



NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES  
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Writer's Direct Dial  
(818) 834-7544**

March 12, 2010

Mattie Cohan  
Senior Assistant General Counsel  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Legal Services Corporation  
3333 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

*Re: Comments on the Legal Services Corporation's Interim Final Rule Implementing  
the Repeal of the Attorneys' Fees Restrictions*

Dear Ms. Cohan:

In response to the February 11, 2010 notice in the *Federal Register* (75 FR 6816), Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLS) submits the following comments on the Legal Services Corporation's (LSC) Interim Final Rule. We appreciate LSC's prompt action in publishing the Interim Final Rule to implement the recent repeal of the statutory restrictions that prohibited LSC recipients on claiming, collecting, or retaining attorneys' fees.

We agree with LSC's elimination of Part 1642 of the LSC regulations, which currently restricts LSC recipients' ability to claim, collect, or retain attorneys' fees. We believe that this action is consistent with the intent of Congress to not reimpose this restriction in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 (2010 Appropriations Act). We fully support LSC's decision to suspend enforcement of the current regulation until the effective date of the Interim Final Rule on March 15, 2010, and to permit LSC recipients and their staff members, after the December 16, 2009 enactment of the 2010 Appropriations Act, to seek attorneys' fees for all work done before or after December 19, 2009, in existing and future cases. As noted by LSC, the removal of the attorneys' fees restriction will give LSC recipients an important strategic tool in representing their clients, as well as a source of funding that will enable them to serve more clients.

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We also agree with LSC's actions to move the provisions of Part 1642 that involve accounting for and use of attorneys' fees and with acceptance and reimbursements for costs and expenses from clients to Part 1609.

We urge LSC to continue its actions unchanged in any Final Rule that is ultimately adopted by LSC. Finally, we appreciate the opportunity to submit our comments on the Interim Final Rule. If you have any questions, please call me at (818) 834-7544.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nu Usaha", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nu Usaha  
Managing Attorney

NU/ddv