

**RESOLUTION
OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MISSISSIPPI CENTER
FOR LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
In Support of Enhanced Private Attorney Involvement
with LSC-Funded Programs**

Whereas, the Legal Services Corporation and the programs it funds, including Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation (MCLSC), have long recognized that the overarching values of private attorney involvement to LSC-funded programs are increased access, increased human and capital resources, and increased pro bono commitment; and

Whereas, at its April 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation adopted Resolution 2007-003 supporting and encouraging private attorney involvement and urging governing boards of LSC-funded programs to collaborate with other organizations to effectively engage lawyers in pro bono representation and other services that benefit low-income persons; and

Whereas, the LSC Board of Directors resolution builds upon the following national LSC initiatives:

- The October 2005 LSC report, Documenting the Justice Gap in America: The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans, which found that 50 percent of the potential clients requesting assistance from an LSC grantee were turned away for lack of resources on the part of the program;
- The LSC Strategic Directions 2006-2010, which calls upon LSC to increase public awareness of and support for legal services to low-income persons in order to respond appropriately to more of their legal needs;
- The LSC Performance Criteria, which considers, in evaluating a program's legal representation and other activities intended to benefit the low-income population in its service area, whether that program effectively integrates private attorneys into its work in order to supplement the amount and effectiveness of its representation and other services;
- The Provision for the Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the LSC Board of Directors 2006 meetings, which highlighted the potential, opportunities and challenges of private attorney involvement and determined ways in which this critical resource can be used more effectively by LSC-funded programs as a means to help close the justice gap;
- The unanimous adoption in January 2007 by LSC Board of Directors of a strategic work plan entitled Action Plan for Private Attorney Involvement: Help Close the Justice Gap, Unleash the Power of Pro Bono, which highlights the benefits of engaging private attorneys to help represent clients of LSC funded programs and describes ways in which the LSC Board and staff will work to expand private

attorney involvement.

- The American Bar Association's Model Rule 6.1 and similar state bar rules note the professional responsibility of every lawyer to provide pro bono legal assistance to persons of limited means;

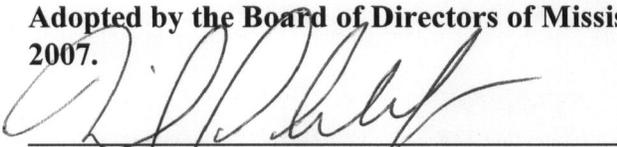
Whereas, in the State of Mississippi, Rule 6.1 Voluntary Pro Bono Public Service encourages attorneys to provide pro bono legal services to the poor and encourages participation in other pro bono service activities that directly relate to the legal needs of the poor; and Rule 6.1 requires mandatory reporting of pro bono hours, or payment in lieu thereof; and the Mississippi Access To Justice Commission supports pro bono involvement and activities to assist persons with limited income; and the Mississippi Bar through the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and other activities, encourages involving private attorneys in assisting legal services programs in the provision of legal assistance to low-income persons;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of MCLSC in an effort to help close the justice gap in Mississippi, supports and encourages private attorney involvement with MCLSC and will endeavor to:

- Collaborate with other organizations and entities in MCLSC's service area to develop and facilitate educational efforts that demonstrate the extent of the unmet civil legal need and encourage collective responsibility within MCLSC's area by both public and private entities to help meet this unmet civil legal need;
- Collaborate with other organizations and entities in MCLSC's service area to develop effective strategies for engaging lawyers in pro bono representation and other services that benefit low-income persons;
- Consider including in that collaboration organizations and entities such as local bar associations, the Mississippi State Bar, the Mississippi Access To Justice Commission, Mississippi College School of Law and Clinics, University of Mississippi Law School and Clinics, Chancery and Circuit Courts, Federal Courts, government and military law offices; and
- Develop strategies that encourage pro bono, including creative recruitment methods and delivery models, attorney practice and continuing legal education rules, and training, mentoring, support, and recognition of volunteers.

Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Directors of MCLSC will promote, support and encourage private attorney involvement initiatives by publicizing and recognizing private attorney involvement in the work of MCLSC and by collaborating with national, state, and local organizations to create opportunities for such publicity and recognition.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Mississippi Center for Legal Services on July 30, 2007.



Board Chair