



Corporate Advisory Committee

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Emergency supplemental funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to deal with 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.

Legal aid programs across the United States are facing serious challenges in responding to the enormous legal needs generated by the pandemic. LSC estimates that \$100 million in additional funding will be required in order to begin to meet these needs. We urge you to provide this critical support to help providers address this unprecedented crisis.

LSC grantees provide legal help to individuals in every ZIP code who have problems affecting their most basic human needs. This includes families who are in danger of losing their homes, veterans returning from military service, victims of domestic violence, older Americans, and individuals affected by natural disasters. 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.

COVID-19 is a public health emergency, but its social and economic consequences will be equally devastating. Legal services organizations are the first responders to these consequences, and we must ensure that they are provided the tools and resources they need to protect those in our communities who are hardest hit by this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Jo-Ann Wallace
President & CEO
National Legal Aid &
Defender Association

Max Laun
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*