

# Conference of Chief Justices Conference of State Court Administrators

Government Relations Office  
111 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(866) 941-0229  
FAX: (202) 544-0978

**CCJ PRESIDENT**  
Honorable Eric T. Washington  
Chief Judge  
District of Columbia Court of Appeals  
430 E Street, NW, Suite 319  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 879-2770  
(202) 824-8580 (fax)

**COSCA PRESIDENT**  
Rosalyn W. Frierson  
State Court Administrator  
South Carolina Judicial  
Department  
1015 Sumter Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 734-1802  
(803) 734-1355 (fax)

June 22, 2012

Mr. James J. Sandman  
President  
Legal Services Corporation  
3333 K Street, NW  
3rd Floor  
Washington, DC 20007-3522

Dear Mr. Sandman:

On behalf of the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, we respond to the recent notice in the Federal Register whereby the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Board of Directors is seeking public comment on the LSC Budget for FY 2014.

We trust the Board is well aware that the Conferences have adopted a series of resolutions in 2002, 2009, 2011, and 2012 in support of funding for the Legal Services Corporation. In addition, several weeks ago, the Conferences published a white paper report on “The Importance of Funding for the Legal Services Corporation.”

It is clear from our white paper research that the depressed national economy is spawning an increase in citizen poverty with a concomitant multiplication of civil legal problems for low-income people. Due to federal budget cuts in recent years, LSC and local legal service providers are forced to cut back legal assistance rather than increase capacity. Hence more and more citizens are self-represented in cases with stakes involving family stability, healthcare, shelter, and livelihood. In addition, court budgets are shrinking in most states thereby causing many trial judges to manage cases with reduced resources.

Mr. James J. Sandman  
June 22, 2012  
Page 2

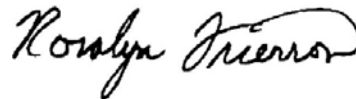
Truly, the adversarial foundation of our justice system is in crisis. In this context, we urge LSC leaders to seek from Congress and the President a FY 2014 appropriation that is substantially above LSC's current appropriations level.

After LSC submits its next budget request to federal policy makers, we are confident that the Conferences will continue to champion the importance of LSC programs to the administration of justice in our country.

Sincerely,



Chief Judge Eric T. Washington  
President  
Conference of Chief Justices



Director Rosalyn W. Frierson  
President  
Conference of State Court Administrators