



The Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Office of the President

PRESIDENT

Bettina B. Plevan
(212) 382-6700
Fax: (212) 768-8116
bplevan@abcny.org
www.abcny.org

September 7, 2005

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

The Association of the Bar thanks you for your June 15th letter to Senators Shelby and Mikulski supporting the funding request of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) for \$363,809,000. While the proposed LSC appropriation is now \$36 million below that level, we understand that Senator Harkin will offer a bipartisan amendment this week to restore and increase funding for LSC to the original \$363.8 million. We greatly appreciate your continued support for this effort.

We know we do not need to convince you of the importance of sufficient funding for legal services for the poor. What was a crisis in providing legal services to the poor has been unimaginably exacerbated by Hurricane Katrina. The legal services needs of the victims will be vast, complex and of long duration. Legal services offices around the country are mobilizing to provide help, both to displaced persons settling in their region and to their colleagues in the states most affected by the disaster. We long ago learned that money invested in legal services not only saves people from dire circumstances, but is a cost-effective investment, saving government the extra public benefit and health costs that could result if clients' needs go unaddressed.

Thank you for being a leader in the fight to provide legal services for people most in need.

Very truly yours,

Bettina B. Plevan