as 9 we're at it, Charles, I hate to say this to you, but we 10 ought to know what other protocols are out there that 11 might govern us and be an issue for us. And those may 12 have to be looked at, too. 13 PROFESSOR KECKLER: I agree. 14 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: This is Jim Sandman --15 CHAIRMAN LEVI: And then I think the question 16 of, well, going forward, what should our protocol -- what 17 should we -- if we say, well, this is how this Board 18 feels it ought to operate, should the protocols 19 necessarily -- I don't want a future board to trip in the 20 way we apparently did.

21 I'd like them to have an opportunity, when they 22 come in the front door, to say, these work for us. This

1 is what we want to go by. They don't necessarily have to 2 be bound by them. I think that's something that you also 3 ought to talk about in terms of what's appropriate 4 governance here. 5 Maybe there are a few protocols that really 6 ought to be in place, but there may be some that don't 7 need to carry forward. It just happened to be the way 8 our Board wanted to operate, not necessarily some other.

9 PROFESSOR KECKLER: John, I think that's
10 something that's part of any kind of transition planning.
11 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes.

12 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: This is Jim Sandman --13 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Any other comments or questions 14 from -- Jim, anybody there in the room? I can't see it, 15 so --

PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Yes. Yes, this is Jim Sandman. I want to follow up on several comments that have been made about non-monetary contributions and the implicit question whether they are covered by this protocol.

John, you mentioned the services that DLA Piper
is providing in staffing the Pro Bono Task Force. And

1 after you mentioned that, Martha mentioned the Fiscal Oversight Task Force. Well, in connection with the 2 preparation of our financial statements for 2011, my 3 4 understanding is that there was some value attributed to 5 the time spent by members of the Fiscal Oversight Task 6 Force as value provided to the Corporation. And I'm 7 going to ask Dave Richardson here with me if that's 8 correct.

9 MR. RICHARDSON: That is correct. We took the 10 number of hours that were provided to us by the task 11 force members, and we allocated \$500 a day for the 12 donated services that they provided. And we did that 13 based on that's what we pay the consultants who work for 14 us on a routine basis.

15 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: So that suggests that there 16 might be a similar question with regard to services 17 provided by members of the Pro Bono Task Force beyond the 18 services that are being provided by DLA Piper.

MR. RICHARDSON: Pro bono legal services, too, because there's occasions when we asked outside attorneys to help us on a placebo basis.

22 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Yes. I regard that as

different, where they're established an attorney-client relationship with us, as opposed to service on a task force, which I think is more in the nature of consulting services. But that issue is out there in three different ways that have come up on this call.

6 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, the reason I asked it is 7 because I don't see the great difference between paying 8 for a consultant and the consultants willing to donate 9 their time and we accept it. Both are a financial 10 benefit to the Corporation. Both were solicited. 11 MS. MIKVA: This is Laurie Mikva. In some 12 sense, though, didn't the Board authorize some of this 13 stuff when we authorized committees? 14 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Sure. Sure, but we didn't --15 I think that's a question for Vic, but -yes. 16 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Yes. I think -- this is 17 Jim. If I understand Laurie's point, it would be that 18 the Board authorized the formation of the Fiscal 19 Oversight Task Force and the Pro Bono Task Force. And so 20 before anyone was asked to join those and to serve in

21 whatever capacity they're serving, there was Board

22 approval.

1 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Yes. That's true. But I 2 didn't specifically seek approval for asking DLA Piper or 3 accepting DLA Piper's offer to support the task force in 4 a further way, much as though they were the consultant 5 for the Fiscal Oversight Task Force, which was pursuant 6 to a contract, I believe. 7 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: That's correct. It was a 8 contract. 9 CHAIRMAN LEVI: So I put that out there because 10 I say I don't want us to trip on these things. And I 11 think it demonstrates that if there's question, that the 12 protocol itself may be unworkable. 13 But I don't think we have to decide this today. 14 Everybody's getting ready for their holiday season, if 15 they aren't already on it. But I want to make sure that we can get this cleared up before or during our meeting 16 17 in San Diego. 18 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Mr. Chairman, this is Gloria Valencia-Weber. 19 20 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Go ahead. 21 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: I have a comment. 22 Besides what we discussed, on the memorandum of December

1 19th from Vic Fortuno, on the last page under "Matters for Board Action," in that first -- that paragraph, it 2 says, "While the Board has authority to provide 3 4 retroactive approval and the protocol requires Board preapproval" -- it has that statement. 5 6 Then it concludes with, "The protocol is an 7 internal matter of corporate governance, was promulgated 8 by the Board, and is subject to modification by the Board." 9 10 Now, that may be that it's purely an internal 11 matter in the way in which we set a procedure for how 12 we're going to operate as a Board and as a Corporation. 13 And any protocol would not have to be, for instance, 14 published or announced in the federal regs. 15 But I don't regard this totally as an "internal" matter. I think that this is the kind of 16 17 procedure formalized on paper and followed by conduct of the Board and the Corporation that is of interest to 18 19 outside reviewers and outside people in Congress who are 20 interested in how we operate.

21 And I think we really have to be very clear 22 about stating how we chose to undertake to accept gifts

23 1 or to solicit gifts and contributions of any kind, and in 2 what way that procedure is formalized, and then how we 3 have in fact conducted ourselves. 4 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Any other comments or 5 observations? 6 (No response.) 7 CHAIRMAN LEVI: If not, we have -- I guess can 8 we approve the resolutions? Do you want to take them one 9 at a time, or can all three of them be --MS. MIKVA: John, this is Laurie. Do you want 10 to add the DLA Piper to the resolution? Do you think 11 12 it's --13 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, I think we should find 14 out from Vic -- I want to make sure that they tell us --15 that he tells us whether in-kind contributions do not 16 qualify for this. I guess to the extent that they do, we 17 should, but I don't want to necessarily create a 18 precedent that further ties us. 19 MS. MIKVA: I see. You're right. 20 MR. FORTUNO: I think the --21 MS. MIKVA: I would then -- go ahead, Vic. 22 MR. FORTUNO: No, no. Go ahead.

1 MS. MIKVA: No. I was going to move --

2 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Let me read real quick.

3 (Pause)

4 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Vic?

5 MR. FORTUNO: Yes. I was going to say that the 6 protocol is written in a way that contemplates financial 7 contribution because it talks about how they are received 8 and acknowledged. But they could -- but while it's not 9 clear, it could extend to in-kind since we do attach a 10 value to them and, I assume, report them on our tax 11 returns as contributions.

So I think that we ought to take the safe approach and go ahead and, at least for now, include them in the resolution. And then, of course, when the Ops & Regs Committee takes up the resolution as -- the protocol, I should say, as amended, it can determine how it wants to proceed with respect to a recommendation to the Board on modification of the policy.

But right now, to the extent that there's any question, I think we ought to err on the side of caution and just get the ratification of that as well. And what happens going forward can be decided after it's been

1 taken up by the committee and recommended to the Board. 2 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Okay. I think that answers your question, Laurie. 3 4 ΜΟΤΙΟΝ 5 MS. MIKVA: Right. So I would move that the 6 Board accept the resolution, with the addition of the 7 contribution by Piper. Is that the only one we need? 8 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Maybe. And of any task force 9 members who served on either of these task forces. Do we 10 need to do that, Vic? 11 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: This is Jim Sandman. Ι 12 don't -- I'd take the position that we don't since the 13 Board previously authorized the creation of those task 14 forces, with the full understanding that that was going 15 to involve the contribution of donated services by the 16 members of each. CHAIRMAN LEVI: All right. So with that 17 18 addition, any comment? Any further comments or 19 questions? 20 (No response.) 21 CHAIRMAN LEVI: It's getting late over there in 22 Italy, so I think --

1 DEAN MINOW: Happy holidays, everybody. CHAIRMAN LEVI: I'd like to ask for a vote. 2 All in favor? 3 4 (A chorus of ayes.) 5 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Opposed? 6 (No response.) 7 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Abstention? 8 (No response.) 9 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Well, I want to just again 10 thank the Board for convening itself today on this kind 11 of notice and with the holidays approaching. And I want 12 to congratulate Jim Sandman on nearly a year. I want to 13 also say goodbye to Alice Dickerson and thank her for her 14 service. And I wish everybody the happiest of holidays, 15 and see you soon in San Diego. 16 MR. FORTUNO: Thank you. Same to you. 17 MS. MIKVA: Yes. 18 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Happy holidays, everyone. 19 CHAIRMAN LEVI: Is there anything else we need 20 to do? 21 PROFESSOR VALENCIA-WEBER: Take care of 22 yourselves over the holidays.

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1	MOTION	27
2	PROFESSOR KECKLER: I'd move to adjourn.	
3	CHAIRMAN LEVI: Adjourned.	
4	(Whereupon, at 5:31 p.m., the Board meeting	was
5	adjourned.)	
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