

# Board Moves Forward With Task Forces, Outreach

In 2011, facing cuts in funding and ever-increasing demand for civil legal assistance, the Legal Services Corporation and its grantees redoubled their efforts to further LSC's mission to provide equal access to justice.

Our board of directors launched an important new initiative by creating a Pro Bono Task Force, co-chaired by Martha Minow, dean of the Harvard Law School and vice chair of the LSC Board, and Harry J.F. Korrell III, an LSC board member and partner in the Seattle office of Davis Wright Tremaine.

The 58-member task force included prominent judges, law firm leaders, law school deans, legal services lawyers, bar association leaders, and pro bono experts.

Divided into five working groups, these distinguished leaders were tasked with coming up with innovative recommendations to increase pro bono in a measureable way.

DLA Piper provided professional and administrative support, and Lisa Dewey, pro bono partner at DLA Piper, served as a consultant to the task force.

The board also received and adopted the report from another distinguished task force—the Special Task Force on Fiscal Oversight.

Formed in 2010 and co-chaired by board members Robert J. Grey, Jr. and Victor B. Maddox, the 17-member task force urged a more risk-based, integrated approach to financial oversight that we are confident will produce a more effective system of monitoring the proper use of funding by LSC's grantees and a more efficient delivery of legal services to clients.

As is its custom, the board held three of its four quarterly meetings outside Washington D.C.—this year in Illinois, Virginia and Washington state.

We were privileged to hear from executive



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directors and other representatives of LSC-funded programs in those states and from Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Oregon, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

We received fantastic presentations on an array of topics, including pro bono, technology, court helpdesks, law school clinical education, and Native American courts. And we convened other panels on a variety of topics, including foreclosure, veterans' rights, domestic violence, and consumer issues.

What we learned is that despite its many challenges, 2011 was also a year of opportunity and achievement, thanks to the imagination, energy, and effort of the LSC community.

We were reminded why such commitment is so important at our Seattle board meeting by the stirring [remarks of Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Madsen](#):

"Justice is a paramount duty of government. It is the first order of business in our federal constitution. Ensuring civil equal justice is a joint federal-state responsibility....

Let us all pledge that we will do all we can do to protect the promise of our democracy.

That we will work to ensure justice, and access to justice, for all and that we will work to ensure that this unique federal-state partnership for justice endures."

John G. Levi  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Legal Services Corporation  
July 26, 2012