



September 15, 2006

**President**  
Helaine M. Barnett

**Board of Directors**  
Frank B. Strickland  
Atlanta, GA  
Chairman

Lillian R. BeVier  
Charlottesville, VA  
Vice Chairman

Thomas A. Fuentes  
Lake Forest, CA

Herbert S. Garten  
Baltimore, MD

David Hall  
Stoughton, MA

Michael D. McKay  
Seattle, WA

Thomas R. Meites  
Chicago, IL

Bernice Phillips  
Buffalo, NY

Sarah M. Singleton  
Santa Fe, NM

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner:

Thank you for your letter of September 13, 2006 to LSC President Helaine M. Barnett informing the Legal Services Corporation of a legislative hearing on H.R. 5974 on September 20 and inviting President Barnett to testify.

After consulting with other members of LSC's Board of Directors, we believe it is more appropriate for Members of the Board to testify on H.R. 5974. We believe that it is not appropriate for President Barnett to testify on legislation relating to the Board of Directors' authority. Vice Chairman Lillian BeVier, Board Member Michael McKay, and I are all interested in testifying. Unfortunately, none of us will be available on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Accordingly, we respectfully request that the hearing be rescheduled to a mutually convenient date.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank B. Strickland  
Chairman

cc: Chairman Chris Cannon  
Representative Melvin L. Watt  
LSC President Helaine M. Barnett



September 22, 2006

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner:

**President**

Helaine M. Barnett

**Board of Directors**

Frank B. Strickland  
Atlanta, GA  
*Chairman*

Lillian R. BeVier  
Charlottesville, VA  
*Vice Chairman*

Jonann C. Chiles  
Little Rock, AR

Thomas A. Fuentes  
Lake Forest, CA

Herbert S. Garten  
Baltimore, MD

David Hall  
Stoughton, MA

Michael D. McKay  
Seattle, WA

Thomas R. Meites  
Chicago, IL

Bernice Phillips  
Buffalo, NY

Sarah M. Singleton  
Santa Fe, NM

Thank you for your letter of September 19, 2006, inviting me to testify at a legislative hearing on September 26, 2006, on H.R. 6101, legislation relating to the authority of the Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors to remove the Corporation's Inspector General.

I want very much to be responsive to and fully cooperate with the Committee, to assist the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law in this and any other inquiries, and to assure you of LSC's continued good faith cooperation. LSC Chairman Frank Strickland wrote you last week stating that it was appropriate for the LSC Board to speak on this subject, noting that three Board members were willing to testify. The Chairman and other members of the Board have stated that it is inappropriate for me to testify on legislation relating to the Board's authority. I understand that Chairman Strickland is planning to testify on behalf of LSC at the September 26<sup>th</sup> hearing. Given Chairman Strickland's letter and the Board's decision at its meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> that the Board should speak on this subject, I am not in a position to accept your invitation to testify at this legislative hearing.

Moreover, the investigation by the LSC Inspector General requested by Chairmen Cannon, Enzi and Grassley (which includes specific allegations about some of my actions) is still pending and not complete. Accordingly, in order not to appear to be attempting to affect the outcome of the ongoing investigation, I should not at this time testify as to the working relationship between Management and the OIG. Once the OIG's investigation is completed and he has issued his final reports, I welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee at an oversight hearing and otherwise to assist the Committee in its oversight efforts of the Legal Services Corporation in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Helaine M. Barnett  
President

cc: Chairman Chris Cannon  
Representative Melvin L. Watt  
Representative John Conyers, Jr.  
LSC Chairman, Frank B. Strickland



September 26, 2006

The Honorable Chris Cannon  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commercial and  
Administrative Law  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

President  
Helaine M. Barnett

Board of Directors  
Frank B. Strickland  
Atlanta, GA  
Chairman

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Baltimore, MD

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Seattle, WA

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Chicago, IL

Bernice Phillips  
Buffalo, NY

Sarah M. Singleton  
Santa Fe, NM

Dear Congressman Cannon:

Thank you for your letter of September 25, 2006. I very much wish to assist the Subcommittee in its oversight of the Legal Services Corporation.

As I indicated in my September 22<sup>nd</sup> letter to Chairman Sensenbrenner, Frank Strickland, Chairman of the Board of the Legal Services Corporation, informed Chairman Sensenbrenner that it was not appropriate for me as President to testify at the September 26<sup>th</sup> hearing given the subject of this hearing, legislation relating to the Board's authority. I am also concerned about offering testimony regarding the relationship with the Inspector General while his investigation (which includes allegations about some of my actions) is pending. Indeed, the IG in his written statement to this Committee found "highly questionable" the Board's decision to provide "informal feedback" while the IG was investigating allegations regarding the Board. The IG stated such commentary could be perceived as an attempt to influence his report. I do not want to prompt similar concerns by testifying while the IG's investigation is pending.

I stand ready to appear before the Committee at a subsequent oversight hearing on the Legal Services Corporation. You can be assured of my full cooperation in scheduling and participating in such a hearing.

Sincerely,

Helaine M. Barnett  
President

cc: Representative Melvin L. Watt