

Melanne Verveer

June -
For Friday
Speech -

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION DINNER
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUGUST 1, 1996**

[Acknowledgments: Roberta Ramo, ABA president; Raquel Rodriguez, chair of Young Lawyers Division; Bob Geltzer, event coordinator, who will introduce you.]

Thank you. I am very honored to receive this award and to be counted among such a distinguished group of past recipients and lawyers.

You know, after reading Art Buchwald's syndicated column the other day, I was a little worried about coming here and being seen with so many lawyers. Mr. Buchwald says that the one reason I've been getting so much criticism these days isn't because I'm Bill Clinton's wife, or a Democrat, or a Chicago Cubs fan; it's because I'm a lawyer.

But seriously, I am delighted that I could join all of you - the members, fellows, and supporters of the Young Lawyers Division -- tonight.

I want to thank you for the passion and commitment you bring to serving our communities and to helping all members of our profession fulfill our most important purpose -- that of making our society more just, and justice more accessible to all our citizens.

Through such efforts as the Affiliate Outreach Project, the Greater Access and Assistance Project, and the Disaster Legal Services Committee, you have helped countless Americans resolve disputes, overcome problems large and small, and in turn, gain a greater respect for our country's system of justice.

I want especially to thank you for your continuing commitment to the Center on Children and the Law. I am convinced that the persistent and heartbreaking problems of child abuse, neglect, and foster care must be addressed seriously by lawyers. It can't be left to overburdened social workers who are trying to do their best under very tough circumstances. Lawyers can and should be leaders in the effort to develop laws and legal precedents that protect children and strengthen families.

As all of you here tonight have already found out, the most valuable reward of a Juris Doctor isn't necessarily a six-figure salary or a precise knowledge of the tax code. Rather it's the power to serve others in our community, to help those who have no voice, who do not have the means or the skills to seek justice for themselves and for their families.

"Freedom. Justice. Liberty. Without lawyers they're only

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words" is the theme you are exploring and celebrating at this year's convention. For millions of Americans, "freedom, justice, and liberty" will certainly mean little if Congress succeeds in its short-sighted crusade to destroy a once-bipartisan, 22-year old American institution, the Legal Services Corporation.

From the very beginning, the Legal Services Corporation has had to weather many challenges to its existence. I know from my own experience.

I was just one year out of law school when President Nixon signed the bipartisan bill creating the Legal Services Corporation in 1974. My service on the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry into President Nixon and I needed to find a new job. I decided to call the dean of the law school at the University of Arkansas -- where a young man I knew from Yale was also teaching -- and asked him if his long-standing offer of a professorship was still open. The dean said yes. But when I asked him what he wanted me to teach, he answered, "I don't know. I'll tell you when you get here."

Two weeks later, I arrived in a place where I had never lived to take a job I knew nothing about. [Love can do strange things to a person.] When I went to see the dean, he said, "Well I've given this some thought. I want you to teach criminal law. I want you to run the prison projects at the state and federal prisons. I want you to teach trial advocacy. Oh, and by the way, I want you to set up and run the new legal aid clinic."

I was already feeling a little overwhelmed and daunted when I met a prominent judge at the local bar association's welcoming cocktail party for the law faculty. The president of the bar introduced me to the judge saying, "Judge, this is the new lady law professor. She is going to teach criminal law and run the legal aid clinic." And this tall, distinguished man with a handlebar gray mustache looked down at me and said, "Well, I don't have any use for lady law professors or legal aid clinics, but we're glad to have you here anyway."

I didn't have too much time to let the doubts about my career choice chase me out of Arkansas, because classes started the next day. And I went to work -- desperately trying to stay at least one class ahead of my students, furiously filling out all the paperwork to create the legal aid clinic, and recruiting students and volunteers to help. I believed firmly that having the opportunity to represent real-life clients with real problems would be an important part of my students' education.

While I have met many more people like that judge over the past 22 years, legal aid societies have become a part of American life. Last year, legal services programs throughout the country helped five million people who otherwise could not afford legal assistance with evictions, divorces, and child support collections. As most of you know and have first-hand experience

with -- the vast majority of these cases require little more than basic advice, a referral, a patient ear, a letter, or a phone call to solve the problem. Very few cases need to be resolved in the courts.

As President Nixon said when he first proposed the legal services legislation, "These are small claims in the Nation's eye, but they loom large in the hearts and lives of poor Americans."

And from my own experiences, not just as a legal aid lawyer, but also as a former chair of the Legal Services Corporation, I know how simple assistance can head off more complicated problems.

[add personal experiences here?]

As you know, the very survival of the Legal Services Corporation hangs in the balance. This Spring, despite strong efforts by the Administration, the ABA, and countless others around the country, Congress slashed funding for Legal Services by one third. Congress ^{also} tied the hands of legal aid lawyers by banning them from filing class action suits. And even more troubling, the same Congress that touts less federal involvement in local programs restricted the funds that legal aid programs are allowed to raise from private sources.

Language about restriction

This summer, congressional opponents are continuing their effort to eliminate legal services. A House committee voted to slash funding in the new budget by another \$100 million to \$178. But there are some on both sides of the aisle who are working to prevent further harm. Last month, the house passed a bipartisan amendment to restore most of that funding. The Senate voted to increase funding for 1997 by \$10 million. Hopefully, Congress will at least hold the line on any further debilitating cuts while we await a time when a greater commitment to legal services and "justice for all" will be possible.

planned restriction - a very significant vote

I want to thank the ABA for the leadership you have provided over this past year in the effort to save legal services. And I want to thank all the private law firms, local bar associations and individual lawyers for stepping in to fill at least some of the void created by the drastic cuts. As you already know, pro-bono hours and donations have long been part of the legal services equation. There are always more people than can be helped.

The effort to undermine legal services hasn't just hurt millions of poor Americans with legal troubles or the hundreds of dedicated lawyers who have lost jobs they loved. It has harmed our society's fundamental commitment to justice, to law, and to progress.

I believe that our society and our profession became truer

* 1/4 of LSC's profile staff have left,
over 100 offices have been closed + 1000, 5 of
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in a remarkable
vote,

3

approved \$288 m. Eventually
the House & Senate levels will
have to be reconciled

to
\$278
million

This summer
action
on the
FY 97
budget

the
effort
to
save
LSC
265247

the FY 96 appropriations
adopted last
year

language
about
restriction

are trying
need
again

\$80
almost
\$200
million
less than
in
Pres.
budget
request
\$340
m.

The magnitude of the problem
is apparent in the area of
domestic abuse. The President
noted last week in Calif:

~~Mr. Nat'l Legal Services~~ according to.
Legal Services
"in every 3 cases they handle is a
family law case - 1-3."

In 1995 59,000 of them were
attempts by poor women to get legal
protection from abusive husbands,
9300 of them involved neglected +
abused children. "If we want to
protect people vs domestic violence,
we must not destroy the LSC, we
ought to let them do their jobs
so they can help the rest of us
protect people."

yesterday in a letter to the Senate
~~white paper~~ strongly
the Admin. once again urged
the Committee to provide \$340m
to carry out LSC's mission to provide
the ^{National} poor with access to the judicial system

and over again
affected persons
with the
existing
restriction

to our fundamental values with the founding of the Legal Services Corporation 22 years ago. The thousands of legal aid lawyers and the many more thousands of private lawyers who donate time to legal aid work are the heart and soul of our profession. They are helping our country uphold the one true contract individuals have with America -- the Constitution, and specifically its promise of justice for all.

As the President said in a proclamation for National Legal Services Week: "The very nature of justice demands that it be available to all. True justice cannot be rationed -- it cannot be accorded to some while others are denied the full benefit of their rights. Our founders understood that privilege and responsibility are inextricably linked. The words "Equal Justice under the Law," inscribed over the portal of our highest court, represent a solemn promise made to every American."

Each time a legal aid lawyer helps a mother petition for child support, or forces a nursing home to live up to its obligations to its elderly residents, this country and our profession move closer to our ideals. I'm not asking all of you to go out and become legal aid lawyers. I'm just asking that all of us consider what it means to be a lawyer today and what it would mean to our profession if none of us were able to be legal aid lawyers. A career in the law should mean a life of service and a commitment to justice, whether it is in a legal aid office, a classroom, or a law firm.

As the Fellows and former "Young Lawyers" in this room will tell you, one of the wonderful things about growing older is discovering that the struggle for progress is often as important, if not more so, than the end result. At some point, however idealistic we may be or have been, we accept that the principles of fairness, justice, and equality often become flawed in their application. We accept that we will not solve all the problems we see in our lifetime. But we keep striving, we keep struggling for these ideals that we believe must be kept alive. We remain committed to the promise of a better future.

As so many of you already know, and as many of you are learning, the cause of justice is worth a lifelong struggle. I commend you for being willing, in times that are not always favorable to lawyers, to play leadership roles in a profession that is so essential to the continue vitality of our country's cherished ideals.

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My minister gave a sermon recently in which he related the story in Leviticus about the ancient Israelites who annually placed all of their miseries and sins on the head of a goat and then sent the goat off into the wilderness. When the goat reached the wilderness, the tribe was cleansed of all problems, all evils, all sins. This is an apt parable for what is happening in America today. In today's society, the goat is poor children and their parents. And somehow, we think we can rid ourselves of all our social problems by scapegoating children and exiling them to a wilderness of greater poverty and hopelessness.

So today we find ourselves at a crucial moment in our own history when the very notion of what we stand for as a society is at stake. Our Constitution reminds us that the twin purposes of government are to "secure the blessings of liberty" and to "establish justice."

And, as the President said in last year's Proclamation for National Legal Services Week: "The very nature of justice demands that it be available to all. True justice cannot be rationed -- it cannot be accorded to some while others are denied the full benefit of their rights. Our Founders understood that privilege and responsibility are inextricably linked. The words "Equal Justice under the Law," inscribed over the portal of our highest court, represent a solemn promise made to every American."

Yet today we find in Congress a broad and mean-spirited attack on the poor and vulnerable that includes the greatest threat to the Legal Services program we have ever seen.

Whether we are public service or pro bono lawyers, public servants or concerned citizens, we must join together to defend and strengthen the American promise of equal justice. This should not be a partisan cause, but rather one that speaks to the larger values and aspirations of our society.

Many organizations represented here tonight have already made their voices heard, and the President and I applaud you for speaking out about the importance of the Legal Services program.

I hope all of you will join in reminding America that the Legal Services program is not just about providing legal help for the poor, but about offering proof that the American dream of freedom and justice is a promise that our nation is committed to fulfilling.

Let me conclude by offering a prayer by the South African writer and poet, Alan Paton, that seems so fitting tonight:

Open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be without succor;

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Established the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence. The Commission consists of 17 national leaders in such fields as law, medicine, social work, law enforcement and education.

Led the ABA Delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and participated in an ABA sponsored workshop on legislative responses to domestic violence. Representatives of nine countries worked with the ABA to address common issues and unique solutions to domestic violence issues.

Produced in partnership with The Walt Disney Company a video entitled "It's Not O.K.: Let's Talk About Domestic Violence." The video is designed to reach children who have been exposed to incidents of domestic violence. It has been used as a training tool by the New York State Family Courts, the California District Attorney's Association and is being shown to all 13,000 members of the Chicago Police Force.

Produced a handbook for lawyers entitled The Impact of Domestic Violence on Your Legal Practice. The handbook, a first of its kind, recognizes that all attorneys need to be able to recognize the issues surrounding domestic violence and be prepared to respond regardless of their usual area of practice.

Serves on the Attorney General's and Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Council on Violence Against Women

LEGAL SERVICES

Led the ABA's campaign to save the Legal Services Corporation. Mobilized lawyers across the country into taking an active role in working to preserve access to justice for all Americans.

RESOURCE TEAM

Established in response to the O.J. Simpson trial an ABA Resource Team for High Profile Trials. The Team consists of judges, defense counsel, prosecutors, academics and media representatives. It serves to improve the fair and efficient administration of justice in high-profile trials and enhance public confidence in the American justice system. It has already been contacted in the Oklahoma City bombing case.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

Worked to defend the independence of the judiciary in light of increasing attacks on federal judges. Called on all politicians to not weaken the judicial system by using judges as scapegoats for national problems such as crime.

*BAK
Saw her
in Beijing
worked with
her on
following*

ABA-RELATED INITIATIVES

Established task forces to examine the way the ABA carries out its mission. Led a renewed effort to address membership as the Association's top priority which has resulted in an increase in membership numbers over last year.

ANNUAL MEETING

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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Appeared with Mickey Mouse in promos for the Annual Meeting.

15 seconds on Oprah discussing the courts' response to children in homes where there is domestic violence

ABA president who, during a trip to London, predicted on the first day of jury deliberations in the most celebrated and controversial case in American history that a verdict would be a long time coming, only to reappear that evening when a verdict had been reached.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
DALLAS, TEXAS
MARCH 5, 1996

[Acknowledgments: Gerald Turner, SMU President; Paul Rogers, Dean of Law School; Todd Gilbert, President of Student Bar Association; Jackie Gabbidon, [GAB-id-din] Vice-President of Student Bar Association]

Friends, colleagues, and fellow lawyers; future lawyers and teachers of the law who are here this evening: Thank-you very much for inviting me to give this eighteenth annual Roy Ray Lecture.

I welcome this opportunity because it gives me a chance to reflect on what a legal education and a career in the law has meant in my life -- and could mean in the lives of the students here in this room. It is also an opportunity to think about the ways a legal career can fulfill its most important purpose -- to be an instrument of good, a vehicle for making our society a more just one for all citizens.

I went to law school in the early 1970s, during a time of great political and social ferment. To me and many aspiring lawyers of my generation, law was an avenue for positive social change. For helping the vulnerable, the weak, the poor. For protecting the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Then, as now, there were many ways to reach one's goals as a lawyer. One could become an advocate, a legislator, a teacher, a corporate litigator, a prosecutor, or a public defender. I'm sure all of those choices will be reflected in the careers you choose when you leave here. And I know how difficult that choice can be because I've tried a number of those careers myself.

But being here on a law school campus, I'm reminded mostly of my experiences as a law professor in Arkansas.

I had never thought of teaching law until the summer of 1974, when my service on the House impeachment committee was ending and I needed to find a new job. I decided to call the dean of the law school at the University of Arkansas -- where a young man I knew was then teaching -- and took the dean up on his long-standing offer of a professorship. When I asked him what he wanted me to teach, he answered, "I don't know. I'll tell you when you get here."

I showed up in Fayetteville in August 1974. And he said, "Well, I want you to teach criminal law and run the legal aid clinic, and run the prison projects at the state and federal prisons, and by the way, I want you to teach trial advocacy, too." I swallowed hard and immediately began trying to figure out how to start.

The very first evening I was in town, I was invited to the county bar association's welcoming cocktail party for the law school faculty. The President of the Bar took me around to meet everyone. He introduced me to one of the senior judges by saying, "Judge, this is the new lady law professor. She is going to teach criminal law and run the legal aid clinic." The judge looked down at me and said, "Well, I don't have any use for either lady law professors or legal aid clinics."

In the years since that cocktail party, I have met many people like that judge who do not believe in legal services for people who could not afford them. But despite those opponents, the Legal Services Corporation, which was founded by bipartisan Congress and signed into law by President Nixon to fund local legal aid programs, still managed to help millions of Americans.

After twenty-two years, legal aid societies have become a part of American life. The Legal Services Corporation is one of the instruments our society has to nurture and practice one of its most cherished ideals -- that of justice for all Americans.

Last year, legal services programs helped 5 million people who otherwise could not afford legal assistance. The vast majority of cases handled were non-controversial: evictions, foreclosures, divorces. Often advice, a referral, a few letters or phone calls were enough to solve the problem. Very few of these cases needed to be resolved in the courts.

From my own experience as founder of Ozarks Legal Services in Arkansas and as a former chair of the Legal Services Corporation, I know how such simple assistance can head off more complicated legal troubles and make a world of difference in the lives of clients.

But today, the very survival of the Legal Services Corporation hangs in the balance. Over the past year, opponents in Congress have tried to cut funding. Still other members are determined to kill this vital institution. As of the first of this year, funding for the Legal Services Corporation in a temporary spending measure was slashed by one-third. LSC's final fate will be determined later this year.

While private law firms, bar associations, and individual lawyers have increased their donations and pro-bono hours to make up for some of the lost funds, Legal Aid societies still have had to scale back dramatically on the number of cases they accept. Entire offices have closed. Many lawyers have been laid-off.

What that means for American citizens who happen to be poor is that somewhere a couple and their young children must sleep in an unheated car because of an unlawful eviction; a woman is cowering in her bedroom, trapped in a marriage to an abusive spouse; and a child is going to school hungry because his father refuses to pay child support. Under the Congressional cuts, some 1.3 million people will be denied help.

Congress is also trying to tie the hands of legal aid lawyers by banning them from

*Fellowship
Division
Award*

filing class action suits. Legal aid lawyers would not be able to bring suits on behalf of a group of poor citizens who want to challenge unfair housing practices or consumer fraud. Legal services lawyers also would not be able to participate in cases involving welfare reform and would be prohibited from lobbying legislatures or governments.

You may be asking how this debate over the very existence of the Legal Services Corporation affects you -- our nation's future lawyers. Well, it has to do with our society's fundamental commitment to justice, to law, and to progress.

A famous law school dean [Roscoe Pound, Harvard] once said: "Law must be stable, and yet it cannot stand still." He meant that law must evolve with the times, offering the security of permanence and hope for change.

I believe that our society became more just and our profession became truer to its fundamental mission with the founding of the Legal Services Corporation 22 years ago. The thousands of legal aid lawyers and the many more thousands of private lawyers who donate time to legal aid work are the heart and soul of our profession. They are helping our country uphold the one true contract individuals have with America -- the Constitution, and specifically, its promise of justice for all.

Each time a legal aid lawyer helps a mother petition for child support, or forces a nursing home to live up to its contract of taking care of its elderly residents, this country, this society lives closer to its ideals.

I'm not asking all of you to become legal aid lawyers. I'm just asking you to consider how the law can and does affect the daily lives of people at every level of society. A career in the law should mean a life of service and a commitment to justice. These ideals are embodied in the work of the Legal Services Corporation, which in the current political climate needs your support more than ever.

One of the most wonderful things about growing older is discovering that the struggle for progress in our society is often as important as the end result.

At some point, however idealistic we may be, we accept that the principles of fairness, justice, and equality often become flawed in their application. We accept that we will not solve all problems in our lifetimes.

But we keep striving, keep struggling for these ideals because we have to keep alive commitment and hope for the next generation.

As so many of you already now, and as so many of you will learn, the cause of justice is worth a lifelong struggle. Thank-you.

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1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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July 30, 1996, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: STYLE; Pg. E01; ART BUCHWALD

LENGTH: 505 words

HEADLINE: That's No Lawyer, That's My Wife

BYLINE: Art Buchwald, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

BODY:

Republicans are trying desperately to make Hillary Clinton the political issue of the campaign. I know this because I keep hearing from people who ask when I'm going to stop bashing Bob Dole and begin pummeling the first lady.

The policy of this column is to defend first ladies, no matter what political party they are affiliated with. This is because, without exception, they are much brighter than their spouses, and America needs them to keep their husbands from screwing up the country.

Mrs. Clinton has created more heat than most presidential wives, and we need to examine why.

Her problem is not that she is married to the president, or even that she is one of the most active first ladies we have had -- but rather that Mrs. Clinton is a lawyer.

This is not a sexist thing. Lawyers can get into trouble just because they are destined to be the wife of the president of the United States.

During all the time she practiced law with the Rose firm in Arkansas, she probably never said to herself, "I better be careful about how I handle this because someday I'm going to be first lady and the special prosecutor will wonder what kind of advice I gave my clients."

In retrospect, it is regrettable that some of Mrs. Clinton's clients turned out to be scoundrels, but scoundrels are what pay a law firm's rent. As a lawyer, Mrs. Clinton had only one role, and that was to save her clients from going to jail.

But now she is being criticized for doing even that. Isn't this what lawyers get paid to do? If she had stayed in Little Rock nobody would have cared if Mrs. Clinton had left her fingerprints on the billing records. It was only when she moved to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. that her Rose Law Firm work took on a new significance. I doubt that there's a lawyer in America who could withstand the kind of scrutiny she has been subjected to concerning the defense of a client.

Ever since the heat has been on Hillary Clinton, people who hate lawyers (and

The Washington Post, July 30, 1996

we're talking tens of millions) have come to believe that she did something wrong.

I don't subscribe to this. Just because some of her clients were scalawags does not detract from the fact that she is a fine first lady. Any lawyer in Arkansas would have done the same things she did -- and probably has.

As for Mrs. Clinton's Whitewater investment -- the whole country knows that it was lousy. In hindsight, if the president and first lady had their druthers, they would have invested in Mozambique Telephone Bonds.

If we were to question further the animosity toward Mrs. Clinton, we would probably discover that it was because many people think that she is smarter than her husband. Even if this is true, and I'm not saying it is, it is a mistake to criticize her. Having an intelligent female lawyer in the White House is a big plus for the country, and we will all benefit from it.

When someone tells the president, "My country right or wrong," only a woman's legal advice could instruct him on what would be the right thing to do.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 30, 1996

U. ALEXIS JOHNSON, Career Ambassador, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Department of State.

DR. EDWARD F. KNIPLING, Director, Entomology Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture.

DR. FRED LEONARD, Scientific Director, Army Medical Biomechanical Research Laboratory, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Department of the Army.

GEORGE H. WILLIS, Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Department of the Treasury.

These individuals are outstanding among the many men and women who serve their country and fellow citizens

with great distinction. Their exceptional achievements have moved the Nation forward in such diverse fields as budgeting and finance, international relations, environmental science, lifesaving surgical techniques, and the world's monetary system. I know all of you share my gratitude for their superlative, although usually anonymous services to their country.

RICHARD NIXON

NOTE: The memorandum was dated May 4, 1971, and released May 5.

The President presented the awards for 1971 in a ceremony at the White House on May 5.

159 Special Message to the Congress Proposing Establishment of a Legal Services Corporation. May 5, 1971

To the Congress of the United States:

In the long, uphill struggle to secure equal rights in America, the Federal program of legal services for the poor is a relative newcomer to the cause. Yet it has already become a workhorse in this effort, pulling briskly and tirelessly at the task as the Nation moves ahead.

The legal services program began six years ago as a small experiment within the Office of Economic Opportunity. It grew swiftly, so rapidly that today more than 2000 lawyers work for the poor in some 900 neighborhood law offices. No less than a million cases a year are now processed by these dedicated attorneys, with each case giving those in need new reason to believe that they too are part of "the system."

A large measure of credit is due the organized bar. Acting in accordance with the highest standards of its profession, it has given admirable and consistent sup-

port to the legal services concept. The concept has also had the support of both political parties.

The crux of the program, however, remains in the neighborhood law office. Here each day the old, the unemployed, the underprivileged, and the largely forgotten people of our Nation may seek help. Perhaps it is an eviction, a marital conflict, repossession of a car, or misunderstanding over a welfare check—each problem may have a legal solution. These are small claims in the Nation's eye, but they loom large in the hearts and lives of poor Americans.

A NEW DIRECTION

The Nation has learned many lessons in these six short years. This program has not been without travail. Much of the litigation initiated by legal services has placed it in direct conflict with local and

State governments. The program is concerned with social issues and is thus subject to unusually strong political pressures.

Even though surrounded by controversy, this program can provide a most effective mechanism for settling differences and securing justice within the system and not on the streets. For many of our citizens, legal services has reaffirmed faith in our government of laws. However, if we are to preserve the strength of the program, we must make it immune to political pressures and make it a permanent part of our system of justice.

For two years, this administration has studied means of delivering improved, high quality legal services to those in need, as well as the question of what the proper role and structure of the legal services program should be. In 1969, we upgraded the status of legal services, recognizing it as a separate program within the Office of Economic Opportunity. Because of its importance, I also specifically asked the President's Advisory Council on Executive Organization (The Ash Council) to examine the question, and last November the Council recommended that the Government create a special corporation for the program. The role of legal services lawyers was also considered by the recent White House Conference on Youth, and a task force there expressed strong concern that the independence of these attorneys be maintained.

Today, after carefully considering the alternatives, I propose the creation of a separate, nonprofit Legal Services Corporation. The legislation being sent to the Congress to accomplish this has three major objectives: First, that the corporation itself be structured and financed so that it will be assured of independence;

second, that the lawyers in the program have full freedom to protect the best interests of their clients in keeping with the Canons of Ethics and the high standards of the legal profession; and third, that the Nation be encouraged to continue giving the program the support it needs in order to become a permanent and vital part of the American system of justice.

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE CORPORATION

True independence for a corporation created by the Government demands a governing body drawn from a wide spectrum and safeguarded against partisan interference after its appointment. I believe that we can best meet these requirements by appointing the board of directors for the Legal Services Corporation on the following bases:

- The members of the board should be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- The board should consist of eleven members, no more than six of whom may be of the same political party.
- A majority should be members of the bar of the highest court of a jurisdiction, and none should be a full-time employee of the United States.
- Members should be appointed for three-year terms and serve no longer than nine years consecutively.
- The board chairman should be elected by the members from among their number and serve a term of one year.
- No board member should be involuntarily removed except by a vote of at least seven members, and only for reasons of malfeasance, persistent

neglect, or inability to perform. Political pressures cannot be a basis for removal.

These provisions, all painstakingly designed to insulate the board from outside pressures, find an apt precedent in the corporation created four years ago to promote freedom and initiative in non-commercial broadcasting. In establishing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Congress was once again dealing with a sensitive area of our national life, and it chose much the same course that I am recommending today.

The primary mission of the Legal Services Corporation should be the review and approval of applications for funds submitted by neighborhood law offices, special units of private law firms, and other attorneys who seek to provide legal assistance to the poor. The decision in the case of each individual grant or contract should be made by the corporation's president—an official employed by the board—based upon guidelines established by the board.

To advise the board of the Legal Services Corporation, I propose that an advisory council also be established with its membership including eligible poor clients and representatives of the organized bar.

As a further means of assuring its independence, I recommend that grants made by the corporation to neighborhood offices and other recipients not be subject to veto by governmental officials. It is important, however, that State and local officials be given ample notice of new grants. Therefore, I propose that the corporation be required to notify the Chief Executive Officer of the State, Commonwealth, District of Columbia or possession at least 30 days prior to approving a grant

or contract for that area, so that full consideration could be given to the views of that executive. Thus the legitimate concerns of the jurisdiction involved could be taken into account before proceeding, but the corporation would retain its independence.

As yet another guarantee of that independence, and also to assure continuity and facilitate long-range planning, I propose that funding by the Congress be appropriated on a three-year basis.

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE LAWYER

While it is important to insulate the corporate structure so that public funds can be properly channeled into the field, it is even more important that the lawyers on the receiving end be able to use the money ethically, wisely and without unnecessary or encumbering restrictions.

The legal problems of the poor are of sufficient scope that we should not restrict the right of their attorneys to bring any type of civil suit. Only in this manner can we maintain the integrity of the adversary process and fully protect the attorney-client relationship so central to our judicial process.

At the same time, it would be a waste of our resources and a dilution of the legal services program if these same lawyers were also to become involved in criminal suits, since legal representation in criminal cases is already available to the poor under many other programs. Counsel for the indigent has been held by the Supreme Court to be a constitutional requirement in felony cases. States now provide for such counsel, and the Federal Government has made substantial sums of money available for criminal representation.

Thus I propose that legal services lawyers be prohibited from criminal representation.

For this same reason, legal services attorneys who are given full-time grants or contracts should devote their entire professional efforts to representation of eligible clients, and should not be permitted to engage in the outside practice of law. Certain lobbying activities, as well as partisan political action, should also be proscribed. The latter two activities would be another dilution of resources, and would have the further disadvantage of placing the Legal Services Corporation itself squarely in the political arena, where it does not belong—and thus inviting those political pressures from which its independence is designed to insulate it. On the other hand, these limitations should not impair the right of the legal services attorney to prepare model legislation or to respond to the inquiries of legislators. Such actions are traditionally within the scope of the attorney's right to represent a client and must be preserved.

STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE

In discussing the broad contours of this program, we must not overlook the challenges ahead. The Nation can be proud that we have come so far already. Under this administration alone, the legal services caseload has increased some 97%—from approximately 610,000 cases in fiscal year 1969 to an estimated 1,200,000 cases in fiscal year 1971—and the budget allocations have increased during this period by approximately one-third. Yet today, perhaps four out of every five legal problems of the poor still go unattended. The challenge to us is thus a significant one, and if we are to suc-

ceed in so delicate an undertaking we must devise a program which will have the full support not only of the Congress and the executive branch, but of the people as well.

The full financial support of the government is clearly needed in this endeavor. I propose that upon the date of incorporation, all of the funds then appropriated for legal services activities in the Office of Economic Opportunity, including those for research and training, be transferred to the Legal Services Corporation, so that it can undertake existing Office of Economic Opportunity obligations.

To help us broaden the attack on our unmet needs, I am also proposing two new initiatives:

- First, I propose that specific authorization be given for grants to individual lawyers. This will increase the opportunity for the private bar to participate in legal services and will enable the corporation to channel greater resources into rural areas.
- Second, I propose that the Legal Services Corporation be authorized to identify the principal legal problems of the poor involving the Federal Government and then work with appropriate governmental agencies in trying to solve them. Hopefully, this effort might in many cases eliminate the need for poor persons to seek redress in our overcrowded courts. It would also conserve the resources of the corporation without denying to any lawyer the right to bring a suit which he deems necessary.

The Federal program of providing legal pay for them is a dramatic symbol of this services to Americans otherwise unable to

[159] May 5

Public Papers of the Presidents

Nation's commitment to the concept of equal justice. It is a program both new and unparalleled by any other system of justice in the world. I urge the Congress to join with me in adopting this proposal to give it new strength for the future.

RICHARD NIXON

The White House
May 5, 1971

NOTE: The proposed Legal Services Corporation bill was introduced as S. 1769 and H.R. 8163.

On the same day, the White House released a fact sheet summarizing the major features of the proposed bill and the transcript of a news briefing on the Corporation by Frank C. Carlucci, Director, Office of Economic Opportunity.

160 Statement About Agreements With Panama and
Colombia To Complete the Pan American Highway.
May 6, 1971

THE AGREEMENTS signed today by Secretary of Transportation Volpe, Panamanian Minister of Public Works Fabrega, and Colombian Minister of Public Works Duran will enable our governments to begin construction of the last major section—the Darien Gap—needed to link together existing sections of the Pan American Highway System.

I welcome this development with the greatest enthusiasm—I believe that the completion of the Darien Gap portion over the next several years will constitute an historic milestone along the road to understanding and unity within our hemisphere.

Upon completion, this link for the Pan American Highway will allow the motorist to drive the entire 14,000 mile journey from Fairbanks, Alaska, to the southernmost tip of South America.

For a long time experts thought that this section could not be built: the "bottomless" Atrato Swamp which it must cross could not be conquered; the fact that this project will now be undertaken is a tribute not only to modern engineering but also to the determination of our countries to forge this final link in a great,

unifying international project.

This effort is possible only because of the strong support it has received from the United States Congress, the Pan American Highway Congresses, and the Governments of the Republics of Panama and Colombia. I firmly believe that the completion of this highway joining the Americas will serve as an invaluable symbol of New World unity as well as an avenue of commerce and culture.

The Darien Gap Highway project calls for only 250 miles of new roadway, but these are a very significant 250 miles. I believe that when they are completed, the Pan American Highway will become a pulsing artery of trade, travel, and understanding. It will further the inter-American spirit of solidarity and will accelerate the pace of economic growth and social progress in the hemisphere. It will fulfill a dream which dates back, in the United States at least, to a proposal made in the Congress in 1884 to build a railroad connecting the countries of North and South America.

Building this final link in the highways of the Americas does not represent the end of our common undertaking. On the

contrary, it
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¹ Brig. Gen.
Deputy Assistant
Security Affairs.

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will be possible.

This only happened
because of your efforts &
others like you from
across the country &
~~to President's~~ N

Adm. warning to
Congress that drastic
cut (quote \$178)
unacceptable.

House mounted
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amendment +
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the level in FY 97
back approx to \$280
over Committee work
(^{+ language} + LSC) of \$178.
The Senate mark
is \$288. Hopefully,
inadequate though
it is the conference
ultimately the
Congress will at least
maintain LSC at

July 31, 1996

Dear White House Officials,

I am writing to urge you to **VETO the Welfare Reform Bill**. This bill will endanger America's poorest children and families, and therefore hurt EVERY American.

Sincerely,

Caroline Mitchell

Caroline Mitchell
521 Easterby St
Sausalito CA 94965

criteria, more caseload reductions, and more skeletal forms of service.

"We're doing a kind of triage," laments Phyllis Holmen, executive director of the Georgia Legal Services Program based in Atlanta, which so far lost a fourth of its staff, going from 185 to 139 in the past year. "We're only taking emergency cases, meaning those that

threaten life or shelter."

Often in the past, legal services couldn't take on divorce cases unless spousal abuse was involved.

"Now," says Paula Zimmer, president of Legal Services Association of Michigan, an ad hoc group representing the state's legal aid offices, "we have to ask, 'How many times were you hit? And was there

a weapon involved?' I'm afraid we're sending the message that some level of violence is acceptable."

Client populations, whose legal needs were estimated as being met only 20 percent of the time prior to the cuts, can expect to receive hastier, more cursory representation, or none at all.

Rural Legal Services of Ten-

COMMENTARY

Don't Let Them Kill the LSC

BY JOHN J. CURTIN JR.

We spend a lot of time talking about tort reform and about improving the civil justice system. Too often, these discussions are centered on big cases, complex litigation and big money matters. For too many Americans, however, the legal system is not a matter of dollars and cents—it is a matter of life and death.

Our support for local legal services programs funded through the Legal Services Corp. is, at its core, support for people in these life and death situations. It is about providing people a measure of dignity in dealing with their most difficult problems.

Last year, lawyers around the country rallied to save the LSC. Despite some claims to the contrary, the LSC remains alive. Yes, the LSC now has fewer resources—a cut from \$400 million to \$278 nationally. Local legal services lawyers are further restricted in the work they can do. But we still believe that the LSC—even with less money and more restrictions—is worth saving.

This "saving" in and of itself is no small feat. Many had predicted and worked for the demise of the LSC. One senator, at least according to a story that may be apocryphal, was quoted last year as saying that even prayer would not save the LSC. But prayer, hard work and the collective commitment of thousands of lawyers from across the country paid off—in part.

However, the battle to save the

John J. Curtin Jr. of Boston was president of the ABA during 1990-91 and is chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on State Justice Initiatives.



Legal Services Corp. is far from over. The battle to protect access to justice is not over.

Ongoing Battles

The effort to kill LSC is as old as the act itself. Twenty-one years ago when the original Legal Services Corp. Act was before Congress, the very concept was attacked.

Some said that creating local legal services programs would allow members of the bar to escape their pro bono obligations, that creating a federal program would only increase litigation. Some even said there really was no need for free legal services.

In the 1981 campaign to kill the program, there was a new twist to an old argument. Critics said then that local legal services programs were the tools of the ideological left, that programs were being directed by 1960s radicals forcing their agenda through class action lawsuits and politically motivated litigation.

In the past several months, the historic opponents of legal services have added new arguments to the old, that local legal services programs are anti-family—fostering divorces.

Opponents charge that legal services programs are destructive to the community, more concerned with defending drug dealers than with cleaning up inner-city housing projects.

Most recently, it is said that the programs attempt to thwart the political winds of change by opposing welfare reform, so popular among the American people.

Lawyers know the truth. Lawyers know that what local legal services programs really provide is hope, dignity

and compassion.

Does it serve a left-wing agenda to help a farmer in Missouri who is threatened with losing his farm because an illness has led to a fight with an insurance company? There were 250,000 improper farm foreclosures by the Federal Housing Administration in the last decade.

Is it anti-family to help a young woman seek a divorce from and protective order against an abusive husband, to work to ensure that a divorced father meet his obligations to his own children?

Are we really at the point where we defeat the will of the American people if we demand that reforms of government programs meet a simple test—that they be constitutional?

Yes, legal services lawyers have offended many. Because of their success, the LSC will continue to be under siege.

There are those on Capitol Hill who would strip the Legal Services Corp. of any funding in favor of block grants directly to states. Yet even under ideal conditions, block grants would provide far fewer resources than are necessary to meet even the baseline of legal services to the poor.

Opponents Are Active

The recently imposed restrictions on local programs make clear that opponents of legal services will try to kill the LSC, using the strategy of "death by a thousand cuts."

If you still doubt that our battle to save the Legal Services Corporation is really a battle to preserve legal services for the poor, consider this. Local legal services programs are now prohibited from using money they raise on their own in pursuit of any case of activity restricted by Congress. Does this strike you as incongruous?

Imagine a Congress committed to "divesting" power to the states suddenly taking such a contrary position of federal control. Congress has limited the advisory boards of local programs from

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**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
INFORMATIONAL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
AUGUST 1996**

Providing leadership in serving the public and the profession and promoting excellence and fulfillment in the practice of law constitute the mission of the ABA Young Lawyers Division ("YLD"). Its extensive committee structure and network of affiliated organizations set the stage from which the Division's myriad contributions emanate. With numbers approximating forty percent of total ABA membership, the Young Lawyers Division plays a central role in influencing bar participation among newer, or younger lawyers.

After more than sixty years of service to the public and the profession, the YLD continues to lead the way in presenting innovative service projects, programs, and publications. Included in this report are the ABA/YLD's Center on Children and the Law, the Division's Affiliate Outreach Project, Bar Leadership Development Project, special projects on professionalism and minority issues, enhanced and improved publications, and heightened communications and membership development/retention efforts.

The Division uses its twelve standing committees to promote child advocacy and protection, minorities in the profession, participation by young lawyer affiliates in pro bono and public service activities, continuing legal education, and increased membership in the ABA. Its 28 substantive committees generate programs as diverse as the delivery of legal services to persons of modest means and the elderly, aid to the homeless, health care law, family law, and alternative dispute resolution. Other program areas include citizenship education, substance abuse in the profession, women in the profession, quality of life issues, law student outreach, and law practice management.

The dedication shared by YLD members enables the Division (1) to address, in a meaningful way, many of the critical issues facing our society, and (2) to help improve and enhance the professional lives of its members. The ABA Young Lawyers Division is proud of its public service and professional development programs and activities, and is pleased to describe several of them herein.

1995-96 SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. Young Lawyers Division Professional Development Conference

In keeping with its commitment to offer substantive developmental programming for its membership, the YLD presented its inaugural Professional Development Conference during the 1996 Midyear meeting in Baltimore. Entitled "Lawyering in the '90s: A Professional Development Conference for Young Lawyers," this day-long CLE program offered top-quality speakers on practical issues of importance and concern to young lawyers, including ethics, professionalism, and day-to-day lawyering. More than 200 persons took advantage of this tremendously successful conference.

2. Minority Bar Passage Project

Promoting diversity within the profession continues to be a primary goal of the YLD. This year, the Division is helping to address the disparate rate of bar passage among minority exam takers through the development and implementation of specially designed supplemental bar review courses. These courses are being offered in preparation for the July 1996 Bar Examination in Miami, Florida, and Wilmington, Delaware, and the program will be implemented in Houston, Detroit, and Los Angeles in preparation for the February 1997 Examination.

3. Domestic Violence Handbook

During the 1995-96 bar year, the Division highlighted the importance of working to reduce the incidence of domestic violence nationwide. Part of this effort included the development and promotion of a Program Guide entitled "Addressing Domestic Violence in Communities," which contains resources and projects for use by young lawyer affiliates. The Program Guide also addresses the topics of public awareness, fundraising, counseling, training, and advocacy topics.

OTHER PROJECT AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

1. The Affiliate Outreach Project

Since its inception, the Affiliate Outreach Project (AOP) has been dedicated to promoting public service work within the legal profession. The AOP now encompasses both public service and professional development projects, and continues to assist more than 325 state, local and special interest young lawyer organizations in creating, managing and maintaining their programs. This coordination is accomplished through national conferences, and technical assistance in the form of site visits, outreach meetings, grants, and publications.

In May 1996, the AOP held its Spring national conference in Tucson, Arizona. More than 350 young lawyer leaders attended workshop presentations that included both public and professional service projects such as "Conflict Resolution for Youth" and "Alternative Work Schedules: Improving Your Quality of Life." Twenty-four workshop presentations were complemented by the development and distribution of as many project pamphlets. This conference also hosted the recipients of the annual YLD Child Advocacy Law award.

The Division has advanced its commitment to public service by sponsoring community outreach or fundraising efforts in conjunction with all major YLD meetings. During the Spring conference, for example, young lawyers raised funds through a charity golf tournament to benefit Tucson's Brewster Center for victims of domestic violence.

The AOP also produces The Affiliate newsletter which offers direct project assistance and project clearinghouse functions. Invaluable technical assistance is available to bar associations through the AOP Affiliate Assistance Program, providing on-site assistance sessions throughout the bar year. These sessions help affiliates develop well-organized and financially sound programs.

In addition, the AOP's Public Service Subgrant Program provides seed money to implement public service projects in communities across the country. This year's program awarded \$36,000 in grant monies for public service projects during the ABA/YLD Midyear Meeting Assembly. Seed money for member development programming was also provided during this bar year pursuant to a new member service grants program.

2. Bar Leadership Development Project

The Division created its Bar Leadership Development Project to provide young lawyer affiliates with intensive programming and training in the area of bar leadership. The project epitomizes the ABA/YLD commitment to develop effective bar leaders across the country and provide them with necessary tools to build well-organized and financially sound young lawyer organizations. The project's fifth national conference was held in conjunction with the ABA Midyear meeting in Baltimore. More than 300 young lawyer leaders attended workshops on a variety of topics including building community coalitions, effective communications, developing leadership styles, and public speaking. Attendees also received the Division's Bar Leadership Handbook, an A-to-Z guide for bar leaders to effectively direct their organization's resources. A special feature of this year's conference provided young lawyers with the opportunity to meet ABA leaders in order to learn about further involvement in the ABA.

3. Access to Justice: Filling the GAAP ("Greater Access and Assistance Project")

Modeled after similar programs in Richmond, Virginia, and Tampa, Florida, this project provides free legal assistance to the "gap" group, or those persons whose income precludes them from receiving local Legal Services Corporation entity assistance, but who cannot afford the services of a private attorney. As a priority of the Young Lawyers Division, the "GAAP" project has been replicated throughout the country, thanks in part to small "start-up" grants administered by the YLD.. Thirteen affiliated young lawyer groups have already implemented a GAAP program in their respective localities, and another twenty-five organizations are examining the feasibility of implementation.

4. Responding to the Unmet Legal Needs of America's Children

The Division continues to help address and meet the unmet legal needs of America's children. In response to a request from the ABA Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of America's Children, the YLD continues to help implement many of the recommendations set forth in the Steering Committee's landmark report, America's Children at Risk. These efforts include the release of a one-thousand page compilation of more than

60 public service projects on behalf of children, plus the dissemination of a supplemental report. Another example is the nationwide replication of the YLD's Children's Courthouse Waiting Room project, designed to provide temporary safe havens for children involved in divorce, custody, and other legal proceedings. During the Midyear meeting in Baltimore, Division volunteers prepared waiting rooms in the Baltimore City Courthouse, which drew substantial press coverage. To date, nineteen such waiting rooms have been established by affiliates nationwide, and thirty-nine young lawyer groups have indicated substantial interest in the project. In her address to the ABA House of Delegates in Baltimore, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno singled out the courthouse waiting room project as an important service to the nation's children.

5. Pre-Law Conferences for Minority High School Students

In conjunction with its four major meetings, the Division sponsors pre-law conferences that attract more than 300 local minority high school students. These students are interested in learning more about the legal system, and about being a lawyer. Minority lawyers and judges lead discussions covering important tips for law school applicants, and the day to day truths of being a lawyer. This year, pre-law conferences were held in Milwaukee, Baltimore, and Tucson.

6. ABA/YLD Response to Natural Disasters

The ABA/YLD's Disaster Legal Services Committee continues to provide victim legal assistance in the event of federally-declared disasters, pursuant to the ABA/YLD's agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"). As a result of District restructuring and improved training procedures, the Committee, together with state and local bar organizations and legal services providers, can respond quickly and efficiently when disaster strikes. Most recently, young lawyers mobilized to provide disaster legal assistance in response to fires in Alaska, tornados in Arkansas and Kentucky, and floods in Pennsylvania. Throughout the 1995-96 bar year, the Division and its Affiliates responded to more than fifteen federally declared disasters.

7. Communications/Membership Development

The Division shares the Association's commitment to improved and enhanced communications and membership recruitment/retention. The YLD continues to circulate its "YLD at a Glance" newsletter to help the Association leadership and others stay abreast of important Division projects, programs, and activities. This year, the YLD initiated its own home page on the World Wide web. Since its inception in October 1995, the site's visitors increased from 64 to over 475 in April. More important, the Division's Task Force on Communications Options has recommended exciting new communications approaches that are expected to be implemented in the coming bar year.

8. Newsletters/Publications

Many of the Division's substantive committees are publishing newsletters this year, including *Admiralty Law*, *Corporate In-house Counsel*, *Ethics and Professionalism*, *Litigation*, and *Probate and Trust Law*. Sales of Changing Jobs: A Handbook for Lawyers in the 90s, published in cooperation with the Law Practice Management Section, are steadily increasing. The YLD also released this year the results of its most recent career satisfaction and membership survey.

9. YLD Assemblies

The YLD Assembly is the Division's principal policy-making body and is comprised of approximately 350 delegates from state and local young lawyer organizations. Three resolutions recently debated by the YLD Assembly will be presented for consideration by the ABA House of Delegates in Orlando. The Assembly generally considers a host of resolutions on matters of interest to the public, the profession, the Association, and young lawyers members.

CENTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW

Located in the ABA's Washington, D.C. office, the 18-year-old ABA/YLD Center on Children and the Law remains one of the Association's largest and most active public interest programs. For the last several fiscal years, the Center's annual budget has been approximately \$3 million, less than 7 percent of which is ABA General Revenue.

The Center presently has outside funding to support the work of over 20 research, training, and technical assistance projects. These include projects that: assist states and communities to develop child maltreatment death review teams and train team members; train attorneys and judges on the handling of child support, child abuse, child sexual abuse, and parental child abduction cases; provide technical assistance to public child welfare agencies; evaluate state court handling of child welfare cases; and improve the NYC foster care placement system.

Most Center projects address cutting edge legal issues and result in research findings, legal educational materials and training, and publications aimed at the bench and bar, policy makers, and other professionals involved with children and youth. For example, the Center has recently: 1) designed a curriculum and organized and conducted a national training program, attended by judges and judicial educators from over 40 states, on the new Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (supported by the State Justice Institute); 2) published, with support from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the book *Family Group Conferences in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases: Learning from the New Zealand Experience*, which will help state child welfare agencies implement this new child welfare practice; and 3) commissioned, with support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a series of papers on little-understood legal issues affecting adolescent health care.

Since the ABA Midyear meeting in Baltimore, the Center has received new funds to:

- study the relationship between sexual abuse of children, including statutory rape, and subsequent teen pregnancy (supported by Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Carnegie Corp. of New York). The project will examine laws and prosecutorial policies to see how the legal system can help break this cycle;
- conduct an evaluation of the California state court system's handling of abuse and neglect, foster care, termination of parental rights, and adoption cases;
- conduct advanced trial skills training for child welfare attorneys of the Ohio Department of Social Services;
- identify and provide training to attorneys to represent parents, on a pro bono basis, whose children have been illegally abducted and brought to this country by the other parent in violation of Hague Convention on International Child Abduction; and
- design and write legal modules for a national curriculum for foster care review bodies.

The Center also has received preliminary notification that the State Justice Institute is awarding two new grants for the Center to develop legal manuals on guardian ad litem representation and the resolution of child welfare issues across state lines.

In addition, the Center has revamped, revised, and renamed its monthly law reporter-- now *ABA Child Law Practice* (formerly *ABA Juvenile and Child Welfare Law Reporter*). The Reporter, one of the few ABA periodicals supported 100% through subscription revenue, remains the nation's best source for timely legal news and analysis in the growing practice area of "children's law."

In June 1996, the Center conducted the 8th (biannual) ABA National Conference on Children and the Law in Washington, D.C. This year's conference was themed around conflict resolution and youth, and cosponsored by the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and Secretary of Education Dick Riley were presenters (covered by C-SPAN and CNN). Other ABA cosponsors included TIPS, Section of Family Law, Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children, JAD, and the Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship. Both TIPS and the ABA Standing Committee on Continuing Education of the Bar provided generous scholarship support.

As demonstrated by the conference, the Center actively seeks the input and participation from other interested ABA entities. Its advisory board is comprised of liaisons from over a half dozen ABA groups, such as the Section of Family Law, and Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children.

CONCLUSION

This report describes only several of the many projects and programs of the ABA Young Lawyers Division and its Center on Children and the Law. The dedication and commitment of countless volunteers has sustained the Division in its efforts over the years, and 1995-96 has been no different. As always, the Division welcomes and values the input, advice, and comments of interested Association entities to help better serve the Association, the legal profession, and our society.

Respectfully submitted,
Raquel A. Rodriguez
Chair, ABA Young Lawyers Division

August 1996

ELAINE WEISS

Associate Executive Director
Administration

Melanne -

Background Info
on ABA Annual Meeting
Please pass along to
Lissa Muscatine

Also, I think the SMU
speech is very adaptable
to this audience (most
of it)

Elaine

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

750 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611

(312)988-5227

FAX: (312)988-5151



1996 ANNUAL MEETING
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
ABA SPEAKERS
ORLANDO, FLORIDA



JUSTICE
LIBERTY



WITHOUT LAWYERS THEY'RE ONLY WORDS



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
1996 ANNUAL MEETING
ORLANDO, FLORIDA



SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Opening Assembly

Swan Ballroom, Ground Level
Walt Disney World Swan
5:30 p.m.

**Honorable John Paul Stevens, Associate Justice,
Supreme Court of the United States**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Prayer Breakfast

Southern Hemisphere, Ballroom Level
Walt Disney World Dolphin
8:00 a.m.

Elie Wiesel
Nobel Peace Laureate
Ticket: \$25



MONDAY, AUGUST 5

ABA Pro Bono Luncheon

Southern Hemisphere, Ballroom Level
Walt Disney World Dolphin
12:00 p.m.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno
Ticket: \$30



TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

ABA Gavel Awards Luncheon

Southern Hemisphere, Ballroom Level
Walt Disney World Dolphin
12:00 p.m.

Gene Siskel
Film Critic
Ticket: \$30

"THE GREATEST LAW SCHOOL LECTURES YOU NEVER HEARD" SERIES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Pelican Room, Ground Level
Walt Disney World Swan
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



Guest Speaker:
Alex Sanders
President, College of Charleston
"Real Life Case Studies in
Political Correctness"
or
"Are Real Lawyers Sensitive?"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Pelican Room, Ground Level
Walt Disney World Swan
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



Guest Speaker:
Michael Tigar
Lead Attorney Representing
"The Nichols in the Oklahoma
Bombing"
"Justice or 'Just Us' The
Tension Between Equality
and Freedom"

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Pelican Room, Ground Level
Walt Disney World Swan
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



Guest Speaker:
Jesse McCrary
Litigator and Distinguished
Orator
"Lawyers: The Salt of
Democracy"

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ON WOMEN IN
THE PROFESSION

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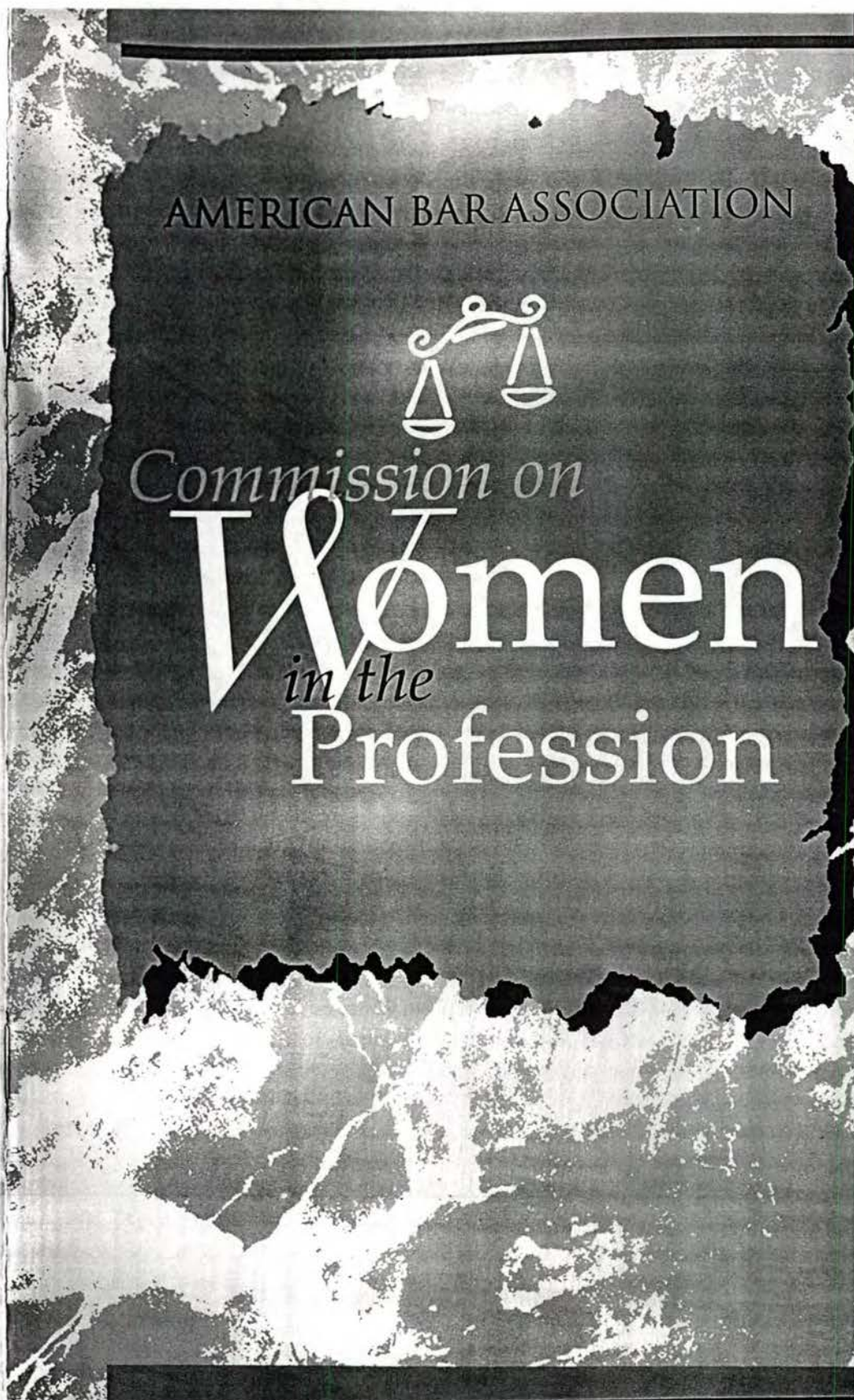
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Commission on

Women in the Profession

Mission...

To secure the full and equal participation of women in the American Bar Association, the legal profession, and the justice system.

Women are...

23% of all lawyers in the United States

44% of law school students

35% of lawyers in executive branch agencies

28% of professionals in legal education

28% of government lawyers

25% of American Bar Association membership

20% of solo practitioners

But women are only...

19% of corporate general counsels

17% of law school professors

13% of law firm partners

13% of state and local bar presidents

9% of judges

8% of law school deans

The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, comprised of members appointed by the ABA President, develops programs, policies and products to advance and assist women lawyers and to educate the profession about work and family issues that affect all lawyers.

History...

In August 1987, the American Bar Association (ABA) created the Commission on Women in the Profession and established these primary objectives:

- I Assess the current status of women in the legal profession and identify their career paths and goals.
- II Identify barriers that prevent women lawyers from full participation in the work, responsibilities and rewards of the profession.
- III Develop educational programs to address discrimination against women lawyers and the unique problems they encounter in pursuing their professional careers.
- IV Make recommendations to the ABA for action to solve problems the Commission identifies.

Commission Chairs:

Laurel G. Bellows
(1994-present)

Cory M. Amron
(1991-1994)

Hillary Rodham Clinton
(1987-1991)

"To bring meaningful change, women need to take on more leadership roles and become a part of the policymaking body."

- Goal IX
Report Card, 199



The Commission hosts events to celebrate women and their progress in the profession as well as society. The following have been among the most popular and widely-attended ABA events:

Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards

Named after the first woman lawyer in America, this annual award was established by former Commission Chair Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1991.

Its purpose is to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women lawyers from around the country who have achieved professional excellence in their area of specialty and have paved the way to success for other women lawyers.

The largest ticketed event at the ABA Annual Meeting, this ceremony has featured some of the country's most notable women, such as Professor Anita

F. Hill, Attorney General Janet Reno, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Professor Barbara Jordan, Professor Lani Guinier, and the Honorable Bella Abzug.

"In 1648, Margaret Brent requests 'a vote and a voyce' in the Maryland Assembly. By this action [she] undoubtedly placed herself on record as the first woman in America to make a stand for her sex."

- Harper's magazine, 1898



(Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore)

Votes for Women Rally: Make Your Voice Count

August 1995 marked the 75th Anniversary of women winning the right to vote in the United States. In commemoration, the Commission on Women in the Profession in cooperation with the Law Practice Management Section Women Rainmakers' Interest Group hosted a reception at the ABA Annual Meeting. Recreating a 1920's right to vote rally, actors in period costumes performed vignettes and engaged the audience in debate. A reproduction of the 1848 Declaration of Seneca Falls (the document which launched the women's suffrage movement) was signed by all guests.

An historical timeline of suffrage photographs and documents was presented at the event and is currently displayed at the American Bar Center in Chicago. A smaller, traveling exhibit also is available on loan to educational organizations. For more information, contact the Commission directly.

Women's Caucus

The Commission sponsors the Women's Caucus at the ABA Midyear and Annual meetings, which gives women an opportunity to meet informally and exchange information.

"The true republic - men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."

- Susan B. Anthony
1820-1906



Programs and Conferences:

Commission has conducted a variety of educational programs and conferences:

The Future of Women in the Legal Profession

Global World Solutions to the Mommy Track Debate

Increasing Women's Participation in ABA Sections and Divisions

From Adam's Rib to L.A. Law: The Image of Women Lawyers in Television and Film

Breaking the Silence: Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession

How to Talk to a Sexist

The Politics of Breast Cancer

Not Just For Women Only: Model Programs for Bar Associations

The Voices of Women: A Conference on Women in Legal Education

The Critical Difference: Managing Legal Talent for Success in the 90's

Women Lawyers in Government

The Next Frontier: Bringing Effective Sexual Harassment Policies to the Legal Workplace

The Glass Ceiling in Lawyerland: Through the Looking Glass

Empowerment Strategies for Minority Women Lawyers

The Law Male?

Women and Power

Clearinghouse:

The Commission clearinghouse serves as a national resource of information for and about women lawyers. It consists primarily of articles, speeches, and reports collected from a wide variety of sources. Some topics covered in the clearinghouse include:

Affirmative action

Alternative work schedules

Career paths

Child care

Gender bias

Glass ceiling

Law schools

Parental leave

Sexual harassment

Violence against women

To obtain clearinghouse materials, contact the Commission directly and a staff member will assist you. There is a charge for duplication and postage.

**American Bar Association
Commission on Women
in the Profession**

750 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: 312-988-5715
Fax: 312-988-5688
E-mail: abacwp@attmail.com

Perspectives

"Did any woman ever acknowledge profundity in another woman's mind, or justice in another woman's heart?"

- Friedrich Nietzsche

(Perspectives Does! Subscribe Today)

Published quarterly, this popular newsletter is a unique and indispensable source of news and insights for and about women lawyers. It reports on key issues such as rainmaking, going solo, salary compensation, and features profiles of women leaders in all areas of practice.

\$16.00 for a one-year subscription;

\$29.00 for a two-year subscription

To subscribe, call the ABA Service Center at 312-988-5522.

The Multicultural Women Attorneys Network (MWAN)

The Network, a joint committee of the Commission on Women and the ABA Commission on Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession, addresses issues of special concern to multicultural women lawyers. It produces programs, roundtables and publications to identify the impact of race/ethnicity and gender on the professional development of multicultural women lawyers.

(See Burdens of Both, Privileges of Neither)



ports and ublications:

BASIC FACTS from Women aw: A Look at the Numbers

ick summary of the most asked
tions about statistics on women in
egal profession.

pp. • Paper • 1995 • PC: 4920012
\$12.00

0.00 with the purchase of *Unfinished
Business: Overcoming the Sisyphus Factor*.

BURDENS OF BOTH, THE VILEGES OF NEITHER

port of the Multicultural Women
rneys Network on the status of multi-
ural women lawyers. The substance
is report was gathered through the
ysis of available statistical data, and
conversations with women of color
undtable discussions and conferences
around the country.

pp. • Paper • 1994 • PC: 4520003
0.00

RECTORY OF ASSOCIATIONS R WOMEN LAWYERS

mprehensive directory containing over
istings for national, state, and local
en's bar associations and multicultural
en's bar associations. This year, the
tory has been expanded to include state
local bar associations that have a com-
ee, section, commission, etc. for women
ers and/or women's issues. Updated
ially in October.

pp. • Paper • PC: 4920008
0.00

ELUSIVE EQUALITY:

Experiences of Women in al Education

report distills findings from national
ings at which students, administrators,
lty and deans provided their perspec-
on gender influences in law schools.
is is on concrete recommendations to
rove the gender atmosphere for all
icipants in the education process.

pp. • Paper • 1996 • PC: 4920015
8.00

ELUSIVE EQUALITY: Executive Summary & Recommendations

A summary of the previous report with the
recommendations to improve gender
atmosphere in law schools.

38 pp. • Paper • 1996 • PC: 4920014
\$12.00

LAWYERS AND BALANCED LIVES: A Guide to Drafting and Implementing Workplace Policies for Lawyers

A manual of ways to practice law in an
environment that encourages and accommo-
dates a balance between professional and
personal life. The guide includes sample
policies that will help firms formulate, draft
and implement policies on parental leave,
alternative work schedules and sexual
harassment.

90 pp. • Binder • 1990 • PC: 4920001
\$44.95

LAWYERS AND BALANCED LIVES: A Guide to Drafting and Implementing Sexual Harassment Policies for Lawyers

Provides legal employers with a quick and
inexpensive reference that contains sample
sexual harassment policies. (Chapter
excerpted from above manual.)

37 pp. • Paper • 1990 • PC: 4920004
\$15.00

OPTIONS AND OBSTACLES: A Survey of the Studies of the Careers of Women Lawyers

This report identifies barriers that inhibit
women's career and advancement, and
points out areas where gathering more
information would assist the profession
in understanding and eliminating those
barriers. This survey is derived from an
analysis of exhaustive review of state bar
surveys, gender bias surveys, satisfaction
surveys, law review articles, doctoral
dissertations and books.

60 pp. • Paper • 1994 • PC: 4920009
\$10.00

PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP: An ABA Roadmap

Provides information on the various
paths to leadership positions within the
ABA, including the Assembly, House of
Delegates, Board of Governors, Officers,
Sections and Divisions, Committees and
Commissions, and affiliated organizations
to enhance opportunities for women,
minorities and others.

24 pp. • Paper • 1993 • PC: 4920007
\$5.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: OVERCOMING THE SISYPHUS FACTOR – A Report on the Status of Women in the Legal Profession

This report documents the overt
and subtle barriers impeding the full
integration and equal participation of
women in the law. It explores the extent
to which those barriers have or have not
been eliminated since the Commission's
initial 1988 report.

28 pp. • Paper • 1995 • PC: 4920013
\$15.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & THE BASIC FACTS

A package deal that combines both
reports for a discounted price.

28 pp. & 6 pp. • Paper • 1995
PC: 492011 • \$19.00

WOMEN IN THE LAW: A Look at the Numbers

Full report of a survey on statistics cur-
rently available documenting women's
role in all sectors of the legal profession.

67 pp. • Paper • 1995 • PC: 4920010
\$15.00

Note: Discounts for bulk orders
are available. Ask your service
representative.

Videotapes:

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

This video and discussion guide address
gender bias in the legal profession. Video
includes vignettes about gender stereotyp-
mentoring, sexual harassment and efforts
to balance work and family responsibilities.
Co-sponsored with Queen's Bench in San
Francisco and produced and directed by
Abby Ginzberg, the video is designed for
use in law firms, law schools, and legal
workplaces.

25 minutes • 1993 • PC: 4920006
\$49.95 (Includes discussion materials)

MARGARET BRENT WOMEN LAWYERS OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995 Awards
ceremonies captured on video.

2 hours • Video and transcript: \$29.95
Transcript only: \$5.00

[For Award ceremony videos, contact the
Commission on Women in the Profession
directly at Tel: 312-988-5715
or Fax: 312-988-5688]

To order reports, publications and
videotapes, contact:

American Bar Association

Publication Orders

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Tel: 312-988-5522

Fax: 312-988-5568

E-mail: abacwp@attmail.com

[See order form in back
of brochure]



Free Publications:

Annual IX Report Card

Every year the Commission issues a report card that provides statistics on women's involvement in the ABA and measures men's progress in attaining leadership positions in ABA sections and divisions within ABA governance.

Women and the ABA:

History of Women's Involvement in the American Bar Association, 1855-1989

A depth research report on the historical involvement of women in the ABA over 25 years; evaluates the status of women within all areas of the Association.

Guidelines for Women: An Historical Timeline for a 75th Anniversary Celebration

A timeline covering the main events of the woman suffrage movement with a short section focusing on the suffrage movement in Illinois. This booklet was produced for an event held at the 1995 ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago that featured a reenactment of a 1920's suffrage rally.

Report and Recommendation on the Status of Women in the Legal Profession

In 1988, the ABA House of Delegates adopted a resolution recognizing the existence of overt and subtle barriers to women's full integration and equal participation in the work, responsibilities and rewards of the profession.

Report and Recommendation on Gender Neutral Language

In 1989, the ABA House of Delegates adopted a resolution that the ABA and each of its entities should use gender-neutral language in all documents establishing policy and procedure.

Report and Recommendation on Sexual Harassment

In 1992, the ABA House of Delegates adopted a resolution recognizing that sexual harassment is a serious problem in all workplace settings, including the legal profession.

Report and Recommendation on Discriminatory Clubs

In 1993, the ABA Board of Governors adopted a resolution that it is inappropriate for an officer of the Association or a member of the Board of Governors to be a member of a club which discriminates on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

Report and Recommendation on Multicultural Women

In 1995, the ABA House of Delegates adopted a resolution that it opposes bias and discrimination based on race and gender that prevent multicultural women from gaining full and equal participation in the legal profession, and actively supports efforts to eradicate such bias and discrimination.

For free publications or more information, contact the Commission directly:

American Bar Association
Commission on Women in the Profession
750 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: 312-988-5715
Fax: 312-988-5688
E-mail: abacwp@attmail.com

Note: A \$3.95 shipping and handling charge will be added to all orders.

Order Form

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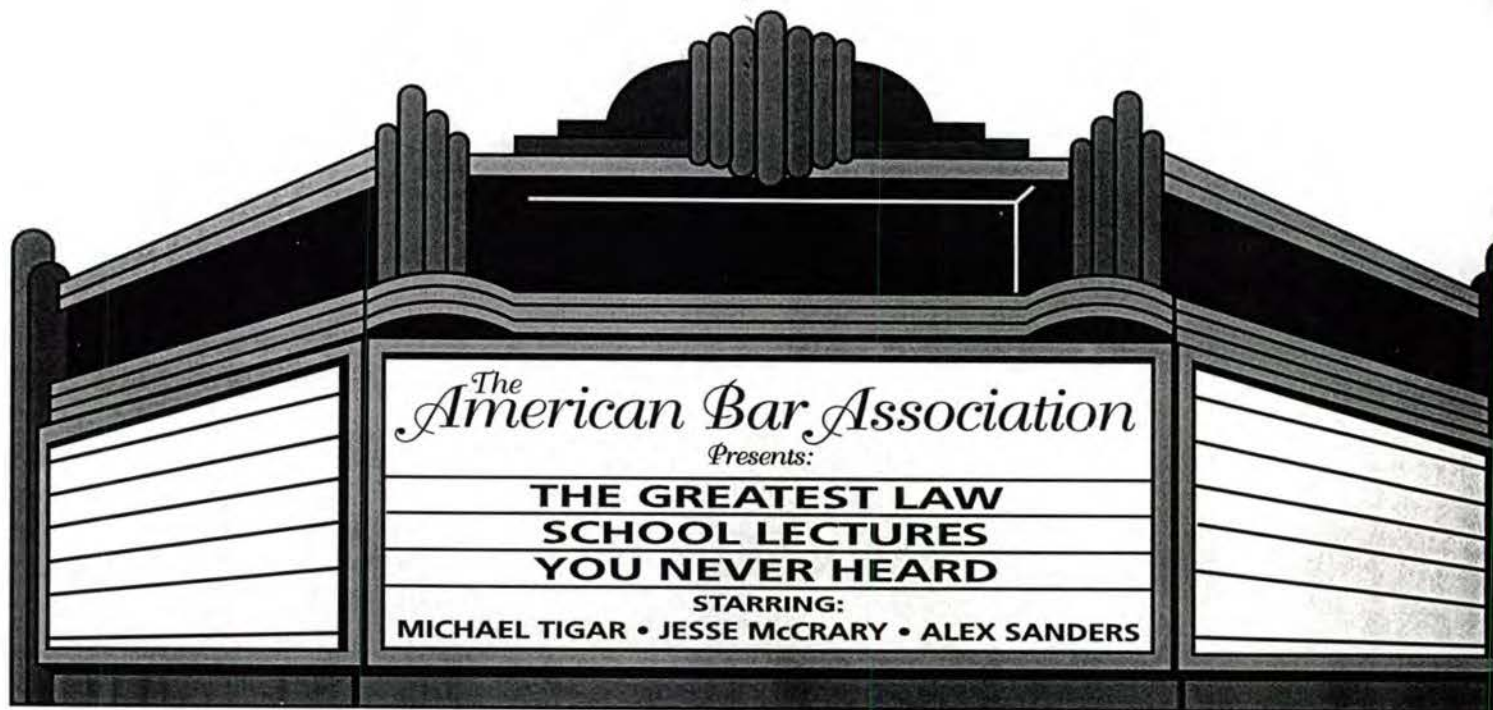
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Friday, August 2
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Walt Disney World Swan
Pelican Room
Ground Level

Alex Sanders

President, College of Charleston

"Real Life Case Studies in
Political Correctness"

or,

"Are Real Lawyers Sensitive?"

"Alex Sanders is an extraordinarily
gifted speaker with a powerful
message—an absolute 'must' to hear
by everyone who respects the law."

Jack Dunbar
Oxford, Mississippi

"And the winner is...
Alex Sanders—for best actor in a
leading role in legal and judicial
education and for his powerful but
humorous insight into the law and
its role in today's society."

Judge Deannell Reece Tacha
Lawrence, Kansas

Saturday, August 3
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Walt Disney World Swan
Pelican Room
Ground Level

Michael Tigar

*Lead Attorney Representing Terry Nichols
in the Oklahoma City Bombing*

"Justice, or 'Just Us'?
The Tension Between
Equality and Freedom"

"Is there a more erudite
speaker? One who can
mix Cicero and Li'l Abner
in the same paragraph.
As corny as Jerry Jeff Walker
and as profound as John
Stuart Mill. He'll captivate
you; he'll flatter you; he'll
persuade you; and you'll
laugh during the entire
performance."

Larry Fox
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Monday, August 5
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Walt Disney World Swan
Pelican Room
Ground Level

Jesse McCrary

Litigator and Distinguished Orator

"Lawyers: The Salt
of Democracy"

"Jesse McCrary provides
an inspirational rallying
response to those who
would ridicule and
trivialize the role of
lawyers in our society."

Wayne J. Positan
Roseland, New Jersey

"A feel bad-feel good kind
of speaker. Jesse McCrary
reminds us of the real
reason we became lawyers."

Nadia Mykytiuk Jannetta
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Without Lawyers They're Only Words.

**American Bar Association
Annual Meeting**

August 1-7, 1996

Orlando, Florida

Information and Registration Form





Dear Colleague:

It's great fun for me to invite you to attend the 1996 Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association to be held August 1 - 7, the first ABA Annual Meeting ever to be held at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The theme for the meeting, "Freedom. Justice. Liberty. Without Lawyers, They're Only Words." was selected to remind each of us of the absolutely critical role we, as lawyers, play in our society. Our goal is to ensure that you leave Orlando enlightened and inspired and with renewed pride in being a lawyer.

The Association's Annual Meeting is a fascinating, stimulating and inspiring event, and we are working to make the 1996 meeting the best ever. You will have numerous opportunities to hear provocative and inspiring speakers, explore emerging legal issues and to engage in open debate about matters affecting our profession and our system of justice. The expansive programming at an Annual Meeting provides enough CLE to satisfy up to a year's worth of credit for most states.

You will also have time to establish new friendships, rekindle old ones and enjoy time with your families. I strongly encourage you to make this a family affair, not only to take advantage of Disney's many attractions, but so your children can learn more about what mom or dad does as a lawyer.

With more than 2,500 meetings, seminars and special events occurring over a seven-day period, I realize that the Annual Meeting can be an overwhelming experience. A number of changes will be implemented at the 1996 meeting to make the experience pleasurable for newcomers as well as veterans. There will be an insider's guide, a revamped, user-friendly Annual Meeting Program Book, and a centrally located section information center. We will have program tracks for lawyers in small firms and solo practice.

You can take advantage of a substantial discount and increase your chances of getting your first choice of accommodations by registering for the meeting by May 31. The attached registration form contains further information. If you have any questions, please call the ABA Meetings and Travel Department at 312/988-5870.

The Orlando Advisory and Planning Committees and the whole ABA are working to make the Orlando meeting the most fun and the most inspiring. I'll look for each of you there!

Roberta Cooper Ramo

ABA ORLANDO '96

The ABA Annual Meeting • August 1 – August 7

FREEDOM
JUSTICE
LIBERTY



WITHOUT LAWYERS THEY'RE ONLY WORDS

The 118th Annual Meeting: See the ABA in a Whole New Way!

For the first time in its 118-year history, the ABA Annual Meeting, August 1 through August 7, 1996, will be held in Orlando. Organizers are busy planning an event that is truly spectacular.

"...We are working to make the 1996 meeting the best ever. You will have numerous opportunities to hear provocative and inspiring speakers, explore emerging legal issues and to engage in open debate about matters affecting our profession and our system of justice," says Roberta Cooper Ramo, President of the American Bar Association.

There are many other "firsts" in 1996 that make this Annual Meeting unlike any of the others. For the first time ever, the ABA Annual Meeting not only welcomes your entire family but has special events planned with them in mind. And there is no better place to host the gathering than in Orlando, a family's dream vacation destination.

Your family can learn more about your career and enjoy all of the great summertime fun that abounds in Orlando – The WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort, Universal Studios, Sea World and many other exciting attractions.

"I strongly encourage you to make this a family affair not only to take advantage of Orlando's many attractions, but so your children can learn more about what mom or dad does as a lawyer."

ABA President Roberta Cooper Ramo



You'll want to leave your business suits at home. Pack your resort clothes and take advantage of the Florida sunshine while you devour a whole year's worth of CLE classes in just one week! This benefit alone can more than pay for your registration.

Also, in 1996 we designed *Program Tracks* to steer you toward the vital sessions related to your specialty. This essential planning tool will help you to get the most out of the Annual Meeting.

The *Section Forum* is another Annual Meeting first. At the *Section Forum* you'll learn about Annual Meeting activities and programs and how Section membership will benefit your practice.

As a lawyer, you play a critical role in protecting the world's greatest democracy. The theme for the 1996 Annual Meeting, "Freedom, Justice, Liberty. Without Lawyers, They're Only Words," reminds us of that role. With more than 2,500 meetings, programs and events from which to choose, you'll leave Orlando with a renewed dedication to the profession.

Come to Orlando '96. You'll see the ABA in a whole new way!

Disney Discounts

Discover the magic of Walt Disney World in three spectacular theme parks and an entire island of nighttime entertainment. During the meeting, special discount Convention Passports are available for ABA members and their families. Save time and money when you order your passports by mail.

Once your registration is confirmed, a ticket order form will be mailed to you. Special discounted tickets are available only by mail or on-site in the ABA Registration Area. For the best rates, order by mail before Monday,

July 1. You'll enjoy unlimited visits to MAGIC KINGDOM Park®, Epcot®, and Disney-MGM Studios.

Transportation is available between all ABA hotels and the Disney Theme Parks. See page 6 for more exciting news about Disney attractions and discount Convention Passport rates.



What's In It For Me?

You'll get the latest news related to your profession, build your career, enjoy networking opportunities, discuss compelling issues and hear the opinions of some of the most influential legal minds... all the while soaking up the sun and embracing the magic of Orlando, Florida.

At just \$300 for ABA members who register before Friday, May 31, you'll find the Annual Meeting an incredible value. Plus, there are significant discounts for young lawyers, law students and others. In many states, one year of mandatory CLE sessions would cost far more.

Orlando '96 is an incredibly convenient – and fun – way to access thousands of programs, events and classes. Whatever your specialty, you'll find dozens of choices to suit your needs. It could be overwhelming if this year's organizers weren't working overtime to make sure that you won't have to. Make it "user-friendly" and more meaningful... that was the Presidential challenge for 1996. We did. But don't take our word for it. Come see for yourself... you'll be glad you did.



ABA ON THE NET

Need to know more about the ABA Annual Meeting in Orlando? For the most up-to-date information, visit our new World Wide Web site on the Internet: <http://www.abanet.org>.

The Early Bird Gets The Savings!

Register by May 31, 1996 and \$AVE!

Registration Form Enclosed

Inside...

Presidential Showcase program to feature Johnnie Cochran	Pg. 2
Details on Attorney General Janet Reno luncheon in Big Names	Pg. 3
Find out how to Get on the Fast Track	Pg. 4
Lawyers Have Heart 5K	Pg. 6
Section Forum	Pg. 9
Registration Form attached	Pg. 11

Greatest Law School Lectures You Never Heard

Another ABA Annual Meeting first, this provocative morning lecture series will feature three of the most accomplished speakers you'll ever have the pleasure to hear. On Friday, August 2, the series presents Alex Sanders, president of the College of Charleston. Michael Tigar, lead attorney representing Terry Nichols in the Oklahoma City bombing, will join us on Saturday, August 3.

On the final day of the series, Monday, August 5, Jesse McCrary, renowned orator and lively litigator will present an inspirational lecture. Those early morning law school classes were never like this!

Jesse
McCrary



Presidential Showcase Programs

Where will you be when you feel that first rush of adrenaline? Quite possibly, you'll be enjoying one of the seven extraordinary Presidential Showcase Programs.

This year, you'll hear the most riveting speakers on historical and current issues that have relevance for today's increasingly challenging legal environment.

America: What the Republic Will Look Like in the 21st Century

Primary sponsor: Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division
Friday, August 2, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Join Judge Abner J. Mikva and futurist James Daitor to learn how the legal profession will function beyond the year 2000 amidst profound demographic, technological and environmental change.

The Magical World of Client Relations—Success Stories from Service Leaders

Primary sponsor: Law Practice Management Section
Saturday, August 3, 9:00 AM to noon

Discover from service industry leaders like Disney and Ritz-Carlton how to create customer service magic in your law office. Innovative firms, small law offices and court systems from across the country will show you how they have made it a reality.

The Trial of Jesse James—High Tech Meets the Wild West

Primary sponsors: Law Practice Management Section/
General Practice Section

Sunday, August 4, 9:00 AM to noon

Did Jesse James fake his own death in 1882? This fascinating mock trial will show how modern technology and forensic science techniques are revolutionizing today's trials and our understanding of the past. Your kids will love this one!

Simpson Aftershock: Seismic Changes for Justice?

Primary sponsor: Section of Litigation
Sunday, August 4, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

What are the long-term implications of the O.J. Simpson trial? Don't miss the exclusive opportunity to hear what Johnnie Cochran, Professor Arthur Miller and other experts have to say about the impact of the trial on issues such as jury selection, public perception of lawyers and judges and the role of the media.

Underaged/Overexposed: Modern Media and America's Children

Primary sponsor: Forum on Communications Law/Young Lawyers Division
Monday, August 5, 9:00 AM to noon

Each day, countless numbers of American children are exposed to sex and violence – through the media. Learn how to help your family critically appraise what they view on television by participating in a viewing workshop. Then, learn from the experts the latest trends to regulate today's media.

It's Everyone's Business: The Complete Community Response to Domestic Violence

Primary sponsor: Commission on Domestic Violence
Monday, August 5, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Dynamic community solutions are being developed in the field of domestic violence. Join us for a comprehensive overview and learn how lawyers can form partnerships with other professionals to assist victims.

Trial of the Century: Sacco and Vanzetti

Primary sponsor: Section of Litigation
Part I: Monday, August 5, 1:15 PM to 5:00 PM
Part II: Tuesday, August 6, 8:30 AM to noon

Re-live this infamous 1921 trial as it's reenacted by renowned trial counsel and analyzed by a distinguished panel giving today's perspective on the tactics, techniques and strategies used in the original trial.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Thursday, August 1

Registration Opens 12:00 noon, Walt Disney World Dolphin
ABA EXPO Opens 12:00 noon, Walt Disney World Dolphin

Saturday, August 3

Section Forum, 9:00 AM, Walt Disney World Dolphin
Jewish Sabbath Service, 9:00 AM, Walt Disney World Dolphin
Opening Assembly, 5:30 PM, Walt Disney World Swan
President's Reception, 7:00 PM, Walt Disney World Dolphin

Sunday, August 4

Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM, Walt Disney World Dolphin
Red Mass, 9:30 AM, Buena Vista Palace Hotel

Monday, August 5

Pro-Bono Luncheon, 12:00 noon, Walt Disney World Dolphin
House of Delegates, 2:00 PM, Walt Disney World Dolphin

Tuesday, August 6

House of Delegates, 9:00 AM, Walt Disney World Dolphin
Gavel Awards Luncheon, 12:00 noon, Walt Disney World Dolphin



ABA EXPO is an exclusive opportunity to see demonstrations of the latest legal products and services including cutting edge communications equipment, computer hardware and software, office equipment and appointments, and receive valuable information on continuing legal education, insurance and financial services, and legal

publishing ... nearly everything you need to invigorate your practice. Visit ABA EXPO in the exhibit hall of the Walt Disney World Dolphin Thursday, August 1 through Sunday, August 4. Hours vary daily so check the ABA Information Desks conveniently located in the hotel for more specific information. ABA staff will be on hand in the ABA-at-a-Glance area to show you how your ABA membership can work for you. Here you will also find information regarding the latest programs, products and services available only to ABA members.

Big Names Abound in Orlando '96

We have dynamic speakers and celebrity personalities already lined up for this year's Annual Meeting, plus more surprises to be announced. The Florida Bar's Government Lawyer Section will present a special Lifetime Achievement Award to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. The luncheon is hosted by the ABA Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division and will be held on Saturday, August 3, at 12 noon, at the Hilton at Walt Disney World Village. Tickets are \$40 and may be ordered in advance by calling 1-800-342-8060, ext. 5625. Or you can purchase tickets on-site at the Registration Desk at the Walt Disney World Dolphin. Seats are limited so don't delay.

Associate Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is the keynote speaker for the Opening Assembly on Saturday, August 3, at the Walt Disney World Swan. The President's Reception following the Opening Assembly will be a gala extravaganza with entertainment, dancing, food and activities for everyone. Children are more than welcome!

Meet Johnnie Cochran, sponsored by the Section of Litigation, when he participates in the Presidential Showcase Program, *Simpson Aftershock: Seismic Changes for Justice?*

The Senior Lawyers Division presents Dr. Jane Goodall, renowned zoologist.

Gene Siskel, famous film critic, will speak at the Gavel Awards Luncheon.

Michael Tigar, lead attorney representing Terry Nichols in the Oklahoma City bombing, hosts the second session of The Greatest Law School Lectures You Never Heard.

Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick and Associate Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer have been invited by the Criminal Justice Section to participate in a CLE session on the 30th Anniversary of the Miranda decision.

The Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI) will hold its third annual luncheon at the Walt Disney World Dolphin on Saturday, August 3. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, will deliver the keynote address.

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Holocaust survivor and one of the world's greatest advocates for freedom will speak at the Prayer Breakfast.

The Sixth Annual Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards Luncheon will be Sunday, August 4, at the Walt Disney World Dolphin. The keynote speaker will be Madeleine K. Albright, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

U. S.
Atty. General
Janet Reno



Johnnie Cochran

Dr. Jane Goodall



Gene Siskel



Madeleine K. Albright

ABA

Side BAR

Important Deadlines:

In order to receive hotel accommodations, you must register by Monday, July 1, 1996. To appear in the Advance Registration List, I.T.S. must receive your registration form by the deadline which is 5 PM CDT on Wednesday, July 10. After that time, you may register on-site beginning Thursday, August 1 at the Walt Disney World Dolphin.

Early Bird Registration: You must register by May 31 to receive the Early Bird discount. Don't delay. Send in your registration form today!

Weather and Dress:

Sunny and warm is always the forecast for balmy Orlando, Florida. High temperatures range from the upper 80s to mid 90s with lows in the upper 60s to mid 70s. The climate is relatively humid with frequent afternoon thunder showers.

Break out the shorts and summer attire. No business suits allowed! Pack clothes that are casual, lightweight and comfortable. You may want to include a sweater or lightweight jacket since air-conditioning can make some indoor facilities a bit cool. Coats and ties for men are not required for most restaurants, although sports jackets are popular for evening dining.

Most of the hotels have fitness centers so include your workout gear. Bring a hat and some sunscreen to ward off those damaging UV rays. And, finally don't forget your sunglasses and comfortable walking shoes to wear while exploring the endless miles of theme parks.

Insider's Guide:

Register and you'll receive a free copy of the Insider's Guide. It's packed with time-saving tips and everything you need to know to make the most of the Annual Meeting experience—whether you're a first-timer or a veteran attendee.

1996 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM TRACKS

Get on the Fast Track

Where did everybody go? If you want to know where to go and what to do next, get on Track. At the ABA Annual Meeting in Orlando, you won't have to miss a single essential program related to your specialty... Program Tracks are daily guides that have been developed especially for the **Solo Practitioner, Corporate Counsel** and **"Techie."** It's a necessary planning tool that helps you use your time to best advantage.

The **Solo Track** will steer the independent practitioner toward programs that help grow your business through effective marketing, breakthrough office automation, efficient practice management and new billing alternatives. Designed for solos and small firm lawyers, these substantive topics can be applied to lawyers in any size firm.

The **Corporate Counsel Track** will guide you to hundreds of resourceful and informative programs. These programs explore the latest developments in corporate law and its affect on business and corporations. Focusing on the needs of corporate counsel and private attorneys working with in-house counsel, this track provides sessions on critical current issues and ethical concerns, as well.

Finally, there's the **Technology Track**. Here you'll find innovative computer solutions for office and courtroom, plus participate in hands-on demonstrations of the software that will propel you into the next century. You'll learn how to use today's technology - including the Internet - to provide high quality services for your clients and gain the competitive advantage... a must for techies in all types of firms.

SOLO & SMALL FIRM

CORPORATE COUNSEL

TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ABA Internet Center

"The Law After O.J.: Technology in the Courtroom"

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

"The Practical Law Practice - Problems and Solutions for the Minority Solo and Small Firm Practitioner"

10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

"Opportunities for Minority In-House Counsel"

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Second Annual Supreme Court Symposium

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ABA Internet Center

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"Hazards of the Job: How to Recognize Legal Malpractice Pitfalls and Purchase Insurance to Cover Them"

"A Winning Combination: You and Your Marketing Effort"

"Electronic Commerce: Finance and Fraud on the Information Superhighway"

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"Hot Issues in Federal Sentencing"

"The Mouse That Roared: The Technologically Challenged Judge"

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"Guiding the Solo & Small Practice Into the 21st Century"

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

"The Law After O.J.: The Power of the Pen - How to be a Media Darling"

"The Law After O.J.: The Power of the Pen - How to be a Media Darling"

"The Best of TECHSHOW"

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

"Hot Tips from the Experts"

"Ethical Issues in Representing High Technology Companies"

"Ethical Issues in Representing High Technology Companies"

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"The Lawyers Role in Preventing Liability"

"The Lawyers Role in Preventing Liability"

ABA Internet Center

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

"Hollywood Goes Digital: The Making of a Multimedia Production"

"Hollywood Goes Digital: The Making of a Multimedia Production"

"Hollywood Goes Digital: The Making of a Multimedia Production"

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"Miranda at 30: Still Good After All These Years?"

"Get a Life - Is a Home Office the Answer?"

"Alternative Billing that Clients Rush to Pay"

"Alternative Billing that Clients Rush to Pay"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 (Continued)

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"Hi-Lo, Hi-Lo - Where Will Our Relationship Go? Pressures on the Tri-Partite Relationship"

"Ethical Considerations Arising from Defense of an Insured by In-House or Captive Counsel"

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

"Structuring and Negotiating Computer and Software Deals, New Problems and Solutions"

"Structuring and Negotiating Computer and Software Deals, New Problems and Solutions"

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"Impact of the Service's Budgetary Limitations"

"Use of Technology in Tax Litigation"

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"Child Support and Income Tax Rules"

"Current Partnership Planning Techniques"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

"Basic National Labor Relations Act Practice"

"Basic National Labor Relations Act Practice"

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

"The Internet Lawyer: Virtual Legality - Technological Acrobatics While Using The Net"

"The Internet Lawyer: Virtual Legality - Technological Acrobatics While Using The Net"

8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"Electronic Commerce Primer"

"Electronic Commerce Primer"

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

"Trademarks and Patents for the Non-Specialist"

"Trademarks and Patents for the Non-Specialist"

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

"Making Rain: Business Development and Professionalism"

"A Corporate Dilemma: Cooperation or Capitulation Under the Sentencing Guidelines - An Interactive Seminar"

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

"Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: Damage Control When Key People Leave and/or the Law Firm Splits Up"

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION DINNER
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUGUST 2, 1996

[Acknowledgments: Roberta Ramo, ABA president; Raquel Rodriguez, chair of Young Lawyers Division; Bob Geltzer, event coordinator]

Thank you. I am very honored to receive this award and to be counted among such a distinguished group of past recipients and lawyers.

You know, after reading Art Buchwald's syndicated column the other day, I was a little worried about coming here and being seen with so many lawyers. Mr. Buchwald says that the one reason I've been getting so much criticism these days isn't because I'm Bill Clinton's wife, or a Democrat, or a Chicago Cubs fan; it's because I'm a lawyer.

But seriously, I am delighted that I could join all of you - the Fellows, members, and supporters of the Young Lawyers Division -- tonight.

I want to thank you for the passion and commitment you bring to serving our communities and to helping all members of our profession fulfill our most important purpose -- that of making our society more just, and justice more accessible to all our citizens.

Through such efforts as the Affiliate Outreach Project, the Greater Access and Assistance Project, and the Disaster Legal Services Committee, you have helped countless Americans resolve disputes, overcome problems large and small, and in turn, gain a greater respect for our country's system of justice.

I want especially to thank you for your continuing commitment to the Center on Children and the Law. I am convinced that the persistent and heartbreaking problems of child abuse, neglect, and foster care must be addressed seriously by lawyers. It can't be left to overburdened social workers who are trying to do their best under very tough circumstances. Lawyers can and should be leaders in the effort to develop laws and legal precedents that protect children and strengthen families.

As all of you here tonight have already found out, the most valuable reward of a Juris Doctor isn't necessarily a six-figure salary or a precise knowledge of the tax code. Rather it's the power to serve others in our community, to help those who have no voice, who do not have the means or the skills to seek justice for themselves and for their families.

"Freedom. Justice. Liberty. Without lawyers they're only words" is the theme you are exploring and celebrating at this year's convention. For millions of Americans, "freedom, justice, and liberty" will certainly mean little if Congress succeeds in its short-sighted crusade to destroy a once-bipartisan, 22-year old American institution, the Legal Services Corporation.

From the very beginning, the Legal Services Corporation has had to weather many challenges to its existence. I know from my own experience.

I was just one year out of law school when President Nixon signed the bipartisan bill creating the Legal Services Corporation in 1974. My service on the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry into President Nixon was ending and I needed to find a new job. I decided to call the dean of the law school at the University of Arkansas -- where a young man I knew from Yale was also teaching -- and asked him if his long-standing offer of a professorship was still open. The dean said yes. But when I asked him what he wanted me to teach, he answered, "I don't know. I'll tell you when you get here."

Two weeks later, I arrived in a place where I had never lived to take a job I knew nothing about. [Love can do strange things to a person.] When I went to see the dean, he said, "Well I've given this some thought. I want you to teach criminal law. I want you to run the prison projects at the state and federal prisons. I want you to teach trial advocacy. Oh, and by the way, I want you to set up and run the new legal aid clinic."

I was already feeling a little overwhelmed when I met a prominent judge at the local bar association's welcoming cocktail party for the law faculty. The president of the bar introduced me to the judge saying, "Judge, this is the new lady law professor. She is going to teach criminal law and run the legal aid clinic." And this tall, distinguished man with a handlebar gray mustache looked down at me and said, "Well, I don't have any use for lady law professors or legal aid clinics, but we're glad to have you here anyway."

I didn't have too much time to let the doubts about my career choice chase me out of Arkansas because classes started the next day. And I went to work -- desperately trying to stay at least one class ahead of my students, furiously filling out all the paperwork to create the legal aid clinic, and recruiting students and volunteers to help. I believed firmly that having the opportunity to represent real-life clients with real problems would be an important part of my students' education.

[Some experiences you used in SMU speech:

☒ At Yale, I represented a poor foster mother who was trying

to keep the young girl she had raised for four years after a wealthier couple offered to adopt her.

■ In Arkansas, legal aid represented a young mother of eight who wanted to divorce her coal miner husband. After scouring courthouse files, we found out she was never legally married to begin with.]

As a former legal aid lawyer and a former chair of the Legal Services Corporation, I've met many more people like that judge over the past 22 years. But despite such opposition, legal aid societies have become a part of American life. Last year, legal services programs throughout the country helped five million people who otherwise could not afford legal assistance with evictions, divorces, and child support collections. As most of you know and have first-hand experience with -- the vast majority of these cases require little more than basic advice, a referral, a patient ear, a letter, or a phone call to solve the problem. Very few cases need to be resolved in the courts.

As President Nixon said when he first proposed the legal services legislation, "These are small claims in the Nation's eye, but they loom large in the hearts and lives of poor Americans."

As you know, the very survival of the Legal Services Corporation hangs in the balance. Despite strong efforts by the Administration, the ABA, and countless others around the country, Congress slashed funding for Legal Services by one third to \$278 million in the FY '96 budget. Congress also tied the hands of legal aid lawyers by banning them from filing class action suits. And even more troubling, the same Congress that touts less federal involvement in local programs placed many restrictions on the funds that legal aid programs are allowed to raise from private sources.

A quarter of Legal Services' professional staff have left, more than 100 offices have closed, and thousands of low-income Americans have been denied access to our legal system.

The magnitude of the problem is apparent in the area of domestic abuse. According to the Legal Services Corporation, one in every three cases they handle is a family law case. 59,000 of the cases handled in 1995 were attempts by poor women to get legal protection from abusive husbands. About 9,300 of them involved neglected and abused children. As the President said in California last week, "If we want to protect people against domestic violence, we must not destroy the Legal Services Corporation. We ought to let legal aid lawyers do their jobs so they can help the rest of us protect people."

Congressional opponents are trying once again to eliminate

the Legal Services Corporation. The House Appropriations Committee voted to slash funding in the new budget by another \$100 million to \$178 million -- almost \$200 million less than the President's budget request of \$340 million. But there are some on both sides of the aisle who are working to counter this assault. Last month, the House, in a remarkable vote, passed a bipartisan amendment to restore most of that funding to \$250 million. Yesterday, in a letter to the Senate, the Administration once again strongly urged the Committee to provide \$340 million for Legal Services and once again, expressed serious concerns about the existing restrictions. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$288 million. The House and Senate levels will have to be reconciled.

Hopefully, Congress will at least hold the line on any further debilitating cuts from current levels while we await a time when a greater commitment to legal aid and "justice for all" will be possible.

I want to thank the ABA for your leadership in this effort to save Legal Services. And I want to thank all the private law firms, local bar associations and individual lawyers for stepping in to fill at least some of the void created by the drastic cuts. As you already know, pro-bono hours and donations have long been part of the legal services equation. There are always more people than can be helped.

The effort to undermine legal services hasn't just hurt thousands of poor Americans with legal troubles or the hundreds of dedicated lawyers who have lost jobs they loved. It has harmed our society's fundamental commitment to justice, to law, and to progress.

I believe that our society and our profession became truer to our fundamental values with the founding of the Legal Services Corporation. The thousands of legal aid lawyers and the many more thousands of private lawyers who donate time to legal aid work are the heart and soul of our profession. They are helping our country uphold the one true contract individuals have with America -- the Constitution, and specifically its promise of justice for all.

As the President said in a proclamation for National Legal Services Week: "The very nature of justice demands that it be available to all. True justice cannot be rationed -- it cannot be accorded to some while others are denied the full benefit of their rights. Our founders understood that privilege and responsibility are inextricably linked. The words 'Equal Justice under the Law,' inscribed over the portal of our highest court, represent a solemn promise made to every American."

Each time a legal aid lawyer helps a mother petition for

child support, or forces a nursing home to live up to its obligations to its elderly residents, this country and our profession move closer to our ideals. I'm not asking all of you to go out and become legal aid lawyers. I'm just asking that all of us consider what it means to be a lawyer today and what it would mean to our profession if none of us were able to be legal aid lawyers. A career in the law should mean a life of service and a commitment to justice, whether it is in a legal aid office, a classroom, or a law firm.

As the Fellows and former "Young Lawyers" in this room will agree, one of the wonderful things about growing older is discovering that the struggle for progress is often as important, if not more so, than the end result. At some point, however idealistic we may be or have been, we accept that the principles of fairness, justice, and equality often become flawed in their application. We accept that we will not solve all the problems we see in our lifetime. But we keep striving, we keep struggling for these ideals that we believe must be kept alive. We remain committed to the promise of a better future.

As so many of you already know, and as many of you are learning, the cause of justice is worth a lifelong struggle. I commend you for being willing, in times that are not always favorable to lawyers, to play leadership roles in a profession that is so essential to the continuing vitality of our country's cherished ideals.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 5, 1996

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
AT SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
DALLAS, TEXAS

MRS. CLINTON: . . . This lecture which I'm very honored to give. I want to thank my friend Ms. Branson and her husband Frank for their encouragement for me to do this. And it is a great pleasure. I had a wonderful day in Texas. I started in Corpus Christi visiting a school, talking with parents and teachers and students and community leaders about what they are doing to help students, particularly from poor backgrounds, to get the kind of help that they need. I went from there to Uvalde to a great gathering at the former home and now museum of John Nance Garner. I learned that that is a part of Texas and a part of America that produces more mohair than any other.

I love to saddle around learning such things. It gives me great pleasure to see the extraordinary diversity in our country and then be able to come here to SMU, an institution that I admire and have followed with great interest for many years. This is a real opportunity for me to reflect on what a legal education and a career in the law has meant in my own life, and not only could mean, but I assume will mean, in the lives of many of the students here and will find some precedence in the lives and careers of those who are teachers and practitioners as well. It is also an opportunity for me to think aloud with you about the ways a career in the law can fulfill its most important purpose -- to be an instrument for promoting the common good, a vehicle for making our society a more just one for all of its citizens.

~~I started law school, as the dean has told you, in 1969.~~ And that was a time of great political and social ferment. Many of us in law school at that time saw the law as an avenue for positive social change for helping the vulnerable, the weak, the poor, for protecting and advancing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Then, as now, there were many ways to reach one's goals as a lawyer. And those ways have not diminished but, in fact, expanded in the years since. One could become an advocate, a legislator, a teacher, a litigator, a business counsel, a prosecutor, a public defender -- all the many ways that people with legal training find to fulfill that training in a positive, productive contribution to society. I'm sure all these and many other choices will be reflected in the careers chosen by those who graduate from SMU. But being here on a law school campus, I'm reminded particularly of my experiences as a law professor at the University of Arkansas.

*are reflected in the Young Lawyers Section
as they are there on the profession
today*

I came to that university in the summer of 1974. I had been working on behalf of the House Judiciary Committee. And its impeachment inquiry into President Nixon. That ended with the president's resignation on August 8, and I needed to find a job. I had visited Arkansas because I had met a young man at Yale who was from Arkansas and, literally, that's all he ever talked about was Arkansas. And, when he graduated in 1973, he knew very well what he wanted to do, and that was to go home to teach at the University and see whether or not a legal opportunity existed for him to use his legal career in public service. When I visited him in Arkansas, I met the dean of the law school. And in a casual conversation at dinner one night, the dean said, "You know, if you ever want to teach, give me a call." Life was a lot simpler in those days.

So, after President Nixon's resignation, I, with some trepidation, picked up the phone and called the then dean. I said, "Remember when you said 'if I ever wanted to teach to give you a call?' Well, I have an interest in teaching and an interest in living in Arkansas to see what it is like. Is that offer still good?" He said, "Oh, absolutely." So I then said, "Well, in order to get prepared, what would you like me to teach?" He answered, "I don't know. I'll tell you when you get here."

So, about two weeks later, I arrived at a place where I had never lived to take a job I knew nothing about. And there in August of 1974, I began my career as a law teacher. The dean, upon my greeting him when I arrived, said, "Well, I've given this some thought. I want you to teach first-year criminal law. I want you to run the legal aid clinic. I want you to run the prison projects in the state federal prisons. And, by the way, I want you to teach trial advocacy." All of which I had extraordinary experiences in, but had never done in the past. So, I swallowed hard and immediately began trying to figure out how to start.

The very first evening after having been given that assignment, I was invited to the town bar association's welcoming cocktail party for the new law school faculty. ~~I don't know if there is a comparable kind of event for new faculty members here,~~ but it was very kind of the president of the bar to take me and to show me around. I quickly concluded that it was also quite amusing because he would take me up to everyone and he would say, "I would like you to meet the new lady law professor." And I would smile and I'd say "How do you do?" and everyone was very cordial. Until he introduced me to one of the formidable judges in the state at that time, a long-serving chancellor because Arkansas had still chancellery divisions. And he said, "Judge, this is the new lady law professor. She's going to teach them the law and run the legal aid clinic." And this very tall, distinguished man with a handlebar grey mustache looked down at

me and said, "Well, I don't have any use for lady law professors or legal aid clinics, but we're glad to have you here anyway."

At this moment, I began to wonder about my career choice, but I didn't have much time to reflect upon it because classes started the very next day. So, I desperately tried to stay at least one class ahead of my students. And I began to work in and help create a legal aid program at the University. I knew that there were many people who then, as well as now, did not cotton through the idea of free legal services, and I knew because I had worked in legal aid programs when I was at Yale that it would be something of an uphill struggle. But I never doubted for a minute that it was an important part of my students' experience in law school to have the opportunity to represent real clients with real problems. And I never doubted that it was a critical amendment of our profession.

Some of the experiences that I had, both when I was a student doing legal aid work, and then later as the director of the University of Arkansas legal aid clinic, were some of the best experiences I've had in the law. Certainly my interest in working on behalf of children and families was piqued when as a law student, I worked with a local lawyer and a legal aid lawyer in bringing some challenges to the state of Connecticut's policies as to who could or could not adopt children. And the case I remember very well was of a young girl about four years old who'd been with a foster mother for her entire life. And the state decided that they found a better home for her, and they were going to take her from that environment and place her with another family who had been waiting to adopt a child. And the foster mother desperately wanted to adopt this child herself. So we represented this poor foster mother who did not have sufficient funds to hire a lawyer, but who had a very good argument as to why she had created a mother-child relationship with this little girl.

And the case was hard fought. In those days, the decision was that it would be better for the child to be moved to an environment that had more material possibilities than to stay with the mother that she had known. A decision that I disagreed with then and a decision I disagree with now. But working on that case opened up my eyes to many of the psychological and emotional and other issues having to do with adoption and foster care.

When I began working at the legal aid clinic at the University of Arkansas, I encountered other kinds of challenges. I will never forget a young woman who showed up with her father wanting a divorce. And her father was an elderly gentleman. He'd been a coal miner in western Arkansas. And this young woman had eight children, and she recited to me all the reasons why she wanted a divorce. She told me where she got married and soon

began looking for the marriage certificate so that they could make the necessary pleadings. We could not find the place that she had been legally married anywhere. And I was especially concerned about telling this poor woman with eight children that she had never been legally married. Some student came to me and said, "You know, we looked in all the neighboring counties, there's nothing on record. We don't think shes' ever been legally married."

So we had her come back in with her father. She sat in my office, and I was just trying to summon up all my empathy, everything I could to let her know what had happened. And I started off by saying, "Well, I've got some difficult news to deliver. We don't think you've ever been legally married." She just gasped and her father said, "Good. I never liked him anyway."

We had experiences like that that you can only have in the kind of practice that comes in the door of a legal aid clinic. In the years since, I have encountered many people like that formidable judge who do not believe in legal services for people who cannot afford them. But despite that opposition, the Legal Services Corporation was created by a bipartisan Congress and signed into law by President Nixon with the idea that local legal aid programs would be funded to assist millions of Americans with their legal problems -- problems that would otherwise go unaddressed.

After 22 years, legal aid societies have become a way of American life, and the Legal Services Corporation is one of the institutions our society has to nurture and practice one of its most cherished ideals -- that of justice for all Americans. Last year, legal services programs here and throughout the country helped five million people who otherwise could not afford assistance with evictions and foreclosures and divorces. Often, advice, a referral, a listening ear, a letter, or a phone call is enough to solve a problem. Very few of these cases, as with most practices, need to be resolved in the courts.

From my own experiences, which not only included legal aid work, but as a founder of the Ozark Legal Services Corporation in Arkansas, as a former member and then chair of Legal Services Corporation, I know how simple assistance can often head off more complicated problems. But today, the Legal Services Corporation's survival hangs in the balance. Over the past year, opponents in Congress ~~have tried to cut funding and even to kill~~ the Legal Services Corporation. As of the first of this year, funding for the corporation in a temporary spending measure was slashed by one third, and the final fate will be determined later this year.

Efforts continue
to kill

4

Slashed

by 1/3

for ABA
clips

particularly proud
of leadership ABA has
given
us
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this

At the same time that the Legal Services Corporation has been under a frontal assault, private law firms, bar associations, and individual lawyers have not only sprung (as they have consistently for more than 20 years) to the defense of legal services, but increased their own donations and pro bono hours to make up for some of the lost funds. That is a critical part of the legal services equation, because even if one has a corporation with paid staff to perform most of the functions needed for representing poor clients, that is not enough. And if it were not for private attorneys, both who contribute dollars to existing legal services operations but, more importantly, contribute their time, there is no way we could reach the many people who need the services.

What it means for a poor American who is denied legal services can be seen in the kinds of cases that I used to take care of and that many of you in this room work on as well. We know that if we were in trouble, because for whatever combination of reasons we were to be evicted, or we were subjected to domestic abuse, or we didn't have what we thought we were entitled to with respect to fair pay or fair treatment, we would want someone's help. The poor are no different. Under the current cuts, some 1.3 million people would have been denied help. It would be very difficult to make the distinctions between those who will receive it and those who will not.

Despite pleas by ABA & countless supporters across the country, Congress is also trying to tie the hands of legal aid lawyers by putting restrictions on what kinds of cases such lawyers can take. More troubling to me is that Congress is also trying to restrict the non-public private donations that come from law firms and other sources, so that they, too, cannot be used freely by legal services offices.

Congress
1 - cuts by 1/3 to 278m.
2 - restrict
Add current situation

Now, some of you may be asking yourselves how a debate over the existence of the Legal Services Corporation affects you, our nation's future lawyers. Well, for those who wish to serve in some capacity on behalf of legal services, it is obviously a direct impact. But for most of you, and in fact, for most of us who are lawyers, it has more to do with our society's fundamental commitment to justice, to law, and to progress. Roscoe Pound, the famous dean of the Harvard Law School, once said, "Law must be stable and yet it cannot stand still." He meant that the law must evolve with the times, offering the security of permanence, the hope for change, and new opportunities for us to use the law to benefit the larger society.

I believe that both our society and our profession became truer to our fundamental values with the founding of the Legal Services Corporation 22 years ago. The thousands of legal aid lawyers and the many more thousands of private lawyers who donate time to legal aid work are the heart and soul of our profession. They are helping our country uphold the one true contract

Started process this year. Goal of clearing -
in 18 months in house recording \$150 a - killed
for C.

individuals have with America -- the Constitution, and specifically its promise of justice for all.

Each time a legal aid lawyer helps a mother petition for child support, or forces a nursing home to live up to its obligations of taking care of its elderly residents, this country, this society, our profession moves closer to its ideals. I'm not asking all of you to become legal aid lawyers. I'm just asking that all of us consider what it means to be a lawyer today and the absence that those who do practice legal aid would mean to how we fulfill our roles. A career in the law should mean a life of service and a commitment to justice, whether it is in a legal aid office or a classroom or in any other setting where lawyers practice.)

) a law firm, or

One of the experiences about growing older is discovering that the struggle for progress in a society is often as important, if not more so, than the end result. At some point, however idealistic we may be or have been, we accept that the principles of fairness, justice, and equality often become flawed in their application. We accept that we will and no one will solve all the problems we see in our lifetime. But we keep striving, we keep struggling for these ideals that we believe have to be kept alive. We remain committed to the process of living up to our own better natures and the values we espouse and the promise of a better future.

As so many of you already know, and as many of you are learning, the cause of justice is worth a lifelong struggle. I commend you for being willing in times that are not always favorable to lawyers for being willing to take your place in a profession that is so essential, not only to the operations of a complex society, but to the ideals that that society should attempt to achieve. Thank you very much.

play a leader - ship's role

[The moderator then asked Mrs. Clinton questions that had been written by members of the audience. Due to the fact that the moderator's questions were barely audible, the wording of the questions has been paraphrased.]

MODERATOR: You have time for a few questions. This is a little bit different. We have a third-year law student who has spent many thousand dollars on a degree. How can a person perform pro bono work while faced with paying off law school loans?

MRS. CLINTON: Good question, because I know a lot of you have incurred debt. I know that both my husband and I borrowed money and took loans to get through law school. And the debt load wasn't as great as some of you face, and certainly not \$80,000, but it was something we had to deal with.

I believe that there is still an opportunity, no matter what job you take when you graduate, to do some pro bono work, even if it's just one case, even if it's just volunteering in some way. But there is that opportunity, and I would urge you to take it. It doesn't have to be direct service for a client. It could also be work on behalf of a not-for-profit organization that needs some legal assistance. That was one of the things that I enjoyed doing as much as anything in my work in the past -- working with groups that were trying to get organized and get focused and do what they can. So, I would just urge you, even with the debt load that you have and the hours that you will have to work in order to pay that back, save at least maybe a couple hours a month to do something pro bono.

MODERATOR: Is the Legal Services Corporation the best way to provide legal services for the poor? Are there any existing services that could substitute for the functions that the corporation performs?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, of course, the Legal Services Corporation distributes funds to local legal aid offices that are governed by local boards and make their own decisions. I've served on the board of one, I've worked with one, I have followed how they operate. So I do think that, as I said, the Legal Services Corporation cannot be the only way of providing legal services to the poor. But, I think it's a necessary base that provides a structure that does try to reach into every community. And although it is spread thin, I think it does provide that presence. So, although I encourage local bars and state bars to continue to do and even increase what they're doing directly with legal services and in support of the Legal Services Corporation, I don't think that it would be an efficient way to substitute for what the Legal Services Corporation does.

MODERATOR: Do you feel that there are still good opportunities available in public service?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think there are many opportunities. I believe you have to do what you care about and what you are motivated to do, and not just look for something that makes sense on paper if it doesn't fill you with the desire to make a difference. I think public life -- elected office -- is a very important role for both men and women, but particularly for young women to look to. But, I also think government service -- public service at all levels of government -- is important for people.

I'm saddened when I see that the climate seems to suggest that it is not worth government or public life because it is tough, it is not pleasant. I would not stand up here and tell you that it was, because it has not gotten any better, but instead it's gotten worse in the years that I've observed and been part of it. And so you have to know that it's a challenge.

But, on the other hand, if that's what you're interested in, I would urge you to do it and just take the risks that go along with it because there are risks doing anything in life. There is no free ride no matter what career choice you make. And there's no guarantee that what you do when you're 25 or 35 will be what you're doing when you're 45 or 55.

I did not have a career plan to end up living in the White House married to the President of the United States. That was not something that ever crossed my mind or looked like it might actually happen. So, you can't predict what you're going to do in your own life. So you have to do every day what gives you satisfaction, and if that's public service and its many forms, then please, do it, pursue it, and you all have to stand up and advocate on behalf of what you believe.

MODERATOR: What is your viewpoint on the state of ethics in America?

MRS. CLINTON: Oh, I think that generally in America, whether its American politics or the American legal profession, I think that if you look and compare the United States to any other country I'm aware of, or any other point in past history, by and large people are ethical, they try live up to their ethical obligations. They can be second-guessed -- I know that from firsthand experience. But, most people I know that I have the chance to observe and work with have tried very hard to fulfill their ethical obligations as lawyers.

Now, I do believe that you have to constantly be vigilant and where there are problems, you have to resolve them. But I think sometimes we can get to the point where we strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. There are a lot of choices in the law, just as in life, that are difficult choices. And you do the best you can, and you try to be as ethical and careful as possible. But, if you always keep that in mind, then you are more likely than not to live with yourself and be able to maintain your own standards. And at the end of the day, that is what is really important.

So, yes, we have to be conscious of ethical lapses of ourselves and others in the profession. We have to do what we can to make those not be spreaded but instead be refined and possibly be cured. But we also have to recognize that I think we do on balance a better job than sometimes the public gives the legal profession credit for.

MODERATOR: What is one of the most important qualities that a lawyer should possess?

MRS. CLINTON: I don't have any idea. I mean, for a woman, probably a good haircut.

I think that is such a difficult question. Obviously, you know, integrity, character, the things that make for a good person make for a good lawyer. I've often thought that there are many people in professions, not just law, but in other professions as well, who at the end of the day what you look for is good judgement and good judgement is based on experience and thoughtfulness and a sense of a center for the person and the values more important than either the degrees on the wall or the entry in the Martindale (inaudible). So it's very difficult to go beyond what is, you know, basic to what makes a good person.

MODERATOR: We have time for one more question. This is from -- we'll give the faculty a little time here -- this is from Professor (inaudible). What role should lawyers play in cases involving children, and how can lawyers provide that representation?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think that this is one of the continuing challenges that the legal profession has because what we have to do is do a better job in strengthening families and in educating parents to take care of their own children and to limit the amount of intervention into any family on behalf of a child. That is the general principle that should be followed in nearly every case.

The unfortunate fact is that we had quite an increase -- and particularly a fanatic increase in the last few years -- in child abuse and neglect. The most numbers of increased cases are in children under four. So that we know that there are, for whatever combination of reasons, children were not being adequately cared for by their own family members. And because we have this conflict, both in the law and inside each of us about wanting to protect the sanctity of the family and enable the family to make decisions for children, on the other hand, not wanting to keep children in dangerous situations and wanting to, insofar as humanly possible, give children a second chance at a loving family, there is a constant conflict in the law and among decision makers when it comes to intervening into families, possibly terminating parental rights, and stepping in as parents patriae and making decisions on behalf of the child.

Having both been involved in such cases and having watched this now for about 25 years, I think that we have to be much more careful about when we intervene. But when we intervene, we have to be much more willing to move to terminate parental rights and release children for adoption as soon as possible. And there are many children -- about 100,000 right now -- who are in the limbo of foster care, which is about 450,000 children. And those 100,000 are there despite the fact that they could and should be released for adoption or placement with another family.

So I would like to see more effort on the part of lawyers to try to structure some remedies in every state that would use volunteer lawyers to act as advocates for children in the foster care system, volunteer judges keeping the courts open. I think this is a real emergency. So that perhaps within a year or two, as I wrote and suggested in my book, we could make permanent decisions on behalf of the children who are caught in the foster care system.

There also has to be clearer direction to parents from whom a child is taken as to what they must do to prove that they are capable of caring for that child. If they are drug addicts, they have to be in some kind of program or forfeit their rights. At a certain point, you have to move the from emphasis on parental rights to looking at what is in the best interest of a child. It is not an easy transition to make, but we leave too many children in dangerous, neglectful situations for too long. So, I would hope that some of the good minds at SMU and other places around the country who care about children, would begin to think through in a practical way, what we can do to solve this constant conflict between the rights of the family and the parents and the needs of the child. And I think lawyers and law students have a great opportunity to be of service in this.

I would just like to conclude by saying that one of the things that always noticed (both when I was in law school and when I taught in the law schools) is that domestic relations law -- laws having to do with children -- were not considered to be of the same status as, you know, studying tax code or corporate law or anti-trust and things like that. I always thought that was a real loss for our society. . .that caring about what happens in the way the law affects our lives as family members is critical to making it possible to strengthen families as opposed to just continuing to allow social conditions to overwhelm them. I think we're at a point now where many people feel that way, and that lawyers have a chance to lead the way.

We need to look at divorce laws. I believe divorce laws where children are involved should be harder, or should be breaking mechanisms. I don't know the answers, but I would love to have some people who think seriously about this come up with them. I think this whole foster care/adoption situation is very troubling. The abuse and neglect of children has got to be addressed seriously by lawyers, and not left to overburdened social workers who are doing the best they can often under very tough circumstances.

So, there's a real opportunity to look at issues that are difficult and emotional. It's a lot easier reading the code -- believe me. I mean, it doesn't yell at you on the phone, it doesn't cry in your office. But, the issues as to what we're going to do with the family and how we're going to preserve it

and strengthen families is, I would argue, one of the most critical issues to the functioning of society and therefore should command the attention and respect of more lawyers so that they can be part of the solutions that we need to find together. Thank you very much.

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LSC APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY FROM FY 95 TO FY 97

FY 95

- o Administration requested \$500 million.
- o LSC initially requested \$848 million, and then \$500 million.
- o Appropriations level was \$415 million pre-rescission and \$400 million post-rescission.

FY 96

- o Administration requested \$440 million.
- o The Budget Resolution agreed to by the House proposed funding LSC at \$278 in FY 96, \$141 million in FY 97 and the elimination of funding in FY 98. The Budget Resolution agreed to by the Senate would cut LSC funding by 35% in FY 96 (to \$270 million from the originally enacted FY 95 appropriation of \$415 million). Appropriations would then remain at that level through FY 2002. At conference House and Senate conferees were unable to reconcile the differences between their two versions of the Budget Resolution. Therefore, no language on LSC was included in the final FY 96 budget resolution.
- o LSC requested \$440 million.
- o In July 1995, the House passed a Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies appropriation bill for FY 96 (H.R. 2076), which includes \$278 million for LSC (a 33% cut from the originally enacted Fiscal Year 1995 appropriation of \$415 million). The bill also placed many new restrictions on how LSC and its grantees can use LSC as well as all sources of funding.
- o In September 1995, the Senate Subcommittee marked-up a bill that abolished LSC and appropriated \$210 million for state block grants administered by DOJ for the delivery of legal services to the poor.
- o In floor action, the Senate adopted by voice vote an amendment offered by Senators Domenici and Hollings that restored LSC and the current delivery system. The amendment was similar to the appropriations bill passed by the House, and had a funding level for LSC of \$340 million for FY 96. The entire appropriations bill (which includes the Domenici amendment) was then passed by the Senate.

- o A conference on the Senate and House passed versions of the Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies appropriations bills was held on November 29, 1995. The Conference Bill provided \$278 million for LSC for FY 96 rather the higher Senate figure of \$340 million. It also included most of the restrictions contained in both the House and Senate FY 96 appropriations bills.
- o On December 19, 1995, President Clinton vetoed the Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, H.R. 2076. The House failed in its attempt to override the veto.
- o In the absence of an enacted Commerce Justice appropriations bill for FY 96, LSC was funded in the early months of FY 96 pursuant to a series of continuing resolutions. Under these continuing resolutions, LSC was funded at a rate of \$278 million and the restrictions contained in its FY 95 Appropriations bill remained in effect.
- o In April 1996, President Clinton signed the Omnibus Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 104-134 which, among other things, funded LSC for the remaining part of fiscal year 1996. The law provided \$278 million in funding and included most of the restrictions contained in the earlier House and Senate FY 96 appropriations bills.

FY 97

- o The Administration requested \$340 million.
- o The Budget Resolution agreed to by the House proposed funding LSC at \$95 million in FY 97 and the elimination of funding in FY 98. The Senate Budget Resolution did not include language on LSC funding. The final FY 97 resolution also did not include language on LSC funding .
- o LSC requested \$340 million.
- o On July 9, 1996, the House Commerce Justice Subcommittee marked-up its appropriation bill for FY 97 (H.R. 3814), which contains an appropriation of \$141 million for LSC. Of this amount, \$5.3 million is designated for management and administration and \$1.125 million for the OIG. The bill includes all the LSC provisions and restrictions contained in the Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY 96 (H.R. 3019) as well as a provision that allows the use of non-LSC funds for representation of undocumented aliens in domestic violence and related matters. On July 11, 1996, the bill was passed out of the full Appropriations Committee.
- o On July 23, 1996, an amendment offered by Reps. Alan Mollohan and Jon Fox to H.R. 3814 to increase LSC FY 97 funding was agreed to by a vote of 247 to 179. The

amendment increases LSC funding to \$250 million and makes no changes in the funding level for management and administration, the OIG or the provisions or restrictions in the Committee bill.

- o On July 30, 1996, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee approved a bill that funds LSC in FY 97 at \$288 million, with \$7.1 million for management and administration and \$1.5 million for the OIG. The bill includes all the LSC provisions and restrictions contained in the Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY 96 (H.R. 3019) as well as a provision that allows the use of non-LSC funds for representation of undocumented aliens in domestic violence and related matters. The full Senate Appropriation Committee is expected to consider the bill on August 1, 1996.

LSC APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY

YEAR	AUTHORITY	AMOUNT
1976		\$ 92,300,000
1977		\$125,000,000
1978		\$205,000,000
1979		\$270,000,000
1980	Public Law 96-68, 93 Stat. 433 (9/24/79)	\$300,000,000
1981	Public Law 96-536, 94 Stat. 3169 (12/16/80)	\$321,000,000
1982	Public Law 97-92, 95 Stat. 1191 (12/15/81)	\$241,000,000
1983	Public Law 97-377, 96 Stat. 1874 (12/21/92)*	\$241,000,000
1984	Public Law 98-166, 97 Stat. 1088 (11/28/83)	\$275,000,000
1985	Public Law 98-411, 98 Stat. 1563 (8/30/84)	\$305,000,000
1986	Public Law 99-180, 99 Stat. 1162 (12/13/85)	\$305,500,000
1987	Public Law 99-591, 100 Stat. 3341 (10/30/86)*	\$305,500,000
1988	Public Law 100-202, 101 Stat. 1329-33 (12/22/87)	\$305,500,000
1989	Public Law 100-459, 102 Stat. 2218 (10/1/88)	\$308,555,000
1990	Public Law 101 -162	\$316,525,000**
1991	Public Law 101-515	\$328,186,000***
1992	Public Law 102-140	\$350,000,000
1993	Public Law 102-395, 106 Stat. 1828 (10/6/92)	\$357,000,000
1994	Public Law 103-121	\$400,000,000
1995	Public Law 103-317	\$415,000,000****

*Continuing Appropriations

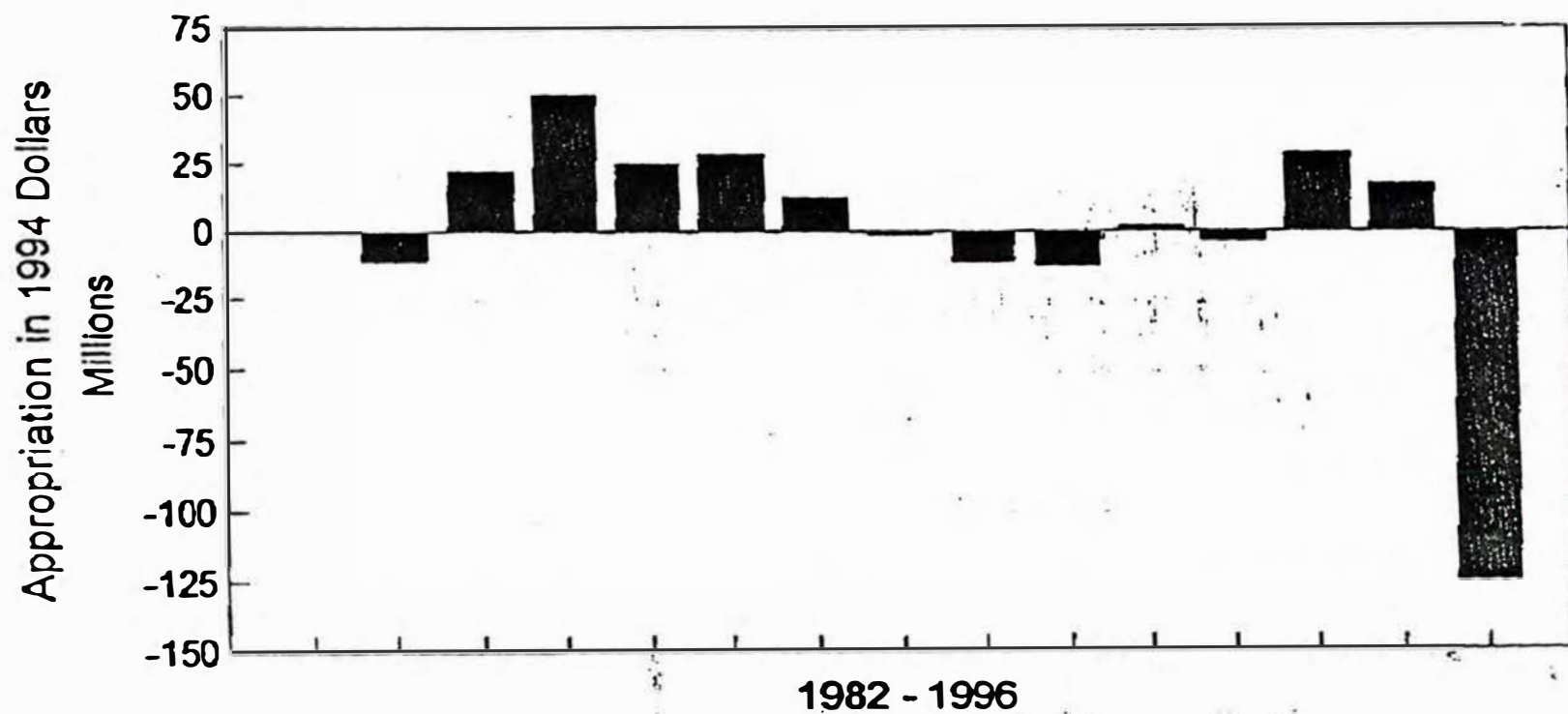
** Sequestered. Original approp. \$321,000,000

***Includes \$1 million supplemental approp. P.L. 102-27, 105 Stat 138 (4/10/91)

****\$15 million of this amount was rescinded in H.R. 889. The Defense Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

LSC APPROPRIATIONS: 1982 - 1996

COMPARED TO 1982 IN 1994 DOLLARS



■ Appropriation Level

1996 Projected at 35% Cut

THE ADMINISTRATION'S REMARKS ON LSC

- o President Clinton declared the week of September 26 through October 2, 1994, "National Legal Services Week" on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation.
- o White House Counsel Abner Mikva, Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick, and FEMA General Counsel John Carey all testified in favor of reauthorizing LSC at a hearing held by the House Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee held on May 16, 1995.
- o On September 11, 1995, Attorney General Janet Reno and White House Counsel Abner Mikva sent a letter to the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Henry Hyde, in strong opposition to H.R. 2277, the Legal Aid Act of 1995, which abolished LSC and appropriated \$210 million for state block grants administered by DOJ for the delivery of legal services to the poor.
- o On December 19, 1995, President Clinton vetoed the Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, H.R. 2076. President Clinton included LSC in his veto message stating that: "It cripples the capacity of LSC to fulfill its historic mission of serving people in need -- slashing its overall funding, sharply limiting the administrative funds LSC needs to conduct its business, and imposing excessive restrictions on LSC's operations. LSC should be allowed to carry on its work in an appropriate manner, both in its basic programs and in special initiatives like the migrant legal services program."
- o On March 6, 1996, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gave a speech in support of LSC at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.
- o On April 23, 1996, support for LSC was the subject of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's weekly newspaper column.
- o On July 23, 1996, President Clinton made the following remarks during a speech in Sacramento California: "To give you an idea of what a big problem this [domestic abuse] is, listen to this. The national Legal Services Corporation, present in most communities in our country, says that one in every three cases they handle is a family law case - one in three. In 1995, 59,000 of them were attempts by poor women to get legal protection from abusive husbands, 9,300 of them involved neglected and abused children. If we want to protect people against domestic violence we must not destroy the Legal Services Corporation, we ought to let them do their jobs so they can help the rest of us protect people."

**Administration Positions on FY 1997 Appropriations
for the Legal Services Corporation**

July 11, 1996, letter to Rep. Livingston (House Appropriations Chairman) – Full Committee

“The Administration strongly objects to the Subcommittee’s funding level of \$141 million for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The bill would cut the Corporation’s funding level by roughly 50 percent from last year’s level of \$278 million and is almost two-thirds below the FY 1995 level. It would provide approximately \$200 million less than the President’s request of \$340 million. One fourth of LSC’s professional staff have already left, over 100 offices have been closed, and thousands of low-income individuals who would have been assisted have been denied access to the legal system. Further reductions in funding would deprive LSC of the resources it needs to carry out its mission, essentially bankrupting the Corporation and denying the neediest members of our society access to the Nation’s judicial system.

“In addition, the Administration notes that the bill contains many restrictions on the activities of LSC grantees that were contained in the FY 1996 appropriations act. The Administration continues to have serious concerns with these restrictions, particularly the restrictions on the use of funds from non-LSC sources.”

July 16, 1996, Statement of Administration Policy – House Rules

“The Administration strongly objects to the Committee’s funding level of \$141 million for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The bill would cut the Corporation’s funding level by roughly 50 percent from last year’s level of \$278 million and is almost two-thirds below the FY 1995 level. It would provide approximately \$200 million less than the President’s request of \$340 million. Further reductions in funding would deprive LSC of the resources it needs to carry out its mission, essentially bankrupting the Corporation and denying the neediest members of our society access to the Nation’s judicial system.

“In addition, the Administration notes that the bill contains many restrictions on the activities of LSC grantees that were contained in the FY 1996 appropriations act. The Administration continues to have serious concerns with these restrictions, particularly the restrictions on the use of funds from non-LSC sources.”

July 17, 1996, Statement of Administration Policy – House Floor -- Same as Rules SAP above

July 30, 1996, letter to Senator Hatfield (Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman) – Subcommittee Action

“While the House floor vote to restore \$109 million to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) recognizes the inadequacy of the Committee funding level, the Administration strongly objects to the House-passed funding level of \$250 million. The House-passed level is \$90 million below the President’s request of \$340 million and \$28 million lower than the FY 1996

enacted level. Such a reduction in funding would deprive LSC of resources it needs to carry out its mission, further reducing the already limited access of the nation's poor to the judicial system.

"In addition, the House bill would reduce funding for LSC's management and administration by 25 percent, from \$7.1 million in FY 1996 to \$5.3 million in FY 1997. At this funding level, LSC would be forced to reduce its staff to approximately 20 employees, down from 96 in FY 1995. With a staff of this size, the Corporation would not be able to carry out its statutory responsibilities, including monitoring compliance, evaluating program quality, and maintaining a competitive grant system, in any meaningful way.

"Finally, the bill contains many restrictions on the activities of LSC grantees that were contained in the FY 1996 appropriations act. The Administration continues to have serious concerns with these restrictions, particularly those on the use of funds from non-LSC sources."

August 1, 1996, letter to Senator Hatfield –Full Committee

"The Administration commends the Subcommittee for increasing the funding level for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). However, while \$288 million is \$10 million over the FY 1996 level, we continue to strongly urge the Committee to provide the full request of \$340 million, which is needed to carry out LSC's mission to provide the Nation's poor with access to the judicial system.

"The Administration understands that the Subcommittee bill contains many restrictions on the activities of LSC grantees that were contained in the FY 1996 appropriations act. The Administration continues to have serious concerns with these restrictions, particularly those on the use of funds from non-LSC sources."

58TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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ABA Journal

August, 1994

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LENGTH: 759 words

SECTION: Your ABA

TITLE: Peaceful Presidential Politics: Election of ABA leaders at annual meeting is no contest

AUTHOR: James Podgers

TEXT:

If you're looking for excitement at the upcoming ABA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, you won't find it in the association's presidential election process.

The annual foregone conclusion of the ABA leadership succession is about to become reality again at the annual meeting, being held on Aug. 4-11.

The ABA's House of Delegates, which convenes on Aug. 9-10, will elect Roberta Cooper Ramo of Albuquerque, N.M., to a one-year term as ABA president starting at the end of the 1995 annual meeting in Chicago. She will become president-elect at the close of the New Orleans meeting, as George E. Bushnell Jr. of Detroit takes over the presidential reins from R. William Ide III of Atlanta.

Ramo's election is, for all intents and purposes, a done deal, and has been since she was selected by the ABA Nominating Committee in February at the midyear meeting in Kansas City.

Such a sure thing is not the result of some sort of machine-politics fix, just the nature of the ABA's discreet style of governance. While the politicking for leadership posts sometimes is intense in its early stages, matters are generally settled by the time they reach the Nominating Committee, and to see a race actually contested in the House is practically unheard of.

The only time it has happened in the past 60 years was 1976, when William B. Spann Jr. of Atlanta easily beat back a challenge in the House by Leroy Jeffers of Houston.

Candidates for national political office should have it so easy.

Unlike Bill Clinton, however, who had to campaign hard from nomination to election, Ramo has been able to enjoy the acclaim of being the first woman nominated to the ABA presidency, a fact that gives her upcoming election a dose of historical punch. She also has gotten a head start on the endless round of appearances and interviews that cram the schedules of ABA presidents.

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Just as certain a candidate as Ramo is Martha W. Barnett of Tallahassee, Fla., who stands to be elected as the first woman chair of the 533-member House starting at the end of the meeting in New Orleans. The first year of Barnett's two-year term will coincide with Ramo's presidential term.

Actually, Ramo is moving into the ABA presidency on her second try after having been involved in one of the most closely contested presidential races in the association's history. In 1991, the Nominating Committee required 88 ballots to sort out a three-way race in which J. Michael McWilliams of Baltimore was finally chosen. His final election was, of course, uncontested.

Occasionally, the ABA has been urged to open up the process of selecting the president and other officers, which could make it a bit more raucous.

The latest round of such proposals is being reviewed by the Special Committee on Governance, according to chair Clarence W. Walker of Charlotte, N.C.

Among the "great variety of models for selecting officers" that has been considered by the committee, says Walker, one would have the Nominating Committee send two nominees for consideration by the House. Having the House serve as nominating committee as a whole and opening elections to the full association membership also have been suggested, he adds.

Since the existing selection process has been largely successful, Walker suggests that the primary benefit of expanding that process would be to enhance "the perception that there is a bridge between the general membership and the leadership."

The Governance Committee plans to issue a report on all principal aspects of association governance for consideration at the 1995 annual meeting by the House and the Assembly (composed of any ABA members in attendance).

It's Always Something

While ABA presidential elections are generally matters of acclimation rather than acrimony, few annual meetings fail to rouse controversy and excitement on other fronts.

For instance:

- * The 1993 annual meeting in New York City turned into something of a coming out party for new U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, who seemingly was everywhere during the meeting.

- * In 1992, at a meeting in San Francisco at which women's issues received particular prominence, the House of Delegates adopted a pro-choice policy on abortion only a year after adopting a neutral position in a continuing struggle with the issue dating back to 1990.

- * In 1991, then U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle called for sweeping changes in the nation's legal system in a controversial speech to the House of Delegates in Atlanta, the repercussions of which were felt all the way into the 1992 presidential election.

* Many attendees at the 1990 meeting in Chicago were talking about a survey conducted for the Young Lawyers Division indicating that lawyers were becoming increasingly dissatisfied with their jobs.

As with most annual meetings, it is difficult to predict what will develop as the controversial policy, program or speaker in New Orleans. Will it be the growing challenge to the ABA's law school accreditation process? Gun control? The selection of a new executive director for the association? The brewing concern over nonlawyer practice?

One thing certain is that, anytime thousands of lawyers gather in one place, it's bound to be something.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Picture, ABA President-elect nominee Roberta Cooper Ramo, ABAL/KIM JEW

2ND STORY of Focus printed in FULL format.

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The National Law Journal

April 10, 1989

SECTION: Pg. 1

LENGTH: 2668 words

HEADLINE: Power Grab

BYLINE: BY TERRY CARTER, National Law Journal Staff Reporter

HIGHLIGHT:

ABA presidential politics once involved backroom deals. Now its sections are seen as one way to the top.

BODY:

THERE HAVE been several swings back and forth during the 1980s from so-called liberals to so-called conservatives at the helm of the American Bar Association, a relative distinction at most.

But maybe none them has been so clearly defined as the man most recently tapped as the next in line for president of this, the world's largest professional organization, for the 1990-'91 term.

In a body that traditionally trucks no extremes and subsists by consensus, John J. Curtin Jr. was the prime mover behind the ABA's endorsement of a ban on discrimination against homosexuals, made at its recent mid-year meeting in Denver. The controversial move had failed in 1983 and 1985, but passed this year by a surprisingly resounding 251-121 vote, far more than the simple majority needed.

Mr. Curtin's position would have been considered extreme in the ABA of not so long ago, when waves were made mostly by stirring drinks. But in today's version, he even went unopposed for the nomination, which is tantamount to election at this summer's annual meeting.

"That it didn't preclude me from being chosen for the office, I guess that's the interesting thing," says Mr. Curtin of his role in the gay rights issue in the ABA House of Delegates. He represented the Massachusetts State Bar, which proposed the measure. And his real power base within the ABA comes from having chaired one of its more muscular arms, the Litigation Section.

To many, Mr. Curtin's rise to the top, despite taking a controversial stand, is further evidence of the fast-expanding role of the ABA's substantive sections in the past few years, evidence of the once-glacial organization now responding to the overwhelming inevitability of changing times. Where not long ago a candidate for ABA president was measured by the old-fashioned politics of paybacks for favors given, toil in the right vineyards and the size of the shrimp at his cocktail parties, today's would-be leader must debate opponents on serious issues and be prepared to take the lead on them.

Perhaps a more telling example of the increasing power of the sections in the ABA is an unprecedented meeting scheduled for April 18 in Chicago, which points to a new alignment and meshing of gears in the complex machine that parcels ABA revenues, mostly membership dues. For the first time, the incoming section chairs will meet with ABA senior management staff to talk about the proposed budget.

As a result of the emerging power of the sections, the old system of a few "kingmakers" is gone, and the paths to presidency are more numerous and diverse. "The few don't have the tight control they once had," says Bert H. Early, who retired in 1982 after 19 years as executive director of the ABA, the top staff management position, and still is a delegate from Illinois. "The kingmakers are different people today and there are more of them. It's no longer a tight little circle. It's like the studios used to control movie-making, but now there are all kinds of people making movies."

The new balance of power is fast changing -- at least by ABA standards -- the face of the association, figuratively and literally. The sections have quickly become the avenue to the power circles and leadership positions for minorities and women. It is not expected to be long before one of them becomes ABA president.

Mr. Early recalls that before new sections were created in years past, they first had to be capable of existing solely by their funding. Then, as they grew in significance within the ABA, the question became how much money to give them from the general funds. That question has become more pointed.

Money -- tight money -- has been one of the most important issues within the ABA for the past three or four years and the friction between the sections and the association in general has been growing. The budgetary pie will increase a mere 4 percent next year, which certainly will not cover both inflation and the sheer growth within the ABA. And that makes it all the more significant that the sections, which for several years have successfully clamored for more and more of the pie, have been invited to offer input as the staff renders the recipe.

"This meeting will have a major impact on the thinking of the senior management staff as never before," says Dennis W. Archer, chairman of the Conference of Section Chairmen of the Conference of Section Chairmen. He is a "hot property" these days in the ABA, according to one senior ABA management staffer in Chicago.

A member of the Michigan Supreme Court since 1986, Justice Archer, a black, is a mover and shaker who, interestingly, did not rise to power in the ABA through the Judicial Administration Division. His other ABA duties include Michigan representative in the House of Delegates, board of editors of the ABA Journal, chairman of the Commission on Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession and last retiring chairman of the General Practice Section, which he headed after taking the bench and which was his initial path to power.

The greatly increased role of the sections in the past five years, especially in ABA governance, "has been very healthy for the association across the board," Justice Archer says. "There is a desire to work cohesively, not remake the

wheel."

IT WAS JUST five years ago that the ABA's health was seriously threatened by revolt of the sections. They were willing to remake the wheel. The movement was so strong and the stakes so high that there was fear of splintering along the lines of that suffered by the American Medical Association, which split up essentially into separate human body parts, with new associations formed for medical specialties.

The ABA sections' revolt came just two years on the heels of corporations' in-house lawyers bolting from the precursor of today's Business Law Section in 1982 and forming their own American Corporate Counsel Association.

It was that call to battle by the sections -- born of the frustrations of the growing numbers of the disenfranchised -- that led to what became known as the Beckham Amendment of 1984. In what is proving more and more to have been a radical change in ABA governance, it brought representatives of the sections onto the Nominating Committee, which at the time was composed of 50 state delegates who picked the president and other top officers. There are now nine representatives of the 44 sections and divisions on the Nominating Committee. The change in 1984 also added five section representatives to the now 35-member Board of Governors, bringing the total to six.

(The Board of Governor's most important job is formulation and administration of the budget; the 458-member House of Delegates controls ABA policy and supervises and directs the board.)

Although those additional numbers gave no real muscle to the sections as far as voting is concerned, the changes did bring section representatives into the decision-making and the spotlight, where those with leadership talents have been recognized and main-streamed into the full association.

"The sections' having representatives on the nominating committee has greatly enhanced the presence of our leaders who are now coming into key positions," says Justice Archer, chairman of the Sections Conference.

The battle to get them there had been high-stakes poker, and the cards were dealt in large part by Walter H. Beckham Jr. of Miami's Podhurst, Orseck, Parks, Josefsberg, Eaton, Meadow & Olin P.A. From the mid-1970s to early '80s, Mr. Beckham had chaired the Torts and Insurance Section and then been the section's representative in the House of Delegates. For more than 20 years, he watched the sections grow in every way but participation in governance.

Preparing for battle, says Mr. Beckham, "I checked the records to see how many people outside the cadre of state delegates had actually been elected to high office and on the [Board of Governors]. I found what I was looking for and let it be known that I was going to present in the delegates that the Nominating Committee couldn't find anybody qualified but themselves."

The showdown took place at the annual meeting in Atlanta in 1983, and the sections, after several years of brooding, were spoiling for a fight. The sections people had the numbers to control the Assembly and scheduled their programs to ensure no conflicts would prevent a large turnout at the Assembly meeting. Their opponents controlled the House of Delegates. An amendment would

have to pass both bodies, and if it didn't, the Assembly could put it before the full ABA membership for a vote -- something that has never been done.

"The idea was that if the Assembly passed it and the House didn't, the Assembly would ask for a referendum," Mr. Beckham recalls. The fight was bitter but led to the creation of a commission, which recommended the changes the sections wanted.

The term "Beckham Amendment" was first used derisively "by someone who was later that 'we called it that because we thought we were going to bury you with it,'" Mr. Beckham says.

"One year nobody would have cocktails with me," he continues, "and the next year they wanted me to nominate them. That's politics. Later I was named secretary, and I'm in the middle of my term."

WITH LIGHTNING speed by ABA standards, a sort of "perestroika" took hold when the sections suddenly found themselves no longer second-class citizens, but rather on what Mr. Beckham calls "the first team." Although their numbers were not greatly increased in the House of Delegates and on the Board of Governors, those additions coupled with entry onto the powerful Nominating Committee was enough that, within a year or two, the restructuring brought about significant change.

"One result is that on the agendas of the last four years in the House of Delegates, an enormous percentage of matters has become from the sections," says Roberta Cooper Ramo of Albuquerque, N.M.'s Poole, Tinnin & Martin, who in 1984 was the first elected chairman of the Conference of Section Chairmen. Before the restructuring and the new strength of the sections, that position had been by rotation.

his year, 51 percent of the reports with recommendations before the House of Delegates at the Denver mid-year meeting originated in the sections.

"It shows that the substantive issues facing the practice are being addressed by the sections by and large," says Ms. Ramo. "It's partly the nature of the issues. The law has become more complex, especially in its interface with society, and fortunately the sections working in the American Bar Association and through the delegates have exercised a lot of leadership in trying to address these substantive issues as they relate not just to the profession but to the whole system of American law and justice."

Mr. Curtin, who bears the unwieldy title of president-elect nominee, says "the net result of that activity has been a recognition that the sections are playing a larger and larger role in the operation of the American Bar Association."

With the explosion in the number of lawyers in recent years. ABA membership has increased as well, but not proportionately. The percentage of practicing lawyers who join the ABA slipped in recent years to several percentage points below half. That was remedied by giving automatic, free membership to new lawyers and bumped the numbers back up. But during the same period, renewal rates by dues-paying section members remained higher than that of the general membership. Nearly two-thirds of the members belong to sections, and the more

sections a lawyer is involved in, the more likely he or she is to remain in the ABA.

"The sections are where the action is," says one senior ABA management staffer. "They're putting on the education programs and putting out the books. That's what today's lawyers want and need."

No small part of the ABA's mission in years past has been the preservation of exclusive privileges enjoyed by lawyers, some of which were eroded in losing battles like the one over no-fault insurance. Now, law office management and continuing legal education -- especially in practice areas in which expertise can have a brief shelf life -- are of greater concern. The two missions are today's playing field of the old and new.

Richard Allen, who edited the ABA Journal for 20 years and now is active in the Senior Lawyers Division, believes the role of the sections will continue to expand and change that playing field.

"The state delegates still remain powerful and as territorial representatives, but the recognition of the sections is the recognition that the practice of law transcends state lines," says Mr. Allen. "And the constituency is the fields of practice more than the states."

The sections have proved more of a meritocracy, says Ms. Ramo, who now is trying to parlay her high-profile sections work into the ABA presidency for the 1991-'92 term.

"In the sections, advancement has not been political in the usual sense," she says. "Those who do a good job are quickly picked up to go to the next level of responsibility."

THE LONG-TERM insiders are not betting on an abrupt change in the path to the ABA presidency which has continued to go to traditional types -- those with the right ABA resume, the right look, the right manner and the right connections. Even Mr. Curtin, although his greatest source of power in the ABA comes from having chaired the Litigation Section, has done a lot in the House of Delegates, both as a representative of the Boston Bar Association and of the section.

"I'm just something of a bridge," says Mr. Curtin. "I sort of spanned both the general bar work and the section work."

It is Ms. Ramo who is trying to cut the new path. Her ABA work has been through the Economics of Law Practice section, which she chaired during 1983-'84, and probably more significantly, her term as the first elected chairman of the Conference of Section Chairmen from 1984-'86. The latter was during the critical two years after the "Beckham Amendment" enfranchised the sections.

Critics say the Economics Section lacks the power to catapult someone to the top. "They're the 'techies,'" one ABA old hand says derisively of the section and its emphasis on state-of-the-art law office management and the importance of computerization and other technological efficiency.

"Yes, I'm a techie," says Ms. Ramo proudly. "But it's not just technology."

It's how we deal with the information explosion and the skills necessary for being lawyers. Most people don't go into big firms, so how can people keep learning how to negotiate, how to interview, how to draft documents. The law schools can't cope by themselves."

Her first opponent in the race is tradition. The two other contenders, J. Michael McWilliams of Baltimore's Tydings and Rosenberg and Allen E. Brennecke of Marshalltown, Iowa's Welp, Harrison, Brennecke & Moore, are former chairmen of the House of Delegates, which has often been a stepping stone to the presidency.

Ms. Ramo hopes to beat them on the issues. "I hope we'll have the opportunity to spend a lot of time talking about the issues because that's where you'll find a lot of difference between us."

There is considerably more opportunity for substantive debate among presidential contenders these days, with invitations to appear before some state caucuses, the Board of Governors, the National Conference of Bar Presidents and various sections.

But even at that, the presidency of the 352,294-lawyer ABA -- barring another challenge along the lines of the revolt of five years ago -- still comes down to 31 votes, a simple majority of the Nominating Committee.

The ABA is ready for a woman president, most agree. Whether it is this particular woman with a sections-based ABA resume at this particular time is another matter. But there's something blowing in the wind.

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, VOCAL: John J. Curtin Jr. at the Denver convention fought for a vote on a gay rights resolution -- an unusual stand for an ABA presidential nominee. Rick Friedman; Picture 2, MORE: Bert H. Early says there are different -- and more -- kingmakers today.; Picture 3, HOT: Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dennis W. Archer is considered a comer.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Legal Times

April 18, 1994

SECTION: Pg. 9

LENGTH: 2026 words

HEADLINE: Barring Disaster;
ABA Leader Quieted Rumors of Firm's Woes

BYLINE: BY MONICA BAY; Monica Bay is a reporter for The Recorder of San Francisco. This article was distributed by the American Lawyer News Service.

DATELINE: ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

BODY:

As Roberta Cooper Ramo marched toward a victory that will make her the first woman president of the American Bar Association, she was shadowed constantly by an event that had the potential to spell disaster for her campaign.

Six months before her February election, Ramo's Albuquerque law firm, Poole, Kelly & Ramo, collapsed, and rumors were set flying about what role Ramo played in the demise. Gossips found it especially ironic that Ramo, the former head of the ABA's Section on Law Practice Management, had led a firm that broke down into bitter factions and left a trail of feuding debtors.

Unchecked, the rumors could have derailed Ramo's candidacy. But Ramo never let that happen.

Observers, friends, and even foes say that Ramo squelched talk about her firm's disintegration with such finesse that she generated more sympathy for herself than doubts about her leadership abilities. By "playing possum" with most people, but keeping the ABA's key decision-makers informed, Ramo never allowed the firm's breakup to become a campaign issue.

In fact, her unanimous selection as 1995-96 president took all of 30 seconds, says one member of the nominating committee. All that remains is the ABA House of Delegates' August ratification.

Thomas Smegal Jr. of San Francisco's Graham & James, who will join the ABA Board of Governors this summer, says Ramo "clarified her law-firm problems with those who counted. She did everything right. . . . I didn't even know she was having a law-firm problem until after the fact."

Those who did know suggest reasons why Ramo was able to deflect any heat: Her campaign was far enough along by the time word got out that nothing short of a murder conviction could have derailed it, and many lawyers empathized with Ramo's plight.

Besides, they say, her troubles do not compare to the antics of some recent

ABA leaders -- especially Jill Wine Banks, the ABA's first woman executive director, who resigned in 1990 after trying to have her veterinarian disciplined for failing to save her Dalmatian; and President L. Stanley Chauvin, who at the 1990 annual meeting reported the theft of \$ 50,000 from a Chicago hotel safe, but never explained why he was traveling with so much cash in his pockets.

Furthermore, few people believe that Ramo alone was at fault for her firm's demise. They cite the severity of the recession in the Southwest, the defection of key partners, risky financial gambles, the senior partner's death, and the inability of disparate personalities to agree on a common survival plan.

"I don't think this is the Finley, Kumble of Albuquerque," says ABA Colorado State Delegate Karen Mathis, principal of a seven-lawyer Denver firm. "I don't think you are looking at bad management and bad practices."

Adds ABA Governor Barbara Mayden, of New York's Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom: "People understood that 'just for the grace of God this could be my firm.'"

Poole, Kelly & Ramo -- which had 45 lawyers at its height -- closed in August, just as the ABA was convening its New York annual meeting. A petition was filed Nov. 1 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New Mexico, seeking Chapter 11 protection during liquidation.

Court papers in Albuquerque show that the firm had debts of \$ 1.04 million and assets of \$ 548,600. Creditors include 36 support staff who claim unpaid compensation and benefits, and three former partners who each stand to lose more than \$ 100,000 of deferred compensation.

Ramo, calling firms "fragile organisms," insists that what happened to Poole, Kelly & Ramo did not happen in isolation.

"Groups break up. Martin and Lewis broke up. The Beatles broke up. And law firms break up," she says.

But some former partners, admittedly bitter, complain that Ramo was the chief architect of the firm's downfall.

"The firm imploded because she has this mind-set, which might have been great in the early '80s, that you keep up appearances by borrowing money," argues Marshall Martin, who left the firm in 1989 when it was still called Poole, Tinnin & Martin and was one of New Mexico's strongest general-practice firms.

Identity Problem

Ramo joined the firm and its management committee in 1977, and became managing partner the next year. At the time, her ABA career was beginning to soar. By the time she was elected 1983-84 head of the Law Practice Management Section, her presidential ambitions were well-known.

Founding partner Robert Poole, a reported wizard at consensus building, was the undisputed firm leader. But around 1985 he developed cancer, and his health quickly deteriorated -- and so did the buffer he had maintained between the firm's strong personalities and philosophies.

Ramo -- along with partners Henry Kelly, Barbara Shapiro, and Robert Muehlenweg -- was among those pushing the firm to take a "national" law-firm approach, which included financial risks. An opposing faction -- including then name partners Martin and Robert Tinnin Jr. -- say they were increasingly worried about firm finances.

"I certainly felt that there was an atmosphere of trying to solve problems by throwing money at them, trying to preserve an illusion of prosperity," Tinnin says.

Some partners resented Ramo's ABA activities and her civic involvements.

Muehlenweg says the split was between the "billable-hours police" and the pro bono activists.

Kelly, a Ramo ally who now oversees the firm's bankruptcy proceedings, says the firm failed to predict the full impact of the recession on New Mexico. He says it gambled on a growing legal economy that never materialized.

"We reacted to that change in economic circumstances about as poorly as one can," he says. "We were not anticipatory. We were reactive."

Shapiro recalls that things got so nasty that at one point two partners became incensed because they felt they were not adequately consulted about a furniture purchase.

The slide toward collapse began when Martin joined Albuquerque's 75-lawyer Hinkle, Cox, Eaton, Coffield & Hensley. Soon after, Tinnin, partner Nicholas Noeding, and six others left for the Albuquerque office of Denver's Sherman & Howard.

"I had reached the point where I didn't want my name on the firm," Martin recalls. "I was embarrassed."

Shapiro says, however, that Ramo is unfairly targeted, insisting that she frequently tried to red-flag potential financial hazards only to be outvoted.

"There was definitely a conflict between Tinnin and Martin, and Roberta," says Shapiro. "It really had to do with [Tinnin's and Martin's] unwillingness to give up power."

'Revisionist History'

To this day, Ramo and some of her former partners disagree about whether Ramo's 1988 resignation as managing partner was her idea or whether she was pressured out.

Ramo angrily argues that it was voluntary and that any other perception is "revisionist history." She says she stepped down in part to make her first -- and unsuccessful -- run for the presidency of the ABA.

But by 1993, Ramo was the front-runner in a four-way race, and the now-named Poole, Kelly & Ramo was in an unstoppable downhill spiral.

The firm made a last, fatal decision just before Ramo reassumed the managing-partner post in 1990: It signed a huge lease for office space. In the spring of 1993, Ramo stepped down as managing partner a second time to pursue her second bid for the ABA presidency and to attempt last-ditch rainmaking for the firm.

Ramo says she intentionally kept her second ABA campaign simple, talking about issues of interest to lawyers.

"To the extent that I was successful, it's because the nominating committee thought I struck a responsive chord," she says.

It also helped that Ramo had made a pre-emptive strike. Before arriving in New York, she telephoned members of the nominating committee to 'fess up to her firm's woes.

"I didn't want anyone to be surprised," she says.

Committee members weren't concerned about the firm's collapse, Ramo says, but instead raised ancillary concerns: They wanted to be sure Ramo would have adequate financial support, because the presidency is virtually a full-time job. And they wanted to verify Ramo's commitment, because rumors had been circulating that she might be interested in running for her state's governorship.

Ramo, who later joined Albuquerque's nearly 70-lawyer Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, assured the committee she had no designs on the guber-natorial mansion and that she wouldn't have financial problems.

Ramo got another break shortly before the annual meeting. Two opponents -- Joanne Garvey, of San Francisco's Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, and Blake Tartt, of Houston's Fulbright & Jaworski -- dropped out of the presidential race, leaving only liberal Jerome Shestack of Philadelphia's Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen (who exited just before the February election).

Tartt now says that he might have stayed in the race if he had known earlier of Ramo's problems. He learned about them after arriving for the New York meeting, when a friend traveling in New Mexico faxed copies of new stories. "If it had come out six months or a year before, it would have made a difference," he asserts.

Tartt also contends that Ramo profited from her gender. "If some male had come to the table with what she had [in the way of credentials], he wouldn't have gotten [the presidency]," Tartt maintains.

But Tartt also says he pledges his support to Ramo. "I'm glad that we now have a woman," he says.

Like Tartt, Albuquerque's Tinnin speculates that timing was of the essence for Ramo. By the time the firm headed into Bankruptcy Court, her campaign was "too far away down the road. . . . And I had heard that there was concern, in 'the year of the woman,' to turn on her."

New Mexico State Delegate John McCarthy Jr., of Santa Fe's White, Koch, Kelly

Legal Times, April 18, 1994

& McCarthy, declares that neither Ramo's gender nor the timing of her candidacy had anything to do with her victory.

"Those who nominated Roberta were basing their judgment on their experience with Roberta over a number of years, not just short term," he says. "Frankly, after the initial publicity [about her firm] went out, it died down very quickly, and then was not an issue in the campaign."

But former Poole, Kelly & Ramo partner Jason Kent says Ramo is sidestepping culpability for what happened to her firm.

"That doesn't mean that she has to take responsibility for the collapse of the firm, but I think she is trying too hard to escape any responsibility," Kent says. "And for people who are close to the situation, that engenders a whole lot of resentment, and that has diminished the respect that some of us have always felt for Roberta."

Ramo says the Poole firm was solidly behind her bid for the ABA presidency. And that's supported by Kent and others.

"There was always an undercurrent that it would be good for business," says Kent, now of Albuquerque's Kent & Widland. "Someone had said that the ABA presidency was worth a million a year to the firm."

Kent and others say they never knew exactly what the firm invested in Ramo's campaign. "One of the great mysteries, . . . even up to the bitter end, was how much [her bid] was costing the firm, how much Roberta underwrote on her own," and how much money was generated from her friends in the legal community, Kent says.

Muehlenweg, the final managing partner of the doomed firm, says any money contributed was purely on an individual basis.

Ramo declines to discuss firm finances, other than to say she enjoyed the firm's support.

Many former partners, including adversaries, expect Ramo to be an exceptional president. Kelly says he's glad that "this brouhaha did not adversely affect her ability to attain the post of president-elect."

And most former partners of the defunct firm agree that everybody must share some of the blame.

"I really think that it's not the right thing for anybody to come out of this situation as the devil, the demon, or so forth," Kent says. "I think what people should learn from this is that we all have responsibility for what happens in our law firms. That never goes away."

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, Roberta Cooper Ramo's firm collapsed six months before her selection as 1995-96 president of the ABA. AARON WILSON; Picture 2, Thomas Smegal Jr.: Ramo was open with those who needed to know. MERYL SCHENKER; Picture 3, HENRY KELLY Poole, Kelly & Ramo, AARON WILSON

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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ABA Journal

July, 1996

82 July ABA J. 8

LENGTH: 411 words

SECTION: President's Message

AUTHOR: Roberta Cooper Ramo, President

TEXT:

DEAR MEAD DATA CENTRAL LEXIS:

You should be proud that the ABA saved the Legal Services Corp. from extinction during the last year. But those who believe the poor do not deserve civil justice have not given up. Congress will soon decide the ultimate fate of the LSC. The U.S. House of Representatives has already begun the process of deciding FY97 (which begins October 1996) appropriations for all federal programs. Many members of the House, including some in leadership positions, have vowed to end all federal funding for LSC in FY97. Achieving a majority approval for continued funding of LSC remains a great challenge. Over the years, the ABA presidents from Lewis J. Powell Jr. (who put his name on a letter of support only last fall) on have worked to make sure access to civil justice is not denied to the poor.

Last year, thousands of ABA members contacted their congressional delegations to urge them to appropriate funds for this vital program. At this critical time, I ask that you again send a strong message to your representative in support of LSC. Congress kept LSC alive in 1995, although it cut LSC's budget by one-third to \$ 278 million. We anticipate the legislative battle to be even more difficult in 1996. Many in Congress have stated that their goal is to kill the Federal Legal Services Program. Only your help can save the Legal Services Corp. and the effective problem-solving it offers to our elderly poor, to abused women and working families. We know that it is easier for lawyers to do pro bono work because of the effective civil-justice emergency room that federal legal services offices provide.

To assure a strong response to this threat, the ABA has established a special phone number (1-888-KEEP-LSC) for our association's members to use to support LSC. Your call will produce a personalized letter to your House member in support of LSC that will be hand-delivered to your member on the next day. The letter will state the association's position in support of federal funding for LSC.

The price for this call is \$ 7.50 to cover our costs. When we walk the halls of Congress to work on this key effort, we know well when your good work has preceded it. Please make this small investment to help assure that America keeps its commitment to "equal justice." I thank you for all who believe in the American justice system.

115TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

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January 27, 1994, Thursday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 234 words

HEADLINE: New Mexico Attorney Likely To Become First Woman ABA President

BYLINE: By JOAN GOESSL, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

BODY:

New Mexico attorney Roberta Cooper Ramo is a virtual shoo-in to become the first female president of the American Bar Association.

Ramo was to be nominated when the ABA's nominating committee meets Feb. 8 in Kansas City as part of the organization's mid-year meeting. She was the only candidate for the one-year term that begins in August 1995.

"Her presidency will be a symbol for the entire legal profession, not just the ABA," said Cory Amron, chairwoman of the ABA's commission on women in the profession. "It's also a symbol that women attorneys can and do rise to the top and they make excellent leaders."

In 1991, Ramo sought the top spot of the nation's largest lawyers' group but was defeated when the nominating committee chose J. Michael McWilliams of Baltimore.

Rochelle Evans, an assistant at ABA headquarters in Chicago, said it was unlikely any new candidates will emerge before next week's meeting.

Ramo, 51, and other partners of an Albuquerque law firm disbanded and filed for bankruptcy protection last fall. Amron said the bankruptcy filing was a sign of the times and won't affect Ramo's nomination to succeed Detroit lawyer George E. Bushnell Jr.

Ramo now works for the Albuquerque law firm of Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk. She is a former president of the Albuquerque Bar Association and former president of the University of New Mexico board of regents.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 27, 1994

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PR Newswire

July 12, 1996, Friday;
Correction Appended

SECTION: Washington Dateline

DISTRIBUTION: TO NATIONAL AND LEGAL EDITORS

LENGTH: 238 words

HEADLINE: STATEMENT OF ROBERTA COOPER RAMO, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN
BAR ASSOCIATION, JULY 12, 1996

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, July 12

BODY:

The American Bar Association issued the following statement by Roberta Cooper Ramo:

"A Congressional House panel took action this week that will deny justice to millions of poor citizens of this country.

"The House Appropriations subcommittee voted Wednesday to cut the budget of the Legal Services Corporation by 50 percent to \$141 million. It is no coincidence that the \$141 million appropriation adopted by the House panel is precisely the figure advocated by those who wish to eliminate this program.

"The U.S. spends less per capita on civil legal services than any other western democratic country. The federal contribution to this program is quite modest, currently only \$278 million. Eliminating this decentralized, locally-controlled program will mean the beginning of the end of our system of justice.

"The success of our democracy ultimately depends on the faith of our citizens that they will have access to justice. The Legal Services Corporation is our government's best and only vehicle for ensuring that justice is available to all our citizens. This is the American dream. These congressional actions would steal that dream from millions of our most vulnerable citizens.

"A vote for \$141 million is a vote to kill this essential program. We urge all House Members to restore funding for LSC at no less than \$278 million."

CONTACT: Dolores Beasley of the American Bar Association, 202-662-1092

CORRECTION-DATE: July 12, 1996, Friday

CORRECTION:

In DCF005, Statement of Roberta Cooper Ramo, President of the American Bar Association, moved earlier today, we are advised by the organization that the third graph, first line should read, "House Appropriations Committee voted yesterday," rather than "House Appropriations subcommittee voted Wednesday," as originally issued.

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12TH STORY of Focus printed in FULL format.

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PR Newswire

July 12, 1996, Friday

SECTION: Washington Dateline

DISTRIBUTION: TO NATIONAL AND LEGAL EDITORS

LENGTH: 56 words

BODY:

In DCF005, Statement of Roberta Cooper Ramo, President of the American Bar Association, moved earlier today, we are advised by the organization that the third graph, first line should read, "House Appropriations Committee voted yesterday," rather than "House Appropriations subcommittee voted Wednesday," as originally issued.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 1996

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 5, 1996

**REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
AT SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
DALLAS, TEXAS**

MRS. CLINTON: . . . This lecture which I'm very honored to give. I want to thank my friend Ms. Branson and her husband Frank for their encouragement for me to do this. And it is a great pleasure. I had a wonderful day in Texas. I started in Corpus Christi visiting a school, talking with parents and teachers and students and community leaders about what they are doing to help students, particularly from poor backgrounds, to get the kind of help that they need. I went from there to Uvalde to a great gathering at the former home and now museum of John Nance Garner. I learned that that is a part of Texas and a part of America that produces more mohair than any other.

I love to saddle around learning such things. It gives me great pleasure to see the extraordinary diversity in our country and then be able to come here to SMU, an institution that I admire and have followed with great interest for many years. This is a real opportunity for me to reflect on what a legal education and a career in the law has meant in my own life, and not only could mean, but I assume will mean, in the lives of many of the students here and will find some precedence in the lives and careers of those who are teachers and practitioners as well. It is also an opportunity for me to think aloud with you about the ways a career in the law can fulfill its most important purpose -- to be an instrument for promoting the common good, a vehicle for making our society a more just one for all of its citizens.

I started law school, as the dean has told you, in 1969. And that was a time of great political and social ferment. Many of us in law school at that time saw the law as an avenue for positive social change for helping the vulnerable, the weak, the poor, for protecting and advancing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Then, as now, there were many ways to reach one's goals as a lawyer. And those ways have not diminished but, in fact, expanded in the years since. One could become an advocate, a legislator, a teacher, a litigator, a business counsel, a prosecutor, a public defender -- all the many ways that people with legal training find to fulfill that training in a positive, productive contribution to society. I'm sure all these and many other choices will be reflected in the careers chosen by those who graduate from SMU. But being here on a law school campus, I'm reminded particularly of my experiences as a law professor at the University of Arkansas.

I came to that university in the summer of 1974. I had been working on behalf of the House Judiciary Committee. And its impeachment inquiry into President Nixon. That ended with the president's resignation on August 8, and I needed to find a job. I had visited Arkansas because I had met a young man at Yale who was from Arkansas and, literally, that's all he ever talked about was Arkansas. And, when he graduated in 1973, he knew very well what he wanted to do, and that was to go home to teach at the University and see whether or not a legal opportunity existed for him to use his legal career in public service. When I visited him in Arkansas, I met the dean of the law school. And in a casual conversation at dinner one night, the dean said, "You know, if you ever want to teach, give me a call." Life was a lot simpler in those days.

So, after President Nixon's resignation, I, with some trepidation, picked up the phone and called the then dean. I said, "Remember when you said 'if I ever wanted to teach to give you a call?' Well, I have an interest in teaching and an interest in living in Arkansas to see what it is like. Is that offer still good?" He said, "Oh, absolutely." So I then said, "Well, in order to get prepared, what would you like me to teach?" He answered, "I don't know. I'll tell you when you get here."

So, about two weeks later, I arrived at a place where I had never lived to take a job I knew nothing about. And there in August of 1974, I began my career as a law teacher. The dean, upon my greeting him when I arrived, said, "Well, I've given this some thought. I want you to teach first-year criminal law. I want you to run the legal aid clinic. I want you to run the prison projects in the state federal prisons. And, by the way, I want you to teach trial advocacy." All of which I had extraordinary experiences in, but had never done in the past. So, I swallowed hard and immediately began trying to figure out how to start.

The very first evening after having been given that assignment, I was invited to the town bar association's welcoming cocktail party for the new law school faculty. I don't know if there is a comparable kind of event for new faculty members here, but it was very kind of the president of the bar to take me and to show me around. I quickly concluded that it was also quite amusing because he would take me up to everyone and he would say, "I would like you to meet the new lady law professor." And I would smile and I'd say "How do you do?" and everyone was very cordial. Until he introduced me to one of the formidable judges in the state at that time, a long-serving chancellor because Arkansas had still chancellery divisions. And he said, "Judge, this is the new lady law professor. She's going to teach them the law and run the legal aid clinic." And this very tall, distinguished man with a handlebar grey mustache looked down at

me and said, "Well, I don't have any use for lady law professors or legal aid clinics, but we're glad to have you here anyway."

At this moment, I began to wonder about my career choice, but I didn't have much time to reflect upon it because classes started the very next day. So, I desperately tried to stay at least one class ahead of my students. And I began to work in and help create a legal aid program at the University. I knew that there were many people who then, as well as now, did not cotton through the idea of free legal services, and I knew because I had worked in legal aid programs when I was at Yale that it would be something of an uphill struggle. But I never doubted for a minute that it was an important part of my students' experience in law school to have the opportunity to represent real clients with real problems. And I never doubted that it was a critical amendment of our profession.

Some of the experiences that I had, both when I was a student doing legal aid work, and then later as the director of the University of Arkansas legal aid clinic, were some of the best experiences I've had in the law. Certainly my interest in working on behalf of children and families was piqued when as a law student, I worked with a local lawyer and a legal aid lawyer in bringing some challenges to the state of Connecticut's policies as to who could or could not adopt children. And the case I remember very well was of a young girl about four years old who'd been with a foster mother for her entire life. And the state decided that they found a better home for her, and they were going to take her from that environment and place her with another family who had been waiting to adopt a child. And the foster mother desperately wanted to adopt this child herself. So we represented this poor foster mother who did not have sufficient funds to hire a lawyer, but who had a very good argument as to why she had created a mother-child relationship with this little girl.

And the case was hard fought. In those days, the decision was that it would be better for the child to be moved to an environment that had more material possibilities than to stay with the mother that she had known. A decision that I disagreed with then and a decision I disagree with now. But working on that case opened up my eyes to many of the psychological and emotional and other issues having to do with adoption and foster care.

When I began working at the legal aid clinic at the University of Arkansas, I encountered other kinds of challenges. I will never forget a young woman who showed up with her father wanting a divorce. And her father was an elderly gentleman. He'd been a coal miner in western Arkansas. And this young woman had eight children, and she recited to me all the reasons why she wanted a divorce. She told me where she got married and soon

began looking for the marriage certificate so that they could make the necessary pleadings. We could not find the place that she had been legally married anywhere. And I was especially concerned about telling this poor woman with eight children that she had never been legally married. Some student came to me and said, "You know, we looked in all the neighboring counties, there's nothing on record. We don't think shes' ever been legally married."

So we had her come back in with her father. She sat in my office, and I was just trying to summon up all my empathy, everything I could to let her know what had happened. And I started off by saying, "Well, I've got some difficult news to deliver. We don't think you've ever been legally married." She just gasped and her father said, "Good. I never liked him anyway."

We had experiences like that that you can only have in the kind of practice that comes in the door of a legal aid clinic. In the years since, I have encountered many people like that formidable judge who do not believe in legal services for people who cannot afford them. But despite that opposition, the Legal Services Corporation was created by a bipartisan Congress and signed into law by President Nixon with the idea that local legal aid programs would be funded to assist millions of Americans with their legal problems -- problems that would otherwise go unaddressed.

After 22 years, legal aid societies have become a way of American life, and the Legal Services Corporation is one of the institutions our society has to nurture and practice one of its most cherished ideals -- that of justice for all Americans. Last year, legal services programs here and throughout the country helped five million people who otherwise could not afford assistance with evictions and foreclosures and divorces. Often, advice, a referral, a listening ear, a letter, or a phone call is enough to solve a problem. Very few of these cases, as with most practices, need to be resolved in the courts.

From my own experiences, which not only included legal aid work, but as a founder of the Ozark Legal Services Corporation in Arkansas, as a former member and then chair of Legal Services Corporation, I know how simple assistance can often head off more complicated problems. But today, the Legal Services Corporation's survival hangs in the balance. Over the past year, opponents in Congress have tried to cut funding and even to kill the Legal Services Corporation. As of the first of this year, funding for the corporation in a temporary spending measure was slashed by one third, and the final fate will be determined later this year.

At the same time that the Legal Services Corporation has been under a frontal assault, private law firms, bar associations, and individual lawyers have not only sprung (as they have consistently for more than 20 years) to the defense of legal services, but increased their own donations and pro bono hours to make up for some of the lost funds. That is a critical part of the legal services equation, because even if one has a corporation with paid staff to perform most of the functions needed for representing poor clients, that is not enough. And if it were not for private attorneys, both who contribute dollars to existing legal services operations but, more importantly, contribute their time, there is no way we could reach the many people who need the services.

What it means for a poor American who is denied legal services can be seen in the kinds of cases that I used to take care of and that many of you in this room work on as well. We know that if we were in trouble, because for whatever combination of reasons we were to be evicted, or we were subjected to domestic abuse, or we didn't have what we thought we were entitled to with respect to fair pay or fair treatment, we would want someone's help. The poor are no different. Under the current cuts, some 1.3 million people would have been denied help. It would be very difficult to make the distinctions between those who will receive it and those who will not.

Congress is also trying to tie the hands of legal aid lawyers by putting restrictions on what kinds of cases such lawyers can take. More troubling to me is that Congress is also trying to restrict the non-public private donations that come from law firms and other sources, so that they, too, cannot be used freely by legal services offices.

Now, some of you may be asking yourselves how a debate over the existence of the Legal Services Corporation affects you, our nation's future lawyers. Well, for those who wish to serve in some capacity on behalf of legal services, it is obviously a direct impact. But for most of you, and in fact, for most of us who are lawyers, it has more to do with our society's fundamental commitment to justice, to law, and to progress. Roscoe Pound, the famous dean of the Harvard Law School, once said, "Law must be stable and yet it cannot stand still." He meant that the law must evolve with the times, offering the security of permanence, the hope for change, and new opportunities for us to use the law to benefit the larger society.

I believe that both our society and our profession became truer to our fundamental values with the founding of the Legal Services Corporation 22 years ago. The thousands of legal aid lawyers and the many more thousands of private lawyers who donate time to legal aid work are the heart and soul of our profession. They are helping our country uphold the one true contract

individuals have with America -- the Constitution, and specifically its promise of justice for all.

Each time a legal aid lawyer helps a mother petition for child support, or forces a nursing home to live up to its obligations of taking care of its elderly residents, this country, this society, our profession moves closer to its ideals. I'm not asking all of you to become legal aid lawyers. I'm just asking that all of us consider what it means to be a lawyer today and the absence that those who do practice legal aid would mean to how we fulfill our roles. A career in the law should mean a life of service and a commitment to justice, whether it is in a legal aid office or a classroom or in any other setting where lawyers practice.

One of the experiences about growing older is discovering that the struggle for progress in a society is often as important, if not more so, than the end result. At some point, however idealistic we may be or have been, we accept that the principles of fairness, justice, and equality often become flawed in their application. We accept that we will and no one will solve all the problems we see in our lifetime. But we keep striving, we keep struggling for these ideals that we believe have to be kept alive. We remain committed to the process of living up to our own better natures and the values we espouse and the promise of a better future.

As so many of you already know, and as many of you are learning, the cause of justice is worth a lifelong struggle. I commend you for being willing in times that are not always favorable to lawyers for being willing to take your place in a profession that is so essential, not only to the operations of a complex society, but to the ideals that that society should attempt to achieve. Thank you very much.

[The moderator then asked Mrs. Clinton questions that had been written by members of the audience. Due to the fact that the moderator's questions were barely audible, the wording of the questions has been paraphrased.]

MODERATOR: You have time for a few questions. This is a little bit different. We have a third-year law student who has spent many thousand dollars on a degree. How can a person perform pro bono work while faced with paying off law school loans?

MRS. CLINTON: Good question, because I know a lot of you have incurred debt. I know that both my husband and I borrowed money and took loans to get through law school. And the debt load wasn't as great as some of you face, and certainly not \$80,000, but it was something we had to deal with.

I believe that there is still an opportunity, no matter what job you take when you graduate, to do some pro bono work, even if it's just one case, even if its just volunteering in some way. But there is that opportunity, and I would urge you to take it. It doesn't have to be direct service for a client. It could also be work on behalf of a not-for-profit organization that needs some legal assistance. That was one of the things that I enjoyed doing as much as anything in my work in the past -- working with groups that were trying to get organized and get focused and do what they can. So, I would just urge you, even with the debt load that you have and the hours that you will have to work in order to pay that back, save at least maybe a couple hours a month to do something pro bono.

MODERATOR: Is the Legal Services Corporation the best way to provide legal services for the poor? Are there any existing services that could substitute for the functions that the corporation performs?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, of course, the Legal Services Corporation distributes funds to local legal aid offices that are governed by local boards and make their own decisions. I've served on the board of one, I've worked with one, I have followed how they operate. So I do think that, as I said, the Legal Services Corporation cannot be the only way of providing legal services to the poor. But, I think it's a necessary base that provides a structure that does try to reach into every community. And although it is spread thin, I think it does provide that presence. So, although I encourage local bars and state bars to continue to do and even increase what they're doing directly with legal services and in support of the Legal Services Corporation, I don't think that it would be an efficient way to substitute for what the Legal Services Corporation does.

MODERATOR: Do you feel that there are still good opportunities available in public service?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think there are many opportunities. I believe you have to do what you care about and what you are motivated to do, and not just look for something that makes sense on paper if it doesn't fill you with the desire to make a difference. I think public life -- elected office -- is a very important role for both men and women, but particularly for young women to look to. But, I also think government service -- public service at all levels of government -- is important for people.

I'm saddened when I see that the climate seems to suggest that it is not worth government or public life because it is tough, it is not pleasant. I would not stand up here and tell you that it was, because it has not gotten any better, but instead it's gotten worse in the years that I've observed and been part of it. And so you have to know that it's a challenge.

But, on the other hand, if that's what you're interested in, I would urge you to do it and just take the risks that go along with it because there are risks doing anything in life. There is no free ride no matter what career choice you make. And there's no guarantee that what you do when you're 25 or 35 will be what you're doing when you're 45 or 55.

I did not have a career plan to end up living in the White House married to the President of the United States. That was not something that ever crossed my mind or looked like it might actually happen. So, you can't predict what you're going to do in your own life. So you have to do every day what gives you satisfaction, and if that's public service and its many forms, then please, do it, pursue it, and you all have to stand up and advocate on behalf of what you believe.

MODERATOR: What is your viewpoint on the state of ethics in America?

MRS. CLINTON: Oh, I think that generally in America, whether its American politics or the American legal profession, I think that if you look and compare the United States to any other country I'm aware of, or any other point in past history, by and large people are ethical, they try live up to their ethical obligations. They can be second-guessed -- I know that from firsthand experience. But, most people I know that I have the chance to observe and work with have tried very hard to fulfill their ethical obligations as lawyers.

Now, I do believe that you have to constantly be vigilant and where there are problems, you have to resolve them. But I think sometimes we can get to the point where we strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. There are a lot of choices in the law, just as in life, that are difficult choices. And you do the best you can, and you try to be as ethical and careful as possible. But, if you always keep that in mind, then you are more likely than not to live with yourself and be able to maintain your own standards. And at the end of the day, that is what is really important.

So, yes, we have to be conscious of ethical lapses of ourselves and others in the profession. We have to do what we can to make those not be spreaded but instead be refined and possibly be cured. But we also have to recognize that I think we do on balance a better job than sometimes the public gives the legal profession credit for.

MODERATOR: What is one of the most important qualities that a lawyer should possess?

MRS. CLINTON: I don't have any idea. I mean, for a woman, probably a good haircut.

I think that is such a difficult question. Obviously, you know, integrity, character, the things that make for a good person make for a good lawyer. I've often thought that there are many people in professions, not just law, but in other professions as well, who at the end of the day what you look for is good judgement and good judgement is based on experience and thoughtfulness and a sense of a center for the person and the values more important than either the degrees on the wall or the entry in the Martindale (inaudible). So it's very difficult to go beyond what is, you know, basic to what makes a good person.

MODERATOR: We have time for one more question. This is from -- we'll give the faculty a little time here -- this is from Professor (inaudible). What role should lawyers play in cases involving children, and how can lawyers provide that representation?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think that this is one of the continuing challenges that the legal profession has because what we have to do is do a better job in strengthening families and in educating parents to take care of their own children and to limit the amount of intervention into any family on behalf of a child. That is the general principle that should be followed in nearly every case.

The unfortunate fact is that we had quite an increase -- and particularly a fanatic increase in the last few years -- in child abuse and neglect. The most numbers of increased cases are in children under four. So that we know that there are, for whatever combination of reasons, children were not being adequately cared for by their own family members. And because we have this conflict, both in the law and inside each of us about wanting to protect the sanctity of the family and enable the family to make decisions for children, on the other hand, not wanting to keep children in dangerous situations and wanting to, insofar as humanly possible, give children a second chance at a loving family, there is a constant conflict in the law and among decision makers when it comes to intervening into families, possibly terminating parental rights, and stepping in as parents patriae and making decisions on behalf of the child.

Having both been involved in such cases and having watched this now for about 25 years, I think that we have to be much more careful about when we intervene. But when we intervene, we have to be much more willing to move to terminate parental rights and release children for adoption as soon as possible. And there are many children -- about 100,000 right now -- who are in the limbo of foster care, which is about 450,000 children. And those 100,000 are there despite the fact that they could and should be released for adoption or placement with another family.

So I would like to see more effort on the part of lawyers to try to structure some remedies in every state that would use volunteer lawyers to act as advocates for children in the foster care system, volunteer judges keeping the courts open. I think this is a real emergency. So that perhaps within a year or two, as I wrote and suggested in my book, we could make permanent decisions on behalf of the children who are caught in the foster care system.

There also has to be clearer direction to parents from whom a child is taken as to what they must do to prove that they are capable of caring for that child. If they are drug addicts, they have to be in some kind of program or forfeit their rights. At a certain point, you have to move from emphasis on parental rights to looking at what is in the best interest of a child. It is not an easy transition to make, but we leave too many children in dangerous, neglectful situations for too long. So, I would hope that some of the good minds at SMU and other places around the country who care about children, would begin to think through in a practical way, what we can do to solve this constant conflict between the rights of the family and the parents and the needs of the child. And I think lawyers and law students have a great opportunity to be of service in this.

I would just like to conclude by saying that one of the things that I always noticed (both when I was in law school and when I taught in the law schools) is that domestic relations law -- laws having to do with children -- were not considered to be of the same status as, you know, studying tax code or corporate law or anti-trust and things like that. I always thought that was a real loss for our society. . . that caring about what happens in the way the law affects our lives as family members is critical to making it possible to strengthen families as opposed to just continuing to allow social conditions to overwhelm them. I think we're at a point now where many people feel that way, and that lawyers have a chance to lead the way.

We need to look at divorce laws. I believe divorce laws where children are involved should be harder, or should be breaking mechanisms. I don't know the answers, but I would love to have some people who think seriously about this come up with them. I think this whole foster care/adoption situation is very troubling. The abuse and neglect of children has got to be addressed seriously by lawyers, and not left to overburdened social workers who are doing the best they can often under very tough circumstances.

So, there's a real opportunity to look at issues that are difficult and emotional. It's a lot easier reading the code -- believe me. I mean, it doesn't yell at you on the phone, it doesn't cry in your office. But, the issues as to what we're going to do with the family and how we're going to preserve it

and strengthen families is, I would argue, one of the most critical issues to the functioning of society and therefore should command the attention and respect of more lawyers so that they can be part of the solutions that we need to find together. Thank you very much.

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① Elaine Weiss - Chicago - staff person
Fox SNW speech
she'll look at it

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theme of conference: ?

what HRC started is →

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people bring families (v. diff from 2 years
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