



LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
733 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005

Dan J. Bradley
President

Writer's Direct Telephone
(202)

Principles to Guide LSC Reauthorization
Adopted by The Board of Directors

1. The values and principles expressed in the preamble to the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974 -- particularly the need for high quality, professional legal services delivered on an efficient and effective basis independent of partisan politics and for the improvement of opportunities for low income persons -- have proved of vital importance and must be maintained.
2. Legal services clients should have the same rights to advice and representation in civil matters as other clients. As long as resources are inadequate to provide full representation of all eligible clients, priorities must be set, but those priorities should be established at the local level through an assessment of the needs and requests of clients.
3. To ensure that legal services are accountable to and responsive to the needs of eligible clients, those clients should be represented in the decision-making process of local legal services programs and of the Corporation.
4. The Corporation should have maximum flexibility to carry out the basic purpose of the Legal Services Corporation Act -- to provide financial support for legal assistance in noncriminal matters to persons financially unable to afford that assistance.
5. In representing and advising clients, legal services lawyers should be subject only to those restrictions imposed on all attorneys by the applicable code of professional responsibility and the rules of procedures of the courts.
6. Legal services attorneys should not be subject to restrictions on their personal activities unless those restrictions are necessary to carry out their obligations, and the obligations of their programs, to provide legal assistance to eligible clients, or to maintain public confidence in the integrity and independence of the program.

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7. Prohibitions against legal services representation of particular eligible clients, or in specified substantive civil matters, are inconsistent with equal access to our system of justice, and result in the denial of civil legal assistance to individuals who seek redress of their grievances.