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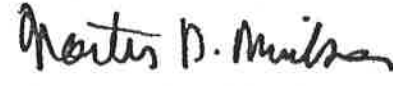
November 11, 1978

Mr. George Nelms
Office Manager
The District of Columbia Bar
1426 H Street, N.W., Suite 840
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Nelms:

Enclosed is the letter I discussed with you today for
distribution to the Board of Governors.

Sincerely,



Martin D. Minsker

/s/

Enclosure



The District of Columbia Bar

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
PUBLIC INTEREST ACTIVITIES: 202—638-1509

December 13, 1978

The Honorable Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write as Chairperson of Division Four of the D.C. Bar to express Division Four's Support for the Legal Services Corporation's fiscal year 1980 budget request of \$337.5 million.*

Division Four of the Bar is increasingly concerned about the serious need for civil legal assistance by those unable to afford the help of a lawyer. The D.C. Bar is committed to meet this need and was one of the first bars in this country to establish in 1976 a Public Interest Section with a paid staff to promote activities by private lawyers in this regard.

The reality, however, is that while there has been improvement, much more must be done, not only in the District of Columbia, but throughout the nation to provide access to our legal system to low-income individuals. Millions of poor people in too many of our cities are without this access, and thus are being denied one of our most fundamental rights.

We know that you share our concern and therefore are writing to urge your support for the Legal Services Corporation's fiscal year 1980 budget request of \$337.5 million. As you are aware, the Legal Services Corporation has been making great strides over the past several years in expanding legal services for the poor. By receiving its full 1980 budget request it will be able to

*The views expressed herein represent only those of Division Four of the D.C. Bar ("Courts, Lawyers, and the Administration of Justice"). These views may not, under Bar regulations governing expressions of opinions, be attributed to the D.C. Bar or its Board of Governors.

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complete in 1980 its minimum access funding plan, allowing the provision of legal services for all our nation's 29 million poor, at the equivalent of two lawyers for every 10,000 poor persons.

Completion of the Corporation's minimum access funding plan was to have taken place in 1979, but had to be postponed because the Corporation did not receive its full fiscal year 1979 budget request. Thus at the end of fiscal year 1979, there will still be over 3 million poor people living in areas of the country without minimum access to legal services.

Many other worthwhile efforts, we know, also depend on government funds. Selection of priorities and amounts for these programs, to keep government spending from being inflationary, will be difficult. We do want to stress, however, that in our society which requires people to live under the law, access to our legal system must be made available to all who are in need, regardless of their economic circumstances. Otherwise, equal justice under law can never be achieved.

It is therefore urgent that the Legal Services Corporation be fully funded since there is actual demonstration that its efforts can help make this happen given the proper resources.

Sincerely,

Martin D. Minsker
Chairperson
Division Four

cc: Honorable James T. McIntyre, Jr.
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503