



April 17, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Further supplemental funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) is America's oldest and largest nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the delivery of legal services. The Corporate Advisory Committee (CAC) of NLADA consists of general counsel from large corporations who support access to justice.

On March 20, we wrote to you to request that Congress provide supplemental funding for the Legal Services Corporation, whose grantees are now facing a considerable increase in demand for civil legal aid that is certain to persist throughout the pandemic and beyond. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes an appropriation of \$50 million for LSC. This support will ensure that thousands of low-income Americans receive help in legal matters arising from the effects of the pandemic.

We write today to offer our sincere thanks to you for ensuring that the CARES Act provides resources for civil legal aid. We write also to request that you continue to prioritize funding for LSC in any further supplemental funding packages. In our earlier letter, we noted that LSC has estimated its grantees would need \$100 million to effectively respond to the pandemic. Our letter explained that this is because:

"The current pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for legal assistance, as most programs have had to resort to remote access to continue to reach out and serve their communities. Outreach to many populations being served is particularly challenging at this time, as Native Americans, the homeless, and many remote rural populations are not able to communicate virtually with their legal aid programs."

"The full breadth of this crisis for legal services clients and organizations is still becoming clear. However, numerous serious consequences are already in focus. We anticipate increases in domestic violence, employment and wage concerns, access to health care needs, consumer scams and rip offs, elder abuse, housing problems and homelessness, and a host of other issues that require legal assistance.

In order to more fully meet these challenges, we respectfully urge you to provide at least \$50 million in further supplemental funding for LSC. We thank you again for your strong support of access to justice for all at this critical moment.

Sincerely,

Jo-Ann Wallace

President & CEO
National Legal Aid &
Defender Association

Max Laun

retired Vice President
and General Counsel
Arconic
*Chair, NLADA Corporate
Advisory Committee*

John Schultz

Executive Vice President
and Chief Legal and
Administrative Officer
Hewlett Packard
Enterprise
*Immediate Past Chair,
NLADA Corporate
Advisory Committee*