



NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT**

Whereas, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and the programs it funds, including Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles (NLS-LA), recognize that private attorney involvement with LSC-funded programs serve to increase access to justice within the low income community; and

Whereas, at its April 2007 meeting 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 October 2005 LSC report, *Documenting the Justice Gap in America: The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans*, 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 and that 80 percent of the civil legal needs of low income Americans are not being met;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that:

1. The Board of Directors of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, in an effort to close the justice gap in California, supports and encourages private attorney involvement with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County; and
2. The Board of Directors of NLS-LA will establish a Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Committee that will offer their expertise to develop strategies that encourage pro bono, including creative recruitment methods and delivery models, attorney practice and continuing legal education rules, training, mentoring, support, and recognition of volunteers; and
3. NLS-LA Staff will report back to the Board of Directors by the end of this year with a new, updated NLS-LA PAI Plan to effectively integrate private attorneys into its work in order to supplement the amount and effectiveness of its representation and other services;

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County on April 30, 2009.

Jeffrey I. Ehrlich
President, Board of Directors
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County