



**Legal Services Corporation**

**The F. William McCalpin  
Conference Center Dedication**

**November 19, 2010**

# **The F. William McCalpin Conference Center**

**LSC Chairman  
1980-1981**

**LSC Board Member  
1979-1981, 1993-2003**

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**“The real reward is to have the feeling  
that you’ve made a difference.”**

# Dedication Ceremony

## Order of Events

### Welcoming Remarks

**LSC President Victor M. Fortuno**

### Opening Remarks

**LSC Board Chairman John G. Levi**

### Introduction of Keynote Speaker

**LSC President Fortuno**

### Keynote Address

**The Honorable John T. Broderick Jr.,  
Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court**

### Introduction of David C. McCalpin

**LSC President Fortuno**

### Closing Remarks

**David C. McCalpin**

# F. William McCalpin

## Founding Father, Towering Figure

With the passing of Francis William (Bill) McCalpin on December 9, 2009, the Legal Services Corporation and the civil legal aid community lost a true founding father and towering figure in the ongoing struggle to fulfill America's promise of justice for all.

Bill McCalpin was one of the first chairmen of LSC's Board of Directors and one of its longest-serving members, serving for a total of 13 years over the course of two terms. He first joined the Board in 1979 and served as Chairman from 1980 until the end of his term in 1981. He later sat on the Board for a full decade, from 1993 to 2003. Only one other Board member in LSC history has served longer, and only by a few months.

Bill McCalpin's dedication to the fight for equal justice preceded and extended far beyond his time with LSC.

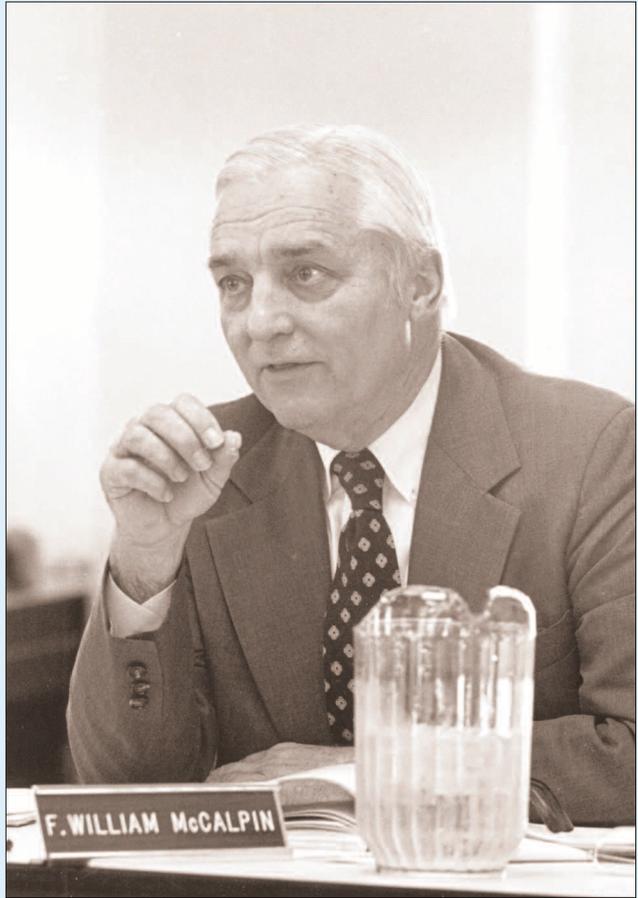
In the summer of 1964, a decade before the establishment of the Corporation, Bill McCalpin was asked by Lewis F. Powell Jr., then-president of the American Bar Association and future Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, to report on efforts underway to include a legal services component in President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty." McCalpin was instrumental in securing the support of the private bar for a federal legal services program—support that was as critical then as it is today.

**“If we shape our endeavors to serve the public first and all else thereafter, we cannot fail.”**

Throughout his life, Bill McCalpin remained a steadfast supporter of civil legal aid at both the national and local levels. His career included service as Chairman of numerous American Bar Association committees and President of the American Bar Foundation, President of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, and head of two legal aid programs in his home state of Missouri.

In 1988, his work earned him the American Bar Association Medal, the highest honor conferred by the group, placing Bill McCalpin in the ranks of America's most famous legal legends.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former colleague on the LSC Board, once said of him, “In my view Bill McCalpin is just one of the heroes of the legal services movement. He has, as much as any private lawyer in the whole country, assured that legal services always had a hearing at the bar, at the Congress or in the state legislatures.” In a letter to him on another occasion, she said, “I wish we could clone you.”



In his own statements, whether testifying before Congress or speaking at an LSC Board meeting, Bill McCalpin was never given to broad or flashy pronouncements. Rather, a single sentence from a long-ago article on the importance of bar support for legal services perhaps best sums up his own view of his role as a lawyer and a participant in the American justice system. “As the bar moves forward,” he wrote, “there are a few polestars to guide the way. If we shape our endeavors to serve the public first and all else thereafter, we cannot fail.”

Today, in honor of F. William McCalpin, the Legal Services Corporation dedicates its Conference Center to the memory and legacy of this man who helped lay the foundation upon which are based all the endeavors—past, present and future—to secure equal access to justice for all Americans.

# F. William McCalpin

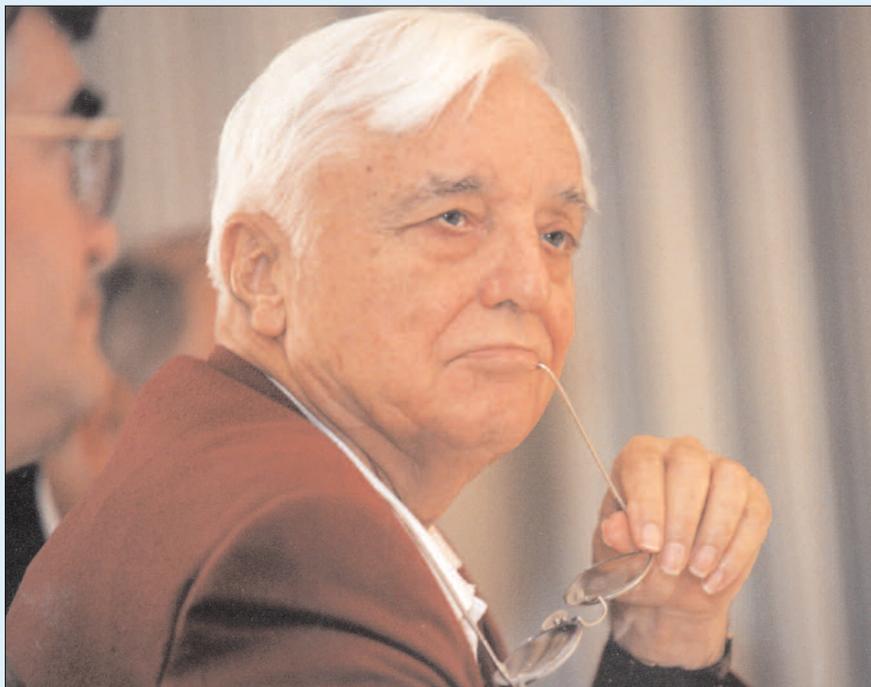
## In Remembrance

*“Bill McCalpin was a very special person. One of the most likeable men I have ever known, he was an extraordinary leader who at various times headed the LSC Board, the NLADA, and the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants. Whether occupying an official position or not, McCalpin was always a vigorous advocate—and when necessary, a fierce defender—of the federal government’s role in providing justice to the poor. Along with the many others who had the opportunity of working with him over the years, I will greatly miss Bill as a person and, along with everyone committed to the goal of equal justice in this land, will miss his wise counsel and outstanding leadership.”*

**—The Honorable Earl Johnson Jr.,  
former Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity Legal Services Program**



**Bill McCalpin, right, testifies on Capitol Hill. From left: ABA President Jerome J. Shestak, Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.) and LSC President Dan J. Bradley.**



McCalpin at an LSC Board of Directors meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in June 2001.

*“Justice Powell in the 1960s appointed Bill McCalpin to be one of the architects for a national Legal Services program. He was a friend of poor people throughout the United States, from Harlem to Appalachia, to Birmingham, Alabama, to the Baja Valley. His wise advice and counsel were sought by Presidents of the United States and United States senators. His heart always belonged to the poor families and children whose suffering was hidden from view. He gave them hope and justice.”*

**—The Honorable Richard B. Teitelman,  
Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court**

*“Bill’s passionate commitment to equal justice for all was reflected in his unstinting support for the Legal Services program. He led by example. His perspective and advice—often delivered with the bluntness of an ex-Marine—were invaluable. He was an immutable force, a towering figure—with an unforgettable twinkle in his eye.”*

**—Douglas S. Eakeley,  
former Chairman of LSC’s Board of Directors**

*“I was humbled and honored to consider Bill McCalpin a friend and mentor. We at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) were so proud that this ‘legend of justice’ was simply Bill to us, our own St. Louis treasure we could talk to and whose good counsel we would seek. Bill came to every event at LSEM he could, once literally leaving the hospital just to join us for an awards luncheon. Every day I pass the F. Wm. McCalpin Wall of Justice that LSEM established in 1999 as a tribute to Bill’s commitment to equal access to justice for all. Bill’s work, like a sturdy wall, has been the foundation upon which all our efforts on behalf of our clients have been built. He is with us always.”*

**—Daniel K. Glazier,  
Executive Director of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri**

*“Bill McCalpin was first and foremost a skilled and careful lawyer who applied his legal acumen to regulations and policies considered by the LSC Board over many years of service. Many LSC regulations indelibly bear the McCalpin mark of clarity and rigorous fealty to the rule of law. Still, it was his passion and advocacy for the legal rights of the poor that seemed to more fully define him as a lawyer and made him a giant in the access to justice movement in our country.”*

**—John McKay,  
former President of LSC**



**Bill McCalpin, far right, stands with colleagues from the LSC Board of Directors nominated by President Clinton. Standing, left to right: Maria Luisa-Mercado, Thomas F. Smegal Jr., LaVeeda Morgan Battle, John N. Erlenborn, Hulett H. Askew and Nancy Hardin Rogers. Seated, left to right: Edna Fairbanks-Williams, Chairman Douglas S. Eakeley and Ernestine P. Watlington.**

*“Bill McCalpin represents the best in the legal profession. He generously gave of his time and talents to insure access to justice for low-income people through legal services for over 40 years. During our tenure on the Board together, he shared with us his gifts of institutional wisdom, literary wit and visionary leadership. America has moved a step closer to living out its creed of equal justice because of Bill McCalpin’s life and service.”*

**—LaVeeda Morgan Battle,  
former member of LSC’s Board of Directors**

# F. William McCalpin

## A Lifetime of Service

- Nov. 8, 1921** Francis William McCalpin is born in St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1942** Graduates from St. Louis University with a bachelor's degree in economics.
- 1942-1945** Serves in the Marines in the Pacific during World War II. He later returns to service in the Marines during the Korean War.
- 1948** Graduates from Harvard Law School and joins the law firm of what is now Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, in St. Louis. Becomes a partner in 1956 and remains with the firm until retiring from active practice in 1991.
- 1964** Is asked by Lewis F. Powell Jr., then-president of the American Bar Association, to chair the ABA Committee on Lawyer Referral Services. McCalpin joins in efforts underway to examine the concept of a federal legal services program and proves crucial to securing support for the concept from the private bar.
- 1965-1970** Serves as Chairman of the ABA Committee on the Availability of Legal Services and Director of the Legal Aid Society of St. Louis.
- 1973-1976** Serves first term as Chairman of the ABA Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants.
- 1977-1978** Serves as President of the Missouri Legal Aid Society.
- 1979-1981** Serves first term as a member of LSC's Board of Directors. Succeeds Hillary Rodham Clinton as Chairman of the Board in 1980 and holds the position until the end of his term.
- 1983-1985** Serves second term as Chairman of the ABA Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants.
- 1984-1986** Serves as President of the American Bar Foundation.
- 1988** Receives the American Bar Association Medal, the organization's highest honor.
- 1989-1992** Serves as President of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association.
- 1993-2003** Serves second term as a member of LSC's Board of Directors.
- 1996-2002** Serves as Chairman of the American Bar Association Committee on Legal Problems of the Elderly.
- 2002-2009** Serves on the Board of Directors of the National Senior Citizens Law Center.
- Dec. 9, 2009** Dies at the age of 88.



## **Board of Directors**

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