

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby,

The undersigned six corporate legal department leaders from across the country write to urge you to deliver on the promise of equal justice for all Americans by providing an increase in funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) for FY19. In every state in our country, low-income people rely on civil legal assistance to help them protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. LSC is the foundation on which the civil justice infrastructure is built, and we strongly believe that access to counsel is vital both for the health of our democracy and the prosperity of our communities.

As lawyers, we understand clearly how those who cannot afford to pay for an attorney when facing a legal problem are deeply disadvantaged by the complexity of our justice system. When improperly addressed, civil legal problems can result in life-altering consequences as significant as the loss of income or a home, lack of access to physical safety, or denial of benefits earned by serving in our military. As corporate leaders, we recognize that the problems affecting our communities directly impact the success of our businesses. LSC grantees help families gain a foothold in the middle class, strengthening our local workforce and economy, including by serving:

- active duty military personnel, as well as veterans returning from wars;
- individuals and families impacted by the opioid crisis
- domestic violence victims;
- elderly individuals;
- families who are in danger of losing their homes;
- victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes;
- families involved in child custody disputes; and
- small business owners

This is why corporations across America are steadily increasing their investment in pro bono programs, through which we are able to contribute to our local communities in a significant way. These efforts are made possible by partnerships with civil legal aid programs, without which pro bono volunteers could not receive either the necessary training and guidance, or the access to clients who need help. Through these partnerships, the private sector greatly extends the impact of the federal investment in LSC.

The network of LSC grantees serves Americans in every state and territory, but it is especially critical for those underserved communities, particularly in rural areas, for whom there are no other options. Without a robust investment in LSC, the disparity in access to justice will continue to widen along geographic contours as civil legal aid remains less accessible to those who live outside our major cities.

The promise of equal justice for all engenders trust in our justice system. Such trust is an important competitive advantage for our country that attracts investment from across the world. LSC ensures that we keep this promise. We urge Congress to demonstrate its commitment to our country's foundational values, the success of our businesses, and the strength of our people by expanding its investment in LSC.

Sincerely,

**John F. Schultz**

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary

**Hewlett Packard Enterprise**

Immediate Past Chair, NLADA Corporate Advisory  
Committee

**Max Laun**

Vice President and General Counsel

**Arconic**

Chair, NLADA Corporate Advisory Committee

**Sean Edgett**

General Counsel

**Twitter, Inc.**

**Ivan Fong**

Senior VP, Legal Affairs, General Counsel

**3M**

**Frank Jimenez**

VP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary,

**Raytheon Company**

**Kim Rivera**

Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel

**Hewlett Packard, Inc.**

**Wanji Walcott**

Senior Vice President, General Counsel

**PayPal, Inc.**